

Minutes
Election Advisory Panel
April 28, 2010

Members present:

Jim Minion, EAP chair
Lawrence Jefferson
Patt Sherr

Leslie Goller
Dan O'Connor
Natalie Alden

Fred Engness
Tracie Collier, SOE staff

Members absent:

Joe Mosley

Visitors:

Jerry Holland, Supervisor of Elections

Scott Wiley

Phillip Miner

Josh Cockrell

The meeting was called to order at 3:10 p.m.

Supervisor Holland welcomed the visitors and explained the objective of the Election Advisory Panel.

J.Minion asked panel to review the minutes from the March 10th meeting. Motion to accept the minutes-panel approved uniamously.

Old Business:

Precinct Changes/Precinct Combinations

SOE Holland explains that legislation states that if any precinct change must have approval from the City Council. Early voting is presented to the City Council as a resolution to approve and the goal is to accommodate all voters within the SOE budget allowance.

SOE Holland explained the public notice that lists the approved precinct changes (new location and reason for change) for the August 24th Primary Election in accordance with Florida Statute 101.71.

L. Goller inquired whether the new location for 04H is within the precinct boundary. SOE Holland to confirm 04H boundary status.

N. Alden asks has the new polling locations been evaluated for accessibility for all voters? SOE Holland states the evaluation consists of evaluating the door pull, ramp; slope to make sure the facility meets ADA compliance.

P. Sher inquires about changes with precinct signage. SOE Holland assures the panel the signage will be correct prior to the primary election on August 24, 2010.

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L. Goller inquires if some precincts are now over 5,000 voters? SOE Holland answers yes. He explained how the absentee votes, early votes, and Election Day votes were examined to make sure the facility was able to handle the large #'s.

S. Wiley (visitor) asked of SOE Holland about the major reason a facility does not want to be a precinct?

SOE Holland explains a facility is compensated from \$150 up to \$300 and the reasons for not continuing to host a precinct will vary due to the coordination of equipment drop-off with staff, coordinate facility is open by 6:00 am for poll workers, additional traffic, etc.

L. Goller precincts= final precinct #?

SOE Holland states after the legislation passes the final # of precincts = 261.

SOE Holland discussed the referendum for Fiscal Impact for the voter on the November 2nd General Election ballot. The ballot will contain 6-8 amendments plus the fiscal impact referendum.

Website Recommendations

J. Minion asked about the suggestions that the EAP made to the website increase the ease of accessing information for voters. SOE staff reported that all suggestions had been made to the website. It was suggested that the panel members visit the website to confirm.

Election of Officers

Leslie Goller was nominated by Pat Sher and Fred Engness was nominated by Leslie Goller. Panel votes resulted with the unanimous votes for Leslie Goller as EAP chair and Fred Engness as Vice-Chair.

New Business:

Early Voting

SOE Holland stated the last precinct changes had not been approved on 4/27/2010; however the early voting sites were approved. The early voting sites that were approved: Beaches, Highlands, Mandarin, Regency Square, South Mandarin, Southeast, Webb-Wesconnett, and West Regional along with the two (2) Supervisor of Elections Offices.

Early voting is open Monday through Saturday from 9:30 am until 5:30pm (daily). SOE Holland stated the change in the number of days was due to expense and the change in the hours of operation was due to voter complaints. SOE Holland explained to have early voting open on Sunday would require additional funding from the City Council.

N. Alden was there a way to track the number of voters traveling through the sites on a daily basis.

L. Goller asked for the early voting data (voter usage) from the last four (4) years.

SOE Holland explained the Florida Statute regarding early voting and how it dictates the hours, days, and locations. He suggests the panel make early voting recommendations to the Duval Delegation for future changes.

F. Engness suggests extending the SOE office hours to accommodate voters until 6:00 p.m. SOE Holland explains cost is the limiting factor.

By-Laws

J. Minion suggested that the panel should examine inserting language in the newly adopted By-Laws regarding terms for officers, frequency of meetings, and meeting dates. He also stated a meeting schedule would be helpful in the future. Panel agreed.

Next Meeting

D. O'Connor and N. Alden asked for SOE Holland to attend the next meeting to explain the precinct formula in regards to population, size, location, etc. he asked the panel to develop for determining precinct equity for future changes.

L. Goller scheduled the next meeting for Wednesday, May 19th at 3:00 p.m. in the conference room at the Supervisor of Elections Office (105 East Monroe Street.)

The meeting adjourned at 4:21 p.m.