

Draft Minutes  
Elections Advisory Panel  
May 26, 2010

Members Present:

Leslie Goller, Chair  
Joseph Mosley

Natalie Alden  
Fred Engness

Dan O'Connor  
Tracie Collier, SOE Staff

Visitors:

Scott Wiley  
Josh Cockrell

The meeting was called to order at 3:10 PM by EAP Chair, Leslie Goller.

Motion: L. Goller to approve the minutes with corrections from the April 28<sup>th</sup> meeting.  
Motion to accept the minutes: D. O'Connor, second: N. Alden.

Website Recommendations

D. O'Connor – suggested webinar located at afb.org for website ADA accessibility.  
SOE staff stated that all EAP suggestions other than the ADA accessibilities issues were used to make the SOE website more user friendly-tabs were organized for easier access, colors on tabs were changed, etc.

L. Goller – suggested to the panel an on – going evaluation of the website. SOE stated the website had about 285,000 visitors in the last two years.

The panel suggested adding a link to the Library of Congress.

F. Engness stated the tabs are too long? Suggested shortening items on drop-down menus.

SOE Holland stated shorten the items may not be beneficial for all users.

F. Engness – thoughts on district maps or street names? SOE Holland stated too much data at the moment to shorten any information, but will take a look at the map reference data.

Update on Precinct Changes

SOE Holland – stated precinct 12C was moving to a new location. L. Goller asked for the new precinct location for 12C. SOE Holland stated he would tell everyone before the meeting ended.

Update on New EAP member

L. Goller stated Kathy Carithers was confirmed to replace Jim Minion. The panel agreed to send Jim Minion and Lawrence Jefferson letters for their service on the EAP with panel members signatures.

## Early Voting

SOE Holland stated that early voting will be held at 8 libraries and the 2 SOE offices.

Sites: Beaches, Highlands, Mandarin, South Mandarin, Regency Square, Southeast, Webb-Wesconett, and West Regional. Times: Monday – Saturday from 9:30 am until 5:30 pm.

L. Goller asked for statistical data from early voting to support days being shorten to Saturday instead of Saturday and Sunday.

L. Goller suggested extending hours to 6 pm. L. Goller stated the minimum hours for early voting is not 8. SOE Holland stated he would be glad to have an opinion from the Office of General Counsel to define Florida Statute regarding early voting. (F.S. 101.657)

F. Engness asked SOE Holland, “Did you request to have the 7<sup>th</sup> day of early voting?” SOE Holland answered, “I asked City Council to supplement the budget to accommodate the 7<sup>th</sup> day of early voting – no council member stood to revisit or supplement the lost.

F. Engness asked will you be able to add Sunday for early voting for the General Election. SOE Holland responded – no; currently working on the budget for next year. His added postage was also lost in budget reductions.

## Elections?

N. Alden – local elections – what’s happening? SOE Holland responded there will be an amendment to move the Fall Elections to the spring.

N. Alden how may we help? SOE Holland advised to start a petition to have a citizen referendum placed on the ballot regarding saving \$3 million on local elections.

L. Goller asked SOE Holland about the hours of early voting Sunday. SOE Holland stated 4 (1pm-5pm). He added the hours were changed due to voter complaints about waiting to vote early.

L. Goller stated she feels more voters are lost during the time period of 5:30-6pm.

D. O’Conner stated it is also voter responsibility- early, absentee, and Election Day- Voter have options.

Cockrell (visitor) stated in reviewing the early voting numbers, the trend is lower in the first week-why spend the money for one day in the second week?

L. Goller asked panel to study the data and ask folks when they prefer to vote on Saturday or Sunday.

Cockrell (visitor) with budget restraints you must endure cuts and cuts must occur somewhere.

L. Goller responded that she feels cutting early voting on Sunday is not where cuts should be made.

### Precinct Formula

SOE Holland explained the formula of equity distribution among precincts is not really a formula with factors (distance to travel, size of precinct, and location of precinct) just a common sense approach to trying to distribute precincts equally throughout the city.

D. O'Conner – conclusion about the formula? SOE Holland stated after speaking with other counties about the issue it was concluded to be no real formula due to multiple factors.

### News from SOE Holland

SOE Holland stated House Bill 131 still on Governor's desk to be signed and he will issue at the next EAP meeting. He explained some of the aspects House Bill 131 covered such as: MOVE ACT, AutoMARK equipment extension, etc.

SOE Holland stated he would email panel members House Bill 131 and the summary of changes.

L. Goller- asked SOE Holland to share the issues that other counties are experiencing through legislation. He discussed equipment challenges regarding the purchase of PREMIER/Diebold voting machine manufacturer in Florida.

### By-laws

L. Goller asked panel to consider amending the by-laws to address frequency of meetings. N. Alden suggested meeting quarterly to allow folks to properly schedule. D. O'Connor asked about terms of officers? Panel answered one year.

J. Mosley asked to establish a calendar year vs. fiscal year.

F. Engness asked panel for time to consider J. Mosley's suggestion.

N. Alden asked to establish monthly meetings in by-laws.

L. Goller asked panel to agree to amend by-laws to state officers serve one year terms beginning in January. Term for officers in calendar year-last meeting in the month prior to the next year.

Next meeting is scheduled for June 16, 2010 at 3:00 pm.

