

Draft Minutes  
Election Advisory Panel  
November 2, 2011

Members present:

Leslie Goller, chair, Joshua Cockrell, vice chair, Scott Wiley, Deborah Gonzalez, and Patt Sher

Members absent:

Kathy Carithers, Natalie Alden, Dan O'Connor, and Tracie Collier

Visitor:

Jerry Holland and Justin Gicalone

The meeting was called to order at 3:00 p.m. by EAP chair, Leslie Goller.

Panel reviewed minutes from June and August meetings. Motion to approve minutes as amended- P. Sherr; second J. Cockrell. Motion passes.

Old Business:

Member Status-

Introduction of the newest panel member, Deborah Gonzalez.

Website Recommendations-

S. Wiley stated there was no indication of the 2012 Neptune Beach election on the website. J. Cockrell recommends the addition of important dates, such as Early Voting, on the website calendar.

State Redistricting Status-

J. Gicalone will send the current proposed map to the panel.

Political Signage-

L. Goller expressed her concern with political signs from past elections. Need ordinance changed to enforce a fine to those who do not remove their signage from past elections.

Actions by EAP or EAP members-

No new actions taken by panel members since last meeting.

New Business:

2011 Special Election-

The 2011 Special Election was a Republican only, closed primary race. L. Goller stated that closing the primary when there is no opposition for a General election, in effect denies people the right to vote and is something that needs to be changed in the state statute. J. Gicalone stated there was a 13.6 percent voter turnout for the special election.

Implementation of New Election Laws (Early Voting Hours and Voter Registration)-  
P. Sherr asked if voter registration has been lower with the new laws that were implemented. J. Gicalone stated that since only a third of the county was eligible to vote in the special election, it is hard to determine if the new laws affected the election and voter registration.

Update re Voting Equipment-

J. Gicalone stated a bid was out to two equipment companies. Neither of the two equipment companies has been state certified. Companies must be state certified by January 31, 2012.

SOE Holland stated there is no definite answer as to whether or not new election equipment will be purchased prior to the Primary and General elections.

Update re new SOE Office Location-

SOE Holland stated the City signed a five year lease back in 2006 for the SOE office location in the Gateway Shopping Center. Lease expired October 1, 2011 and is currently on a month to month lease until a new location is designated. Multiple issues with the building have been brought to the attention of the leasing manager on multiple occasions with no action taken. Between thirty to thirty-five properties have been viewed and narrowed down to three locations. The deadline for the Real Estate Division of the City to have proposal ready to present to City Council is December 1, 2011.

Actions Needed by EAP (Election of 2012 Officers)-

2012 election for EAP officers scheduled for next meeting.

Next meeting scheduled for Wednesday, December 7, 2011 at 3:00 p.m.

Meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m.