

Minutes
Elections Advisory Panel
May 23, 2012

Members present:
Leslie Goller (EAP Chair),
Joanie Prater,
Kim Glasgal,
Kathy Carithers,
Scott Wiley,
Debbie Gonzalez,
Natalie Alden,
Dan O'Connner,

Member absent:
Edward Gaston

Visitor:
Jerry Holland, Supervisor of Elections

The meeting was called to order at approximately 3:15 p.m. by EAP Chair, Leslie Goller.

Supreme Court Decision RE: Term Limits for Constitutional Officers-

Leslie Goller, opened the meeting with the topic about a decision by the Florida Supreme Court, *Telli v. Broward County*, (No. SC11-1737, May 2, 2012), and how it affects Jacksonville. It is a home rule case and whether term limits applies to local Constitutional Officer's; in it, the Florida Supreme Court receded from its earlier position in *Henry Cook v. City of Jacksonville*. If this decision applies locally, Jim Fuller, Clerk of Courts, would potentially be termed out of office. SOE Holland could also be affected after his second full term ends in 2015, but would be eligible to run again in four years.

The question is does recent decision also apply to Duval County?

Office of General Counsel has issued an opinion letter stating that it does. Leslie Goller requested that the decision and the General Counsel opinion be sent to all EAP members by email. If Jim Fuller does qualify he will be on the ballot for Clerk of the Court per Florida Statute. Division of Elections has advised SOE Holland that he is required by Florida Statute to put candidate names on ballot if they qualify.

Local ordinance may now be applicable to Constitutional Officers; therefore, the City will possibly sue Jim Fuller, Clerk of the Courts to prevent a possible Special Election.

New voting equipment discussed-

SOE Holland stated that the public was invited to four public meetings to inform the public about the new ES&S digital scan machines that will used in the upcoming Primary Election. He said that the majority of attendees were Poll Workers, not many from the public attended any of the showcases that were held at various local libraries. He explained that it was geared for the public as well as Poll Workers.

Discussion of ballot for new machines-

Leslie Goller had concern about the smaller size of the ovals as well as the font size of the candidate names as it appeared smaller than on previous ballots. She requested investigation of this, as well as bolding or darkening of the name and ovals.

SOE Holland said "The State and National ballot certification approved both, the size of the oval as well as the font size, used in the State of Florida."

Leslie Goller voiced concern regarding the oval placement and said she felt the oval was too close to the edges, not as close to where the name is, "It is too close to the timing marks and I would like to see the oval closer to the candidate's name so that is it clear who the voter is choosing." SOE Holland said, "We will bring a sample ballot to show you at the next meeting to show the layout with the actual candidates."

Discussion of the new equipment and length of ballot in upcoming Election-

SOE Holland discussed the length of the ballot in November. He said, "There will be at least eleven referendums in the November election." "We may have to use up to four cards." Leslie Goller said she "would rather have multiple pages than small font." SOE Holland stated that, "the font will not be so small that you cannot read it, we can also try to make the oval darker, but cannot change the size."

Leslie Goller inquired if SOE Holland would make staff available to groups to show/demonstrate the new voting equipment such as the Democratic Party and Republican Party at one of their meetings. SOE Holland said he would need to know in advance, "as Poll Worker training has started and we are very busy, we will also be bringing the Poll Workers back between August and November for more Poll Worker training before the General Election."

Rally meetings with Disability Community discussed-

Natalie Alden stated that they are very far in advance with looking at everything; also saw the disability awareness video that they show to the Poll Workers. SOE Holland asked what they thought about all the material and Natalie said "It was very good content for the non-disabled community."

Illegal signage-

The panel discussed illegal signs on the right of way. Leslie Goller warned that the closer to election time the worse it will get. SOE Holland said it is illegal to post signs on the right of way in Duval. The members agreed that there is no viable method of enforcement as there is no penalty for its violation, no fine. Code enforcement does not have enough man power to enforce it.

Advisory panel suggested placing a fine on violators. Dan O'Conner stated, "Why have ordinances if there is no enforcement; seems like we are fighting a losing battle." The members would like to put in front of City Council to say advisory panel suggests putting a fine as a consequence to such violations.

Precinct Consolidation and re-drawing new District lines-

Leslie Goller asked SOE Holland to give an update on the reduction in the number of precincts, the consolidation of precincts.

SOE Holland stated, "We did go from, 250 to 198 precincts. It also saved about \$125,000 per election. It also saved around \$325,000 in the purchasing of less new equipment. As we did this process, we met with all City Council members and worked out what they felt were the significant precincts to merge together which ones to leave separate. We had a unanimous vote on the Council, went through the Public Hearings and received approval to move forward."

"We are now in the process of changing all the precinct signs that are out there in the public to reflect, another change in the precincts. We went from a numeric- alpha designation of the precinct such as precinct 10A to now, it is all numeric for example, it would be precinct 1001, 1002 and so on and that corresponds to how our new equipment reads those as. First number will indicate the City Council district and the last two numbers will be the precinct number that is something that is different. We will also notify voters of the changes. We will send out new voter registration cards with the address of the precinct and the new precinct number and that will go out the second or third week in June. We will also put the new polling locations on all of the sample ballots when they go out. We will still have personnel, at least two people, at every precinct that is no longer a precinct at the next election so that if someone shows up and they did not read where their new precinct is, the Poll Worker will look them up on the lap top and give them directions to where their new precinct is."

Leslie Goller asked "if there are any "dual" precincts still, two precincts located at the same location, different rooms. SOE Holland replied that he believes that all have been eliminated with the merger, but will verify.

Early Voting Update-

Statute changed from where Early Voting is now eight days instead of fourteen days. It will go from Saturday to Saturday.

Maximum 96 hours of Early Voting in eight days.

Early voting starts 10 days prior to the Election.

7am – 7pm is the maximum daily hours.

There will be 12 locations of Early Voting in the Primary,

There will be 16 locations of Early Voting in the General.

We will advertise Early Voting sites and times.

In the Primary we will adjust the hours to suit the kind of turnout. We will probably have a turnout of somewhere around 22% in the Primary. We hope to have again an 80 – 85% turnout in the General. The Law allows us to do is a minimum of six hours any of those eight days and a maximum of twelve.

In the 2008 Election our voter turnout was:

64% voted prior to Election Day:

42% voted during Early Voting

22% voted Absentee

There will still be Sunday voting but only one day of Sunday voting. That will be after the second day of Early Voting. The Sunday immediately prior to Tuesday, Election Day has been eliminated by statute. Early voting will end on Saturday.

Kathy Carithers asked SOE Holland what factors went into making the decision to merge precincts-

Supervisor Holland stated, "What we looked at was the facilities; as we looked at them we wanted to make sure they were accessible for those with disabilities, to make sure if we combined them, there was enough parking, if it was large enough to accommodate more voters; that had a big emphasis. We kept more precincts in the urban core areas than we did in the suburban areas. We're as far down as few as 13 precincts in some of the outlying City Council districts and as many 18 precincts in urban core areas. In working with the council people we looked at where they thought transportation needs were that needed smaller precincts and where if they were further out from the urban area and they weren't relying on buses or something of that nature; to combine those. I relied a lot on the district Council people because they knew their district very well and they gave me input in determining if it was ok. I do not think there is one precinct further than in many cases, a mile and a half from each other."

Leslie Goller inquired how voters will be reminded to update their address and signatures and to inform the Panel when Absentee ballots will go out-

SOE Holland informed members:

SOE has Clear channel billboards around town, reminding people to update address, signature.

Domestic Absentee ballots go out 27-28 days prior to the election.

Overseas Absentee ballots go out 45 days prior to the election.

Update, Gateway location-

SOE Holland informed members:

The owner filed bankruptcy and the court has appointed a Receiver to manage the property.

Final hearing will be held in the first week of July regarding ownership of the building.

SOE will remain at the Gateway location at least through the General Election.

Meeting scheduled with City Council around June 14th regarding developer proposals.

List Maintenance-

SOE Holland explained that there are three groups of voters that this relates to:

- 1) Deceased voters have been processed.

We have removed about 3,600 deceased voters since January, 1, 2012.

- 2) Non U.S. Citizens, non- immigrants, 2,400 statewide. These are people who are in country legally, may be here on student visa's.

Duval County had 18 people on that list. Seven were registered at the Division of Motor Vehicles.

Certified letters were sent out to inform these people of their ineligibility- If removed, they will still be able to vote a Provisional ballot at the polls and HAVE a chance to show proof of their eligibility as they are in fact U.S. Citizens.

- 3) Non U.S. Citizens here legally, they may have been here 10 – 25 years they are here because they have a sponsored American family they are entitled to be here but they are not U.S. Citizens there are about 182,000 total statewide who are on this list and this list has existed since April 2011.

Third Party Registration changes-

Covered entities: governmental agencies

Natalie Alden inquired whether or not the new Third Party registration process has affected the number of registrations being processed.

Next Meeting scheduled for, Wednesday, June 20th 3:00 p.m.

Meeting adjourned @ 4:30 p.m.