



DUVAL COUNTY ELECTION ADVISORY PANEL

MEETING AGENDA

Wednesday, June 27, 2018 3:00 P.M.

Don Davis Room, 1st Floor, City Hall

Research: Jeff Clements, Chief of Research

Members:

Ingrid Montgomery, Chairperson
Justin Portlock, Member
Leon Carrero, Member

Daniel Henry, Vice Chairperson
Hunter Anderson, Member
Charles McWhite, Member

Toni Alfred, Member
Robert Phillips, Member
Jon McGowan, Member

Meeting Convened

Meeting Adjourned

If a person decides to appeal any decision made with respect to any matter considered at such meeting, such person will need a record of the proceedings, and for such purpose, such person may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based.

Legislative Authority: Chapter 59, Ordinance Code

Total Members: 9

Committee Duties:

Study and make recommendations to the Supervisor of Elections to increase the quality of voter registration and education efforts. Study and make recommendations to the Supervisor of Elections to enhance the voter's election-day experience, including poll worker training, polling locations, ballot styles, and fraud prevention. Evaluate and recommend improvements on the election effectiveness, including number of over votes, under votes and spoiled ballots, voter complaints, and voter turnout. Review and comment on ballot styles, instructions and absentee ballot appearance. Make an annual report to Council on progress, including an incorporation of any statistics, charts, studies, reports, or other data and materials generated.

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- I. Quorum – Roll Call
 - II. Approval of May 16, 2018 minutes
 - III. Supervisor of Elections update/2018 election preparations
 - IV. Old Business
 - V. New Business
 - Ordinance 2018-383 amending Ordinance Code Chapter 59 – EAP's legislative authorization
 - Election of officers for 2018-19
 - VI. Public Comments
 - VIII. Adjourn



DUVAL COUNTY ELECTION ADVISORY PANEL

PRELIMINARY MEETING MINUTES

*These minutes are unofficial until reviewed and approved by the
Election Advisory Panel at a future meeting*

**May 16, 2018
3:00 p.m.**

**Don Davis Room
1st Floor, City Hall
117 West Duval Street**

Attendance: Ingrid Montgomery (Chair), Toni Alfred, Leon Carrero, Robert Phillips, Jon McGowan (arr. 3:06)

Excused: Justin Portlock, Daniel Henry

Absent: Charles McWhite, Hunter Anderson

Also: Jeff Clements – City Council Research

See attached sign-in sheet for additional attendees.

Chairwoman Montgomery called the meeting to order at 3:04 p.m. without a quorum present and the members introduced themselves for the record. Ms. Montgomery welcomed Robert Phillips as the new Supervisor of Elections representative on the panel and asked him to convey the group's thanks to former SOE representative John Libby for his good service over the past several years. Mr. McGowan arrived to complete a quorum.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the March 15, 2018 meeting were **approved 5-0 as revised and distributed at the meeting.**

Supervisor of Elections update

Robert Phillips of the Supervisor of Elections Office reported that changes to polling locations will be introduced to City Council in legislation next Tuesday night. He will meet with individual council members on any changes affecting their districts. New voter registration cards will be mailed to all affected voters and precinct changes will be published in the newspaper and on sample ballots. Mr. Phillips reviewed the proposed new locations with the panel, saying that changes in polling sites take place because existing sites no longer want to be used for that purpose or a complaint has been received from a voter regarding ADA accessibility or other problem making the site undesirable. The City will continue to have 199 precincts.

Training for poll workers will start May 29th for the August primary election. Recruitment is going well – over 1,300 persons have registered for training to date. In response to a question from Chairwoman Montgomery, Mr. Phillips said the 16- and 17-year-olds who have pre-registered to vote can be poll workers. Recruitment continues with high schools and colleges to pre-register young voters and encourage them to be poll workers.

Commissioner McGowan said that the City of Jacksonville Beach's request to utilize the City of Jacksonville's online system to file financial reports has not yet been acted upon. Mr. Phillips said he understood from Supervisor Hogan that he is waiting for a legal opinion from the Office of General Counsel about whether he's required to make that service available to Jax Beach. Mr. McGowan said that he believes that Supervisor of Elections functions are covered by the interlocal agreement between the cities and therefore should pose no difficulty in being extended to the Beaches cities. Mr. Phillips said that candidates who file their qualifying papers with the SOE's office utilize their financial reporting system, but the candidates in Jax Beach don't file with Jacksonville; they file with their city clerk. Mr. McGowan said he was disappointed at not getting a response to his e-mail on the subject sent to Supervisor Hogan two weeks ago. Mr. Phillips said he would convey Mr. McGowan's concern to Mr. Hogan. Mr. McGowan said that he would speak with the Mayor of Jacksonville Beach about whether there is a role for the Election Advisory Panel to play in seeking a resolution to the request.

In response to a question from Toni Alfred about recruitment of bi-lingual poll workers, Mr. Phillips said that recruiting for Spanish-speaking poll workers has been difficult. The latest U.S. Census data (American Community Survey in 2016) did not yet identify Jacksonville as a jurisdiction that was required to have bi-lingual poll workers because of its percentage of Spanish-speaking voters. Leon Carrero said that the Puerto Rican Chamber of Commerce may have better data on local Spanish speakers and could be a source for helping to identify bi-lingual poll workers.

Old Business

None

New Business

Annual report draft: the Panel reviewed a draft report prepared by staff for their consideration consisting of items culled from the last year's meeting minutes.

Motion (Carrero): approve the annual report as distributed for transmission to City Council – **approved 5-0.**

Changes to Chapter 59, Ordinance Code: the Panel reviewed a draft letter transmitting the recommendations voted on at the March meeting to the City Council President requesting that she introduce legislation on the Panel's behalf to make the changes.

Motion (McGowan): accept the letter as written and transmit it to the City Council President – **approved 5-0.**

Meeting schedule for the remainder of 2018: Jeff Clements reviewed the meeting schedule for 2017 (quarterly, because there were no elections except a City of Atlantic Beach election) and 2018 (bi-monthly from January through May). Mr. McGowan said that he had heard Supervisor Hogan mention that monthly meetings of the EAP are a burden on his staff's time during the height of election season. The group discussed the possibility of meeting at the Election Operations Center at Imeson to tour the operation. Mr. Clements recounted the City Ethics Officer's previously-expressed concerns about taking tours of facilities rather than meeting in a room in City Hall equipped with recording equipment and plentiful seating for the public.

Mr. Phillips said that the August primary ballot will be certified June 29th and will go to the printer on July 2nd. Mr. Phillips said that for the SOE's purposes, "ballot style" means the specific races listed on each individual voter's ballot because of their location in various political districts. The state regulates the layout of races and candidates and other specifics of ballot order and appearance. The group agreed to meet on June 27th at 3 p.m. and Mr. Phillips said that he could get the EAP a mockup of the August ballot on that date. The next meetings would be on September 12th and November 14th.

Motion (McGowan): schedule remaining 2018 meetings for June 27th, September 12th and November 14th at 3:00 p.m. in City Hall – **approved 5-0.**

Commissioner Comment

Mr. McGowan suggested that panel members tour the Election Operations Center individually; Mr. Phillips will send information about how to arrange a tour.

Mr. McGowan said that as a member of the TRUE Commission he recently reviewed a Council Auditor's follow-up report on the Supervisor of Elections' payroll audit and recommended that interested EAP members access and read the report online at the Council Auditor's web site.

Public Comment


None

Next meeting

The next meeting will be on June 27th.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:12 p.m.

Jeff Clements, Council Research Division (904) 630-1405
Posted 5.16.18 5:30 p.m.

 lanas / Friday, June 22, 2018 / Categories: 2018

DUVAL COUNTY SUPERVISOR OF ELECTIONS WARNS OF POTENTIALLY MISLEADING MAILOUT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: June 22, 2018

June 22, 2018 – Jacksonville, FL – Mike Hogan, the Duval County Supervisor of Elections, is warning citizens of Duval County about potentially misleading mailings they could be receiving in the weeks leading up to elections held later this year. Historically these mail-outs often include Florida Voter Registration Applications with information pre-filled and are sometimes addressed to informal names, children under voting age, pets, and deceased family members. Although they do identify themselves their documents and envelopes look official.

These letters originate from the Voter Participation Center (VPC) and the Center for Voter Information(CVI), two organizations not associated with the Florida Division of Elections or the Duval County Supervisor of Elections. The VPC and CVI generate address lists for these mailings from outdated and often incorrect data, which can lead to confusion regarding eligibility for voting, especially among voters who are already registered. Duval voters who know they are registered are urged to confirm their voter record by using the “Voter Status” link on the Supervisor of Elections website, at - www.duvalelections.com, or call the Supervisor of Elections office; and to not rely on the information printed on these mailed-out applications. Any questions regarding eligibility for those currently not registered can also be directed to these sources. For those who wish to register or update their information online, a new Florida Division of Elections portal is available at www.registertovoteflorida.gov. Otherwise, applicants may access Florida Voter Registration Application forms at either Supervisor of Elections office at 105 East Monroe Street or at your local Tax Collector’s office or Public Library. Registering online or in person is the best way to confirm that the application is received and that the information is correct.

Mike Hogan, Duval County Supervisor of Elections

 53

Census shows greatest Hispanic growth rate in North Florida

By Mike Schneider
The Associated Press

North Florida counties led the state in the growth rate of Florida's Hispanic population last year, but traditional bastions in South Florida and central Florida led growth in pure numbers, according to figures released Thursday by the U.S. Census Bureau.

Tiny Madison County along the Georgia border had the highest Hispanic growth rate last year, at more than 11 percent, followed by Nassau County, north of Jacksonville, at 9 percent. St. Johns County near Jacksonville has had the largest Hispanic growth rate this decade, jumping by two-thirds.

But all these counties had small Hispanic populations to start with. In pure numbers, Miami-Dade and Broward counties in South Florida had the greatest Hispanic growth, increasing respectively by 25,000

Hispanic residents and 18,000 Hispanic residents last year. They were followed by Hillsborough County, home to Tampa with an additional 16,000 Hispanic residents and Orange County, home to Orlando, with an additional 15,000 Hispanic residents last year.

Florida now has three counties — Miami-Dade, Osceola and Hendry — where Hispanics make up more than half of all residents. Statewide, Hispanic residents make up a quarter of the Florida's residents.

The figures released Thursday by the U.S. Census Bureau offer a snapshot of how Florida's Hispanic population changed from July 2016 to July 2017. They don't reflect the wave of Puerto Ricans who moved to Florida after Hurricane Maria struck the island two months later.

The tens of thousands of Puerto Ricans who have

come to Florida recently are prized commodities for politicians facing upcoming midterm elections in tight races.

Puerto Ricans often register as "no party affiliation" when they come to the mainland since the island has different parties and some may not know the difference between Democrats and Republicans.

"They're not used to the idea of the [mainland] voting system so they don't know the differences between the parties," said Nancy Batista, Florida State director for Mi Familia Vota, a grassroots organization.

The Republican Party has hired three people to take charge of reaching out to displaced Puerto Ricans, and the Democratic National Committee is giving Florida Democrats a \$100,000 grant for mobilizing Puerto Rican voters.

FLORIDA TIMES-UNION 6/24/18

1 Introduced by Council Member Dennis:
2
3

4 **ORDINANCE 2018-383**

5 AN ORDINANCE RELATING TO ELECTION ADVISORY
6 PANEL LEGISLATIVE AUTHORIZATION; AMENDING
7 CHAPTER 59 (DUVAL COUNTY ELECTION ADVISORY
8 PANEL), *ORDINANCE CODE*; CLARIFYING THE INTENT
9 OF THE COUNCIL; AMENDING AND ADDING DUTIES TO
10 STUDY AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE
11 SUPERVISOR OF ELECTIONS TO INCREASE THE
12 QUALITY OF CANDIDATE EDUCATION EFFORTS
13 REGARDING ADHERENCE TO AND COMPLIANCE WITH THE
14 FLORIDA ELECTION CODE APPLICABLE TO
15 CANDIDATES; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.
16
17

18 **BE IT ORDAINED** by the Council of the City of Jacksonville:

19 **Section 1.** Amending **Chapter 59 (Duval County Election**
20 **Advisory Panel)**. Chapter 59 (Duval County Election Advisory Panel)
21 is hereby amended to read as follows:

22 **CHAPTER 59. DUVAL COUNTY ELECTION ADVISORY PANEL**

23 * * *

24 **Sec. 59.102 Intent of the Council.**

25 It is the intent of the Council in establishing the Panel to
26 create a body to review the voter registration and the election
27 process, procedures, and experiences in Duval County to advise the
28 Supervisor of Elections in efforts to increase voter registration,
29 enhance voter election experience and assist in candidate education
30 to ensure a fair, impartial and effective election process. ~~Because~~
31 ~~of the lessons learned from the November 2000 general election, the~~

1 ~~creation of the Panel will serve as an effort to ensure that the~~
2 ~~entire voting experience, from voter registration through election~~
3 ~~day, in all future elections in Duval County, will be conducted in~~
4 ~~a manner so as to uphold and expand voter confidence in the~~
5 ~~election system, create a more informed electorate, and increase~~
6 ~~overall participation in the voting process.~~ In response to the
7 2000 and 2004 general elections, the Florida Legislature rewrote
8 Florida's elections laws to ensure a consistent and unified
9 election system for use in Florida's 67 counties. This effort
10 standardized many of the election processes each Supervisor of
11 Elections is now required to follow. As such, the initial charge of
12 the Panel is no longer applicable. However, the Council recognizes
13 that it is still valuable to have a body of registered Duval County
14 voters who can provide the Supervisor of Elections with insight and
15 recommendations regarding the election process and election day
16 experience.

17 * * *

18 **Sec. 59.105 Duties.**

19 The purpose of the Panel is advisory only. In no way shall the
20 Panel interfere with the performance of the duties of the
21 Supervisor of Elections. The Panel is established for the following
22 general purposes:

23 (a) To study and make recommendations to the Supervisor of
24 Elections to increase the quality of voter registration and
25 education efforts.

26 (b) To study and make recommendations to the Supervisor of
27 Elections to enhance the voter's election-day experience,
28 including poll worker training, ~~polling locations, ballot~~
29 ~~styles, and fraud prevention.~~

30 (c) To study and make recommendations to the Supervisor of
31 Elections to increase the quality of candidate and voter

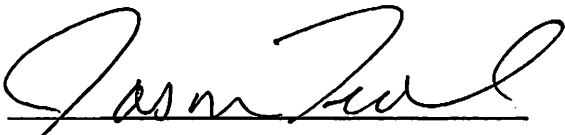
1 education efforts regarding adherence to and compliance with
2 the Florida Election Code applicable to candidates and
3 voters.~~evaluate and recommend improvements on the election~~
4 ~~effectiveness, including number of overvotes, undervotes and~~
5 ~~spoiled ballots, voter complaints, and voter turnout.~~

6 (d) To review and comment on ballot ~~styles,~~ instructions ~~and~~
7 ~~absentee ballot appearance.~~

8 (e) To make an annual report to Council on the progress of the
9 Panel in the performance of its duties, including an
10 incorporation of any statistics, charts, studies, reports, or
11 other data and materials generated by or for the Panel.

12 **Section 3. Effective Date.** This ordinance shall become
13 effective upon signature by the Mayor or upon becoming effective
14 without the Mayor's signature.

15 Form Approved:

16 
17 _____
18 Office of General Counsel

19 Legislation prepared by: Jason R. Teal

20 GC-#1214754-v1-Changes_to_Section_59.doc

What Voter Surge?

Once again, abysmal turnout in primary elections underlines the need to re-think the fundamentals of how we hold elections.

BY: [Phil Keisling](#) | June 1, 2018

Those who are predicting, expecting -- or simply hoping for -- a surge of voter turnout, especially among younger citizens, in this year's elections need to reflect on these sobering percentage figures: Oregon (34), Idaho (32), Illinois (25), West Virginia (24), Nebraska (24), Kentucky (23), Arkansas (22), Ohio (19), Georgia (19), Indiana (18), Texas (17), Pennsylvania (17) and North Carolina (14).

These are the voter turnout rates for the 13 states that held party-nomination primary elections through May 22. (For states where official tallies aren't yet available, I've divided the number of ballots cast in the highest-profile race by the number of registered voters.)

It's not news that turnout rates for primaries and for general elections in non-presidential-voting years, no matter how heated the races being contested, are far lower than in presidential years. For the last non-presidential primary cycle, in 2014, I and my colleagues at Portland State University [found](#) that all but a handful of states fell into the same pattern: overall turnout rates between 15 percent and 25 percent. The median age -- half older, half younger -- of those casting ballots in these contests? About 62.

Anyone who follows politics closely knows that today's party primaries frequently have far more consequence than the general elections that follow in November. Win the dominant party's primary -- and in 2018 there are 35 U.S. Senate seats, 435 U.S. House seats, 36 governorships and more than 6,000 state legislative seats up for grabs -- and in many cases the general election is simply a formality.

The likelihood of low primary turnout also plays a role in setting and intensifying the increasingly hyperpartisan tenor of our politics. Even if a primary is contested -- and many aren't -- savvy politicians focus on a relative handful of likely voters and largely ignore the rest. A typical congressional district contains between 400,000 and 500,000 registered voters. Pennsylvania's newly drawn 18 congressional districts generated 21 contested party primaries on May 15, and in 13 of those races the winner received fewer than 25,000 votes.

Given the enormous role these primary contests play in determining election winners, what might help boost primary-election turnout? The evidence is strong that we should stop asking voters to travel to the polls. Instead, we should bring the ballots to the voters.

Three states -- Colorado, Oregon and Washington -- now hold "vote at home" elections, in which ballots are mailed to every active registered voter. In addition to simply mailing back their marked ballots, voters have the option of physically returning them to any one of hundreds of convenient drop sites or voting centers. Most now use the latter option, which is why "vote at home" is a more apt moniker than "vote by mail."

My own vote-at-home state, Oregon, is the only one of that trio so far to have held its primary. While our 34 percent turnout rate wasn't exactly stellar, so far it's the highest in this election cycle, double that of many other states. And Oregon had one of its hands, and arguably even one and a half, tied behind its small-d democratic back.

Oregon is one of just 11 states with fully closed primary elections that lock out non-affiliated voters (NAVs), those not registered by party. And in 2015, we became the first state to adopt automatic voter registration via the Department of Motor Vehicles. As a result, we have nearly 600,000 more registered voters than we did in 2014 -- most of them NAVs.

Even though Oregon voters cast 150,000 more ballots this year than in 2014, this huge surge of NAVs added to our denominator pulled down the state's overall voting rate. However, turnout among registered Democrats (43 percent) and Republicans (47 percent) actually rose compared to 2014 -- more than double the partisan turnout rates in another closed-primary state, Pennsylvania.

What happened in Nebraska's May 15 primary is perhaps the clearest evidence of the extraordinary power of mailing all primary voters their ballots rather than requiring them to traipse to the polls or pre-arrange to receive an absentee ballot. Garden County received permission from Secretary of State John Gale to run a vote-at-home election in its May 15 primary. Turnout in Nebraska's other 92 counties averaged 24 percent; among Garden County's 2,000 voters, it was 59 percent.

Even for vote-at-home advocates, that's a startling number -- more than 10 percentage points higher than the national average, 48 percent, in the 2014 midterm *general election*. And it suggests that combining vote-at-home ballot delivery with giving NAVs a meaningful and convenient way to participate in primary elections could have a big impact on primary turnout rates. That's why the upcoming primaries in California and Colorado will be especially worth watching.

Five California counties, the largest being Sacramento and Napa, will use the vote-at-home system in that state's June 5 "top two" primary, which puts every voter on an equal footing, able to vote for any candidate who's filed. (The top two vote-getters, regardless of party affiliation or lack thereof, then advance to the November general election.) Just how high turnout goes in these counties -- and how those rates compare with neighboring, non-vote-at-home counties -- will provide a classic "natural experiment."

Top-two primary systems are still a rarity in our election systems. So Colorado's June 26 primary may prove to be an even more revealing natural experiment. As a result of a 2016 voter-approved initiative, the state's 1.2 million NAVs will get a thick envelope containing both parties' ballots, from which they will be allowed to choose one.

So don't expect Oregon's current number-one ranking in primary-election turnout to last. But will the top honors in 2018 go to a traditional, polling-place-bound state, most of which will hold their primaries in the summer months between June 10 and Sept. 15 when most citizens are pondering vacations and juggling family responsibilities? I'll wager that Colorado's first-in-American-history style of primary election is far more likely to be the one to out-shine the rest of us.

This article was printed from: <http://www.governing.com/columns/smart-mgmt/col-low-primary-voter-turnout-vote-home-mail.html>

JIMENEZ LAW FIRM

Hosts with

First Coast Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, and
The Northeast Florida Hispanic Leadership Alliance

Meet the Candidates & Voter Registration Drive

Tuesday, July 17th

5:30pm-6:00pm - Registration
6:00pm-7:00pm - Candidate Forum
7:00pm-8:00pm - Reception

Come and Meet Candidates Running in the 2018 Election

Special Guest: Supervisor of Elections

Mike Hogan

Havana Jax Cafe

2578 ATLANTIC BLVD, JACKSONVILLE, FL 32207

SPACE IS LIMITED. PLEASE RSVP BY JULY 7TH VIA E-MAIL: TAJ@JIMENEZ-LAWFIRM.COM
THIS EVENT IS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

PosterMyWall.com

