



DUVAL COUNTY ELECTION ADVISORY PANEL

MEETING AGENDA

Wednesday, September 12, 2018 3:00 P.M.

Don Davis Room, 1st Floor, City Hall

Research: Jeff Clements, Chief of Research

Members:

Daniel Henry, Chair
Toni Alfred, Member
Leon Carrero, Member

Jon McGowan, Vice Chair
Justin Portlock, Member
Charles McWhite, Member

Ingrid Montgomery, Member
Robert Phillips, Member
Hunter Anderson, Member*
(*resignation pending)

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 June 27, 2018 minutes
 - III. Supervisor of Elections update – August primary report /November general election preparations
 - IV. Old Business
 - Ord.2018-383 amending Ordinance Code Chapter 59 – EAP's legislative authorization - approved
 - V. New Business
 - Meeting schedule for 2019
 - VI. Public Comments
 - VIII. Adjourn

ORLANDO SENTINEL September 7, 2018

Florida counties must provide sample ballots in Spanish, federal judge rules

Counties will have to provide at least a sample ballot in Spanish to non-English speaking Hispanic voters.

Martin E. Comas Orlando Sentinel

In a partial victory for Hispanic advocacy groups, a federal judge ruled Friday that 32 Florida counties — including Lake and Brevard — must at least provide sample ballots and signage in Spanish before the Nov. 6 statewide election.

However, Judge Mark Walker in Tallahassee added that those counties will not be required to provide official ballots in Spanish because county elections officials across the state would not have enough time to do so “at this juncture in the election cycle.”

In his 27-page ruling, he blasted Florida Secretary of State Kenneth Detzner and other county elections officials for failing to provide bilingual ballots to registered voters who are not proficient in English, such as Puerto Ricans who fled the island to Florida after last year’s devastating Hurricane Maria.

“Puerto Ricans are American citizens,” Walker wrote. “Unique among Americans, they are not educated primarily in English — and do not need to be. But, like all American citizens, they possess the fundamental right to vote.”

The judge added that, under the national Voting Rights Act, Florida officials must provide language assistance to Puerto Rican voters who wish to cast ballots.

Of Florida’s 67 counties, 13 provide Spanish-language ballots as required by the Voting Rights Act in counties or areas where either more than 5 percent of adult citizens or more than 10,000 adults have limited proficiency in English.

Lake Supervisor of Elections Alan Hays has said that his county already provides sample ballots in Spanish that voters can take with them into the voting booth to fill out the English-only ballot. His office also has a translator to give citizens help via phone. But his office does not provide official ballots in Spanish. However, he said that his office will provide official ballots in Spanish when a significant portion of Lake’s population reaches the 5 percent mark of Hispanic citizens.

“I don’t believe that Lake County currently hits that 5 percent juncture,” he said. “When the law requires us to do so, we certainly will.”

On Aug. 13, several organizations — including LatinoJustice, Vamos4PR and UnidosUS — filed a lawsuit claiming that the voting rights of as many as 30,000 Puerto Ricans could be violated because Florida counties do not provide sufficient Spanish-language materials — including official ballots — and assistance during this election season.

Detzner and Kim Barton, Alachua County's supervisor of elections, were targeted in the lawsuit.

County supervisors of elections argued that their areas do not have enough citizens that speak only Spanish to justify the expense of issuing bilingual ballots. They also said they already provide enough resources for voters in Spanish.

Elections supervisors in Orange and Osceola counties have provided bilingual ballots for decades. Seminole began providing a fully bilingual ballot for the first time this year, though it has offered Spanish-language versions to Spanish speakers for several years.

"Courts have long held that the right to vote includes not only the right to physically enter a polling place and fill out a ballot," Walker wrote, "but also the right to comprehend and understand what is on that ballot."

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