



DUVAL COUNTY ELECTION ADVISORY PANEL

PRELIMINARY MINUTES

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

June 17, 2026

3:00 p.m.

**Don Davis Room
City Hall**

Meeting convened: 3:07 p.m.

Attendance: Panel Members Justin Gicalone, Gloria Einstein, and Ed Williams

Excused: None

Absent: Panel Members Carmen Martinez, Ray Pringle, Austin Kwikkel, and Donovan Bradley

Also: Brandon Russell, City Council Research Division

Roll Call

Ms. Einstein convened the meeting and called for an introduction. Due to absences, there was no quorum to take action.

Approval of Minutes

Due to a lack of quorum, there was no motion to approve the minutes from the April 15, 2026, meeting.

Supervisor of Elections update

Justin Gicalone provided an update from the Supervisor of Elections. He said they currently had 24,094 vote-by-mail (VBM) requests: 22,359 domestic requests and 1,735 UOCAVA requests for overseas ballots. He said that there were currently 642,956 active registered voters: 235,769 Republicans, 241,122 Democrats, 142,309 NPAs, and 23,756 voters registered with another party.

Mr. Gicalone explained that the State legislature approved HB 991, and the components of the law that impact Election Day processes would take effect in January 2027. He explained that there were aspects of the bill that had an immediate impact on candidate qualifying upon the Governor's signature. He also explained that HB 461, a student poll worker bill introduced by Senator Clay Yarborough and Representative Kiyon Michael, had been approved by the legislature and is awaiting the Governor's signature.

Mr. Gicalone said there was currently legislation before the City Council (Ordinance 2026-446) regarding polling place and precinct boundary changes. If approved, this would decrease the number of precincts from 160 to 159. The polling place changes include two temporary changes due to construction at facilities being used. He said that all voters who may be affected will be notified by sending new voter information cards with the updated information, along with a press release and social media messaging. Ms. Einstein noted that the voter information cards contain a lot of information and asked whether a cover letter would be included in the mail sent to voters to notify them of the changes. Mr. Gicalone said there would not be a separate letter, but that they were working with the vendor to include a clear notification on the mail piece. He also said the new address for polling places would be included.

Mr. Gicalone stated that 24 early voting sites would be open from August 7-16, from 10:00 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sample ballots are scheduled to be sent out on July 29, 2026, via mail or e-mail, depending on the method selected by the voter. He said there would be two new voter stickers: one for those who VBM and one for first-time voters.

Mr. Gicalone said that poll worker training has begun online and that in-person training would begin on July 7, 2026. He added that the book closing for party changes is on July 20, 2026, since Florida is a closed-primary state. Equipment distribution has started and is ongoing; the call center will open on July 22, 2026. He said that the museum at the Election Center has been completed and is open.

Ms. Einstein said she wanted to thank the Supervisor of Elections for having two full weekends for early voting.

Mr. Williams asked whether the voter decides how to receive their sample ballots. Mr. Gicalone confirmed, explaining that the voter makes that decision when registering to vote. Mr. Williams then asked Ms. Einstein what she thought about online voter training. She said she liked it overall but encountered a few minor issues while going through the modules. Mr. Williams said that he was very impressed with the online training, despite initial apprehension.

Old Business

At the last meeting, questions were asked whether elected officials could serve on the Panel. Mr. Russell provided citations from the Code of Ordinances addressing qualifications for serving on boards and commissions. There was a brief discussion again about panel membership.

New Business

The next meeting will be on June 17, 2026.

Public Comment

April Hall-Lloyd commented on the process for VBM renewal, noticing and requested that notices be mailed to all voters previously registered to receive mail-in ballots.

Meeting Adjourned: 3:30 pm

Minutes: Brandon Russell, Council Research

Brussell@coj.net 904.255.5137

Posted: 7.10.26, 10:00 a.m.

