



DUVAL COUNTY ELECTION ADVISORY PANEL

2022-23 ANNUAL REPORT

Membership

9 members: 3 members of the general public appointed by the Council President; 3 members of the general public appointed by the Mayor; 2 members of the general public appointed by the Supervisor of Elections; 1 employee of the Supervisor of Elections Office appointed by the Supervisor. All members must be registered Duval County voters. The panel has 7 seated members at present and 3 vacancies (1 Supervisor of Elections employee, 1 mayoral appointment, 1 City Council appointment, for which an appointment resolution is currently pending on the Council agenda). Two of the members are serving beyond the end of an expired term while awaiting reappointment or replacement.

Meetings

The Election Advisory Panel adjusts its meeting calendar each year to coordinate with the scheduled State and City elections for that year. The panel met on July 22, September 21, and November 16, 2022 and on February 15 and April 12, 2023. The November 16th and February 15th meetings lacked a quorum physically present to transact business (members participated via telephone).

Sampling of topics discussed in 2022-23 (see meeting minutes attached)

Election mechanics

- Preparations for and conduct of the August and November 2022 state primary and general elections and special election to fill City Council District 7 and 9 vacancies (poll worker recruitment and training, precinct locations, early voting sites, vote-by-mail applications, etc.).
- Steady growth in No Party Affiliation/third party voter registrations.
- Procedure for third-party challenges to vote-by-mail ballots during the canvassing process.
- Public comment speakers questioned the number and location of early voting sites for the 2022 elections, particularly in the urban core area.
- Preparations for and conduct of the March and May 2023 City elections.

Supervisor of Elections operations

- Purchase of 200 additional ExpressVote machines to replace outdated equipment.
- Redesign of vote-by-mail application form and changes in vote-by-mail request procedure.
- Voter registration efforts, including partnerships with local professional and college sports teams to promote registration and use of social media.
- Discussion of election worker compensation sufficiency and its relation to recruitment efforts.
- City Council redistricting and re-precincting (187,000 new voter identification cards mailed due to boundary changes).
- Discussion of consolidation of the Supervisor of Elections' two facilities into one location.
- Discussion of moving City elections from spring to fall in conjunction with the gubernatorial or presidential elections to improve voter turnout.
- Transition process from Supervisor Mike Hogan to Supervisor Jerry Holland.

Legislative

- Implementation of electoral changes mandated by the Florida Legislature's passage of SB 90, including requirements for provision of verifying information (either a driver's license or the last 4 digits of the voter's Social Security number) when performing transactions remotely, establishment of a state election investigatory agency, regulations governing third-party registration efforts, changes in vote-by-mail application procedures, etc.
- City Council redistricting process and legal challenges.
- State of Florida withdrawal from the national Electronic Registration Information Center (ERIC) voter registration database.