



MIAMI-DADE COUNTY FINAL OFFICIAL MINUTES Mayor's Elections Advisory Group

Stephen P. Clark Government Center
111 N.W. 1st Street
Miami, Florida 33128

January 7, 2013
As Advertised

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CLERK'S SUMMARY AND OFFICIAL MINUTES
MAYOR'S ELECTIONS ADVISORY GROUP
JANUARY 7, 2013

The Mayor's Elections Advisory Group (EAG) convened at 9:00 a.m. on January 7, 2013, at the Stephen P. Clark Government Center, 111 NW 1 Street, Conference Rooms 18-3 & 4, Miami, Florida, 33128, there being present Members: Miami-Dade County Mayor Carlos Gimenez; Commissioners Lynda Bell, Sally Heyman and Dennis Moss; Ms. Alice Ancona, Mr. Kendall Coffey, Mr. Robert Fernandez, City of Miami Gardens Mayor Oliver Gilbert, III, Mr. Murray Greenberg, Ms. Lovette McGill, Ms. Gepsie Metellus, and Mr. C.J. Ortuno (Members Commissioner Rebeca Sosa and Bishop Victor T. Curry were absent).

The following staff members were also present: Deputy Mayor Alina Hudak; Assistant County Attorney Oren Rosenthal; Supervisor of Elections Penelope Townsley; Office of Intergovernmental Affairs Director Joe Rasco; Inson Kim, Lorna Mejia and Cristina Crespi, Office of the Mayor; and Deputy Clerk Mary Smith-York.

WELCOME

Deputy Mayor Alina Hudak called the meeting to order at 9:26 a.m. and advised that County Mayor Carlos Gimenez advised he would arrive late to today's (1/7/13) meeting and asked that she open the meeting prior to his arrival. After informing EAG members that a notice of absence was received from Commissioner Sosa and was being distributed, Ms. Hudak advised that the EAG members were provided copies of comments prepared by Commissioner Heyman, as well as a fax from Mr. Ortuno containing questions regarding the Elections After Action Report. Ms. Hudak advised that the County Commission adopted the legislative recommendations as proposed by the EAG and that the County's Legislative Package was moving forward for consideration by the Florida Legislature.

OVERVIEW OF AFTER ACTION REPORT

Ms. Penelope Townsley, Supervisor of Elections, provided a brief overview of the Elections After Action Report (EAAR) that was distributed to EAG members, highlighting the Department's primary findings and recommendations. She explained the method staff used to prepare the EAAR and the outcome measures attained. Ms. Townsley stated that staff identified seven (7) primary contributing factors to the long lines during Early Voting and on Election Day, as well as challenges within the Absentee Ballot Process. She advised that, based on those findings, Staff proposed 23 administrative and six (6) legislative recommendations for the EAG's consideration and approval. Ms. Townsley listed the following as contributing factors to the problems experienced during the 2012 General Election: ballot length, estimation of voting time, number of Early Voting sites, reduction of Early Voting days, Absentee Ballot processing, polling place process inefficiencies, and not re-precincting. Ms. Townsley noted staff identified the recommendations that would have the most impact on the elections process. She noted six State Legislative recommendations were considered

high priority; and although endorsed by the County Commission, the County had no control regarding those recommendations. Ms. Townsley discussed the 23 departmental recommendations reflected in the EAAR and described the improvements to the system that would result from implementation. At the conclusion of her presentation, Ms. Townsley invited EAG members to ask any questions or present comments.

In response to Mr. C.J. Ortuno's inquiry as to the budget for the 2008 Presidential Election, Ms. Townsley stated the budget was approximately \$9.5 million.

QUESTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Commissioner Heyman expressed her concerns regarding the following issues:

- Ballot length – consider eliminating the lengthy Charter questions and other County-related issues from the ballot during Presidential Elections;
- Number of early voting sites – consider changing the criteria governing facilities designated as early voting sites to address parking and accessibility issues;
- Supervised Voting Program – consider engaging volunteer attorneys from the Florida Bar Association and County employees to provide integral service to voters with special needs;

Ms. Townsley concurred with Commissioner Heyman's concern regarding existing opportunities to enhance the Supervised Voting Program, adding that this was a departmental objective.

Regarding Commissioner Heyman's recommendation regarding the Supervised Voting Program, Ms. Metellus suggested the department also consider engaging the service of members of the vast network of Community Based Organizations (CBO) within the County.

Ms. Townsley noted a volunteer outreach component had been previously included in the Supervised Voting Program, which was unsuccessful due to the requirement for background checks and drug screenings.

- Voting site issues – consider shutting down the library's operations and fully utilize the facility for elections purposes at least two days of the Early Voting period and on Election Day;

Miami Gardens Mayor Gilbert expressed concern with the unintended consequence of congested parking that would result from Commissioner Heyman's suggestion to use entire library buildings as voting precincts.

Commissioner Heyman agreed with Mayor Gilbert's concern and noted some libraries might not be able to accommodate this option; however, this recommendation should be included for the County Commission's consideration. She strongly urged the inclusion of

a request to develop legislation designating Election Day as a Federal Holiday so the schools would be closed when being used as voting sites to ensure the safety and security of the children.

- Re-Precincting – consider the areas where precincts were being relocated to determine if voters would be disenfranchised by the changes; and
- Polling Place Process Inefficiencies – explore the expenditure of \$2.8 million for technological changes in computer processing and report back the findings after comparing the purchase versus leasing options and prices.

Ms. Townsley acknowledged Commissioner Heyman's request for staff's findings regarding re-precincting and assured EAG members that this information would be presented in a separate report before the County Commission. She further noted the report would be discussed with individual commissioners prior to being presented to the Commission. Ms. Townsley agreed to also provide this report to individual EAG members not on the Commission, as requested by Commissioner Heyman.

Commissioner Moss expressed his appreciation to everyone who participated on the EAG and suggested having the advisory group reconvene prior to future presidential elections. He noted the issues created during this past election were under the County's control and pointed out that an action plan was now in place.

In response to Commissioner Moss' question regarding additional Early Voting Sites, Ms. Townsley advised that a preliminary survey of early voting sites was conducted, which included identifying the currently used sites.

Deputy Mayor Hudak explained that the Early Voting sites were selected based on criteria requiring that only libraries and city halls be used and that the sites be geographically balanced.

Discussion ensued among EAG members and staff concerning staff's approach to determining the amount and location of additional Early Voting sites based on the State's current legislative requirements.

Commissioner Moss noted the County Commission approved the EAG's recommendation to include in the County's Legislative Package, a request to extend the Early Voting period to nine days. He expressed concern that this decision could be in conflict with the positions of other major urban Florida counties that might request 14 days Early Voting Period. Commissioner Moss advised that after contacting representatives of the Florida Association of Supervisors of Elections, he understood they had not taken a position on whether to go with nine or 14 days for Early Voting.

Ms. Townsley informed EAG members that the Elections Department staff reached out to the County's municipalities when conducting its survey on the ability to expand Early

Voting Sites. She advised that, to date only the Cities of Homestead and North Miami Beach expressed an interest in using their City Hall facilities as Early Voting Sites.

Commissioner Bell noted the logic in Homestead expressing interest given the wide proximity between the voting sites in that area.

Pertaining to an earlier remark by Commissioner Heyman concerning schools being closed when used as voting sites, Miami Gardens Mayor Gilbert noted he agreed that the schools should be closed. However, he pointed out the unintended consequences for parents who worked and would need to arrange childcare. Mayor Gilbert discussed the benefits of reaching out to various other entities to gain insight regarding their recommendations for empowering precincts and how they compared to the County's recommendations.

Mr. Ortuno expressed concern that EAG members had not focused on the voter registration process. He questioned the Election Department's perspective on how people registered to vote through the State-wide system and how that impacted the way people voted, the resource allocation, and the voter distribution among the precincts. Mr. Ortuno stated he wished to ensure that the department's approach did not consider 1.3 as the number of registered voters in 20 years, as this number would have greatly increased.

Ms. Townsley stated that a threshold of 2,500 registered voters per precinct would be established in the re-precincting exercise and that within that number, further analyses would be performed to determine voting habits. She pointed out that voters did not vote on Election Day voters would be identified and that the chosen sites would have sufficient capacity to house the voters. Ms. Townsley noted these numbers would need to be revisited as the dates for the next gubernatorial or Countywide election moved closer.

In response to Mr. Ortuno's inquiry as to the cost per vote, Mayor Gimenez stated the process was very costly and noted this analysis would be performed and the cost per vote would be ascertained.

Responding to Ms. McGill's question regarding the cost to implement signature verification technology, Ms. Townsley stated it would cost \$1.2 million.

Ms. McGill asked whether any grant funding existed to assist the County with funding of these recommended changes to the voting process.

Mayor Gimenez expressed his desire to develop an easy voting process as possible for the County's residents and acknowledged that this effort would require money; therefore, he would present, for Commission approval, additional expenditures in the budget for this purpose.

Discussion ensued between Mayor Gimenez and Ms. McGill regarding the Election Department's approach to outreach, specifically the community education component that was restricted by time constraints and limited resources.

Responding to Mayor Gimenez' point concerning the need to 'gear up' for elections by conducting training through outreach efforts, Miami Gardens Mayor Gilbert suggested outreach efforts become a continuous effort to educate residents about voting. He introduced the concept of conducting outreach efforts through social media, emails, etc. and stressed the need for more flexibility in this area. Mayor Gilbert noted the opportunity to partner with Community Based Organizations to conduct community outreach.

Mayor Gimenez pointed out that the news media was not currently focusing on political issues and noted the County needed to a better job of informing the residents about the elections process.

Ms. Townsley noted the County had internal resources, including Facebook, Twitter, and newsletters that were used to provide information to residents regarding elections.

Further discussion ensued among EAG members and staff regarding the various methods available for use as tools in performing outreach and informing residents about the County's election process.

Ms. Alice Ancona noted her organization, Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce, conducted a large amount of outreach in terms of educating its members, who then educated their employees. She indicated that, during this past election, major employers basically promoted Absentee Ballot voting because of the size of the ballot. Ms. Ancona expressed concern that this effort might have produced unintended consequences due to the failure to coordinate with the County on this issue. She emphasized the importance of coordinating messages between the community organizations that could provide useful resources during the election process to avoid unintended consequences.

Ms. Townsley confirmed Mr. Kendall Coffey's inquiry as to whether the department planned to fund the acquisition of the Pitney-Bowes Automated Signature Verification system from the \$1.2 million was correct. Pertaining to Mr. Coffey's question regarding the department's readiness to use system, she advised that the vendors were in the process of developing solutions and testing the confidence levels and acceptance rate, using files from the department's database.

Mayor Gimenez discussed the logic of the signature verification software, explaining that the system would separate out questionable signatures for manual verification.

Responding to Mr. Coffey's question as to whether the department considered expanding the number of locations authorized to accept Absentee Ballots, Ms. Townsley advised that Florida Statute restricted the locations to only Election Department Headquarters or Branch Office. She clarified that this was applicable to in-person Absentee Voting.

Discussion ensued regarding how the system would be impacted by expanding Absentee Ballot drop off locations. Assistant County Attorney Rosenthal advised that the act

would be legal; however, consequences of accepting Absentee Ballots across the County would be a delay in processing due to time spent transporting the ballots to the Elections Headquarters.

Pertaining to Mr. Coffey's question as to whether the Elections Department had a targeted amount of time voters should wait to vote, Mayor Gimenez noted this issue should be explored by this advisory group.

Ms. Townsley noted she was aware of two states whose attempts to establish policy regarding wait time were unsuccessful due to the inability to enforce consequences for noncompliance.

Commissioner Bell concurred with Mayor Gimenez's comment that the issue of wait time should be discussed by this group. She lauded staff's After Action Report and stated the recommendations were extremely helpful and insightful. Commissioner Bell made the point that the solution was not a one-size fits all approach and indicated that was the approach of past legislation. She spoke in support of the recommendation to implement new technology, cross training employees as pollworkers, and the possibility of closing libraries on Election Day.

Mayor Gimenez noted he supported establishing a goal for voter wait time in order to provide the Elections Department with a benchmark to guide its logistics.

In response to Assistant County Attorney Rosenthal's comment that the target be communicated to the public as only an aspirational goal to avoid any misunderstandings, Mayor Gimenez explained that the target wait time would be communicated as a goal that guides the department's operations. He advised that this goal should be established for the Early Voting process, as well.

Ms. Metellus commended staff on the quality and comprehensiveness of the After Action Report and noted she would like to see this type of report after every election.

Following Mayor Gimenez' comment that he wanted to ensure there was a Standard Operations Procedures Manual within the department as a guide for future Supervisors of Elections to reference and build upon, Ms. Townsley noted that document currently existed.

Ms. Metellus reiterated the need to utilize the resources available through partnerships with Community Based Organizations, particularly those organizations that served minority language populations, such as Haitians. She shared her experience at a precinct in which she observed a person pretending to provide language assistance while coaching the Creole-speaking voter into making choices opposite of the voter's desire. Ms. Metellus strongly urged EAG members to have a conversation with members of the Legislature or principals of the Agency for Work Innovation on the issue of lost benefits for individuals receiving unemployment compensation due to seasonal employment as pollworkers.

Pertaining to Ms. Metellus' comments about the loss of unemployment compensation benefits, Ms. Townsley noted staff was currently addressing this issue and had reached out to the State and Federal Legislators.

Mr. Robert Fernandez concurred with the comments of his colleagues concerning the great report staff provided. He indicated there needed to be further breakdown of the costs associated with the recommended changes to expand early voting sites, to extend the days of early voting, to implement Absentee Ballot Verification software, to utilize electronic poll check-in books, to train and employ an appropriate number of poll workers, and to execute outreach programs. Mr. Fernandez explained that this would better enable the Mayor in developing a budget in support of these costs.

Deputy Mayor Hudak advised that the breakdown described by Mr. Fernandez was inherent in the County's Budget process and noted this was a requirement for the Elections Department. She further noted she and Ms. Townsley had begun a two-year phase-in approach in preparation for the gubernatorial for presentation to the Mayor, prioritizing technology.

Mayor Gimenez added that the phase-in process did not need to be for just one year; rather could be implemented over two to three years. He stated the process should be fully implemented by 2016.

Revisiting the issue of marketing the targeted wait time, Miami Gardens Mayor Gilbert expressed concern that this goal should be internal information and monitored daily to trigger when adjustments were needed.

Mayor Gimenez explained that it was important to communicate the targeted wait time since it could be used to determine when the benchmark was not being met at specific precincts and allow poll workers to report what adjustments were necessary to meet the goal.

In response to Miami Gardens Mayor Gilbert's inquiry as to the difference between how Absentee Ballots were processed versus regular ballots, Ms. Townsley advised that the voting process was the same for both. She noted; however, that on Election Day, the regular ballot would be scanned and tabulated after the vote versus an in-person Absentee Ballot that would be opened, scanned, reviewed and the signature verified.

Miami Gardens Mayor Gilbert recommended that on Election Day, voters be allowed to take their Absentee Ballots into their respective precincts and those ballots be scanned and tabulated on the spot.

Mayor Gimenez concurred that the concept presented by Miami Gardens Mayor Gilbert was correct and might be possible and provided examples on how this could be done.

Mr. Rosenthal stated that this recommendation could be presented to the State Legislature, and if adopted could be implemented into the County's voting system. He explained that nothing inherently illegal existed that would prohibit this action; however, a verification that State laws permitted that type of process for Absentee Ballots would need to be made.

In response to Miami Gardens Mayor Gilbert's suggestion that the EAG members inquire of the department as to its opinion on whether this concept would be allowed by the State and if so, then it should be pursued to make tabulation on Election Day quicker.

Mr. Rosenthal advised that the Supervisor of Election was entitled by State Law to request an advisor's opinion from the Division of Elections in the Secretary of State's Office.

Ms. Townsley stated she had already made this request, adding that immediately upon the huge increase in the number of in-person Absentee Ballots being processed, she asked the State if those ballots could be received and scanned. Ms. Townsley advised that the State denied her request.

Responding to Miami Gardens Mayor Gilbert's clarification that the request should be for authority to receive and scan Absentee Ballots at the voter's assigned precincts, Mr. Rosenthal explained that current policy mandates that the Absentee Ballots must be received, verified, scanned and canvassed by the Supervisor of Elections at the Elections Headquarters or Branch Office. He concurred with Mayor Gilbert's concept as an efficient way of voting; however, he emphasized that the State's current rules did not permit this method.

Discussion ensued among EAG members and staff regarding the issue of in-person Absentee Ballot voting being permitted only at the two Elections Department locations as a State policy and what changes would be necessary to allow this type of ballot to be accepted at every precinct. Miami Gardens Mayor Gilbert questioned the State's interpretation of its policy regarding in-person Absentee Ballot process, specifically whether a voter would be allowed to bring an Absentee Ballot into their assigned voting precinct and cast their vote at that time. He stated that if this voting method was prohibited by State law, the EAG should initiate steps to change that law.

Following Assistant County Attorney Rosenthal's clarification that the request to the State should be whether Florida law permitted or prohibited voters from appearing at their assigned polling precinct with their Absentee Ballots on Election Day and casting their votes in the same manner that Election Day voters, Mayor Gimenez directed Ms. Townsley to move forward with the request for the State's opinion.

Additional discussion was held by EAG members concerning how dropping Absentee Ballots at the precincts would negatively impact the process, the ability to track Absentee Ballot under the proposed process, and whether tracking was necessary.

In response to Commissioner Moss' inquiry as to whether the intent was to keep the EAG members involved beyond a short period of time, Mayor Gimenez stated his intent for the advisory group to conclude within a short period of time. He noted, however, he agreed that keeping members involved in the process throughout implementation of the new technology would be a very good idea.

Commissioner Moss noted the technology would need to be analyzed and stated the processing and recording of the results needed to be addressed.

In response to Commissioner Moss' question as to where the Absentee Ballot Signature Verification process stood in terms of Constitutional challenges, Mr. Rosenthal noted this was new territory and recommended the County obtain another opinion from the State prior to spending a significant amount of resources on technology that might not be usable. He noted this system, in his opinion, was a grey area and advised that the State had neither prohibited nor permitted this system. Mr. Rosenthal advised that if the Secretary of State was agreeable to this process, it could provide benefits as reports accrued over time. He noted this process was being used without challenge in other places, but was a new area and as technology improved, would become more accepted legally; however, he noted it was not set in stone.

In response to Commissioner Moss' inquiry as to whether other states were using this technology, Ms. Townsley answered it was being used by other states and other Florida counties, as well.

Mr. Rosenthal cautioned EAG members that Elections were not something they should get out in front of the law of and later find out that what was being done was wrong. He explained that his conservative approach to interpreting Election law to ensure that a voter would not need to recast a vote due to a process being challenged in the Courts. He recommended the County take a conservative legal approach to the implementation of signature verification software.

In response to Mayor Gimenez' question as to whether this software being used by other Florida counties was not certified by the Secretary of State, Ms. Townsley stated this was not an application that required State certification. She clarified that State certification was required for voting equipment.

With respect to Commissioner Heyman's inquiry as to whether any of the department's recommendations required legislation to be sponsored for consideration by the County Commission at the next Board meeting, Ms. Townsley advised that all recommended legislation had already been endorsed and moved forward by the EAG.

Mr. Rosenthal advised that the recommendation by Miami Gardens Mayor Gilbert, that would allow Absentee Ballots to be processed on Election Day, would require a legislative change. He noted in the event the Secretary of State advised that a legislative change was necessary, this advisory group might wish to make a decision as to whether it wanted to recommend that change.

Responding to Commissioner Heyman's comments in support of requesting that a legislative change be recommended if necessary and that she would sponsor the item, Mr. Rosenthal noted staff would draft the item for the Commissioners from this advisory group to collectively co-sponsor it.

It was moved by Miami Gardens Mayor Gilbert that staff prepare legislation providing that a recommendation be presented for Board of County Commission Approval that would, upon the Secretary of State's direction, request a legislative change be made in State law that would allow Absentee Ballots to be processed on Election Day the same as Election Day ballots. This motion was seconded by Commissioner Heyman, and upon being put to a vote, passed by a unanimous vote of the members present.

Mr. Fernandez expressed concern with this request causing unintended consequences with respect to how Absentee Ballots were processed because of the statutory scheme in place governing this process. He recommended that members be mindful of the other recommendations that were more easily addressed and that this request not be added as a priority to allow time to be better prepared for implementation.

Commissioner Bell commented that EAG members and staff would research the issue thoroughly before asking the County Commission to approve any legislation.

Commissioner Heyman clarified that Mr. Fernandez' concern was if the Secretary of State's response was that there needed to be a legislative change, the EAG should reconvene to decide the issue rather than directing staff today (1/7) to take the appropriate action.

Deputy Mayor Hudak noted Mr. Fernandez was also requesting that this not be included as a priority.

In response to Commissioner Heyman's question as to when staff would present the results from the analyses of each voting site, Ms. Townsley stated she anticipated presenting this information to the County Commission around October or November 2013. She stated that the initial process for gathering the data would commence the following week and would take up to five months to complete, and explained the steps involved in the process.

Responding to Commissioner Heyman's inquiry as to when a breakdown of the analysis that was done on the existing voting sites would be available, Ms. Townsley informed EAG members of the different areas that were currently being analyzed, including when the last voter voted.

Commissioner Heyman clarified that she was interested in a breakdown of the analysis done on the 20 Early Voting Sites that had paid workers, seasonal volunteers, employees and people in charge based on their jurisdiction, some of which were trouble-free and some experiencing problems specific and unique to the site, and to include the strengths

and weaknesses of each site. She requested an overall analysis of how the Early Voting sites operated.

Ms. Townsley stated that this information could be compiled and provided for the EAG members' review.

Commissioner Heyman recommended staff incorporate this type of analysis in the assessment for re-precincting and site locations for the Primary and Election Day and asked when that data would be available to EAG members.

Ms. Townsley advised that it would be very difficult to estimate when that analysis would be completed.

In response to Miami Gardens Mayor Gilbert's question of when the County Budget was adopted, Mayor Gimenez stated the County Budget was adopted in September; however, the preliminary budget was presented in June.

Indicating that this would impact the County's budget, Miami Gardens Mayor Gilbert suggested that the analyses needed to be completed before the fall and agreed with Mayor Gimenez that benchmarks should be established prior to re-precincting.

Responding to Miami Gardens Mayor Gilbert's suggestion that staff not focus so much on the time the last person voted when doing wait time analysis, Ms. Townsley noted she concurred and explained the reason for that research was not to measure wait time. She noted; however, that data would be useful in determining the efficiency level at certain sites.

Ms. Townsley addressed an earlier concern by Commissioner Moss regarding the reporting of results issue, pointing out that the recommendation for technology enhancement for Absentee Ballots would resolve the issue of late reporting of election results. She explained that the problem was contingent on the Absentee Balloting processing system and noted the technology would resolve the issues of volume and machine timing out after 12 hours. Ms. Townsley stated contingencies were put into place to ensure 24-hour service was available in the event any equipment should breakdown, as well as spare parts for routine maintenance.

Commissioner Moss noted his desire for the EAG members to focus on getting the County's election results in under the wire and ensure we do things differently to meet the deadline.

In response to Ms. McGill's inquiry as to when the legislative issues proposed by the EAG would be considered by the Legislature in Tallahassee, Commissioner Bell advised that the recommendation to extend Early Voting to nine days had been filed already.

In response to Mayor Gimenez' request for an update on which recommendations in the County's Legislative Package had already been filed or were getting sponsors, Mr.

Rosenthal stated he was aware of three other bills besides Representative Miguel Diaz de la Portilla's which did not contain a request to expand Early Voting sites.

Mr. Joe Rasco, Intergovernmental Affairs Director, stated this would be the fourth bill and noted Mayor Gimenez had met with the Chair and Vice-Chair from one of the State's Elections Advisory Groups. He advised that the Legislators were already processing that information at the request of Mayor Gimenez and others.

Responding to Ms. McGill reiterated request for the date these recommendations would be addressed, Mr. Rasco noted it should happen within the next two months.

Mayor Gimenez requested Mr. Rasco ensure that every member of this EAG was notified when these bill were addressed by the Legislature.

Pertaining to Commissioner Moss' inquiry as to whether any bills had been filed that requested 14 days as opposed to nine days for Early Voting, Commissioner Heyman stated two bills were filed with the House and the Senate.

In response to Commissioner Moss' remark that since Miami-Dade was the largest county in Florida, he was concerned that smaller counties would be persuaded to request nine days based on Miami-Dade's decision, Ms. McGill stated the EAG's decision to request nine days was based on its consideration for smaller counties.

Discussion was held among EAG members concerning whether this County should stipulate nine days, rather than 14 in its request to expand the days for Early Voting. Mayor Gimenez expressed his belief that the EAG members all agreed that the second Sunday should be included in the Early Voting period and noted that if a bill was adopted that provided for 14 days, as long as the second Sunday was included, it should be pushed through.

Deputy Mayor Hudak provided a summary of today's proceedings as follows:

- The EAG members requested staff to draft a document, on behalf of the Mayor, for their review and approval as the EAG's consensus report to the Board of County Commissioners;
- The EAG unanimously concurred with the departmental recommendations from the After Action Report, with emphasis on the use of County employees and improved technologies;
- Additional recommendations from today's discussion included overall greater outreach with emphasis on additional collaboration with Community Based Organizations, Chambers of Commerce, and Economic Development Agencies and additional emphasis on Supervised Voting;
- A consensus was reached to reconvene the EAG for purposes for an update and as a focus group on the technology recommendations as they progressed and on budget recommendations and re-precincting;
- The EAG requested the Supervisor of Elections to receive an Advisory Opinion from the State relative to Absentee Voting on Election Day and the group agreed

that if that Advisory Opinion had negative results, the County Attorney would draft legislation for consideration by the County Commission relative to a potential legislative recommendation on that issue;

- A consensus was reached on two aspirational performance measures to serve as guiding principles for the Department of Elections as: 1) cost per voter and 2) an acceptable goal of voter wait time; and
- The EAG members requested staff to advise them of any important Tallahassee dates, which would be provided as a report with attachments containing the Legislative Package, After Action Report, and the two written reports from the EAG.

CLOSING REMARKS AND NEXT STEPS

Mayor Gimenez requested the Elections Department staff to research areas where these elements had been measured and recorded and asked each EAG member to reach out to friends, neighbors, and constituents to obtain their opinion as to what they deem a reasonable time for a person to wait in line to vote. He explained that this information would dictate the number of workers, machines, etc. would be needed at the precinct to accomplish the established time goal. Mayor Gimenez clarified that the wait time began the moment the voter entered the line to vote and ended when the voter exited the facility, and requested Ms. Townsley to obtain the necessary stop watches. With respect to Ms. McGill's question as to whether the survey would distinguish between Early Voting and Election Day voting times, Mayor Gimenez stated that distinction was not necessary.

Ms. Hudak asked that members provide staff with additional written feedback they wished to have attached to the report.

Ms. Hudak advised the dates that were available for the next EAG meeting and following discussion, members agreed to convene on January 28, 2013 at 9:30 a.m.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Elections Advisory Group, it was moved by Commissioner Bell that today's meeting be adjourned at 11:59 a.m. This motion was seconded by Commissioner Moss, and upon being put to a vote, passed by a unanimous vote of those members present.



Mayor Carlos Gimenez, Chair
Mayor's Elections Advisory Group