



City of Madison

City of Madison
Madison, WI 53703
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Meeting Minutes - Draft MADISON ELECTION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Tuesday, March 10, 2009

4:30 PM

210 Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd.
Room 103 (City-County Building)

CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

Present: 5 -

Paul R. Malischke; Sybil R. Better; Marilyn E. Williams; Marlena G. Deutsch and Maribeth Witzel-Behl

Excused: 2 -

Rosa J. Garner and Valerie A. Brown

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Deutsch, seconded by Williams, to Approve the Minutes from January 13, 2009. The motion passed by voice vote/other.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

NEW BUSINESS

DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. [12418](#) Facilitating the Voting Process for Non-Felons in Dane County Jail.

Williams suggested getting Dane County Jail population statistics for Election Day to find out how many inmates were eligible to vote, and how many voted. She also requested data on how many non-felons arrived at the Dane County Jail a few days before the election.

Malischke said that the statistics from any day may suffice.

Better suggested sending out a query on the Wisconsin Municipal Clerks Association listserv, to find out whether other municipalities do anything to facilitate the voting process for non-felons in jail.

Williams mentioned that Representative Marlin Schneider is introducing a proposal that would allow felons to vote if they are not incarcerated.

Williams said the Department of Corrections list may include misdemeanants because the DOC system does not decipher between the two. For example, she said, someone may have been charged with a felony, but convicted of a misdemeanor.

2. [13178](#) School Alliance Update.

This item was referred to the next agenda.

3. [13888](#) Debriefing on the February 17 Primary

Witzel-Behl distributed the attached debriefing.

4. [13889](#) Preparations for the April 7 Spring Election

Better suggested including information on rejected absentees in the instruction letter that the office sends with absentee ballots. The absentee letter was subsequently changed to include this information.

Williams suggested issuing a press release about rejected absentee ballots. The office issued this press release as soon as absentee ballots were available.

Malischke said he would like to see the data broken down by the reason each absentee was rejected. He also would like voters to be notified when their absentee ballot has been rejected.

Deutsch said that the number of rejected absentee ballots may increase as the population ages.

Williams said she would like to see the Election Officials trained to not talk negatively about the AutoMark Voter Assist Terminal.

Williams asked about the condition of the city's voting booths, and whether the office could come up with the money for elastic and repairs.

Malischke asked whether the city was prepared to survey all 80 polling places for accessibility on April 7. Witzel-Behl responded that Building Inspection and the Assessor's Office had graciously agreed to assume those duties.

5. [13890](#) Assembly Joint Resolution 2 RE: elimination of the spring election

Malischke said that this proposed solution may be worse than the current situation because there is no room left in journalistic media to inform voters on local races.

Better suggested moving the non-partisan elections to November of odd-numbered years.

Malischke suggested combining the County Supervisory elections with the Aldermanic elections.

Williams said that more democracy is better, and that she wishes we could get more people to participate in that democracy.

Malischke moved that the committee recommend that elections for local offices remain separate from elections for national offices, with limited

exceptions, in order to facilitate local campaigning. The motion was tabled.

The matter was referred to the next meeting.

6. [05160](#) Confirmation of next MEAC meeting.

The next meeting will be held at 4:30 p.m. on May 12, 2009.

7. [04353](#) Suggestions for future agenda items.

Committee members agreed to place the following items on the next agenda: school alliance update, April 7 Election debriefing, Assembly Joint Resolution 2, data on non-felons voting, repair of voting booths, online voter registration (presentation by Paul Malischke), Government Accountability Board early voting proposal.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Williams, seconded by Deutsch, to Adjourn at 5:35 p.m. The motion passed by voice vote/other.