Poll Worker Network Meeting Minutes

March 6, 2019  2 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

City Hall, Room 305

Meeting Attendees:

Aurora Livingston  Cory Comer  Hillary Brown  Mayank Patel
Barry Pearl  Elizabeth Dunlap  Jacqueline Minor  Stefan Gruenwedel
Clint Wolfrom  George Anderson  Katherine  Hans Von Rotes
  Schild Zitter-Rothschild

1. Introduction: Clint and Mayank led the meeting with member introductions and offered a brief recap of the November 6, 2018 election. We listed off voter and poll worker statistics where we could use improvement in poll worker recruitment, particularly our high school student poll workers.

2. Gathered the following feedback / experiences from last election:

   a. Precinct Services:

      i. Polling place size was an issue at certain locations. At those locations, it was difficult to set up all voting booths and the Edge Accessible voting machine on the table provided. A suggestion was made to provide a diagram, specifically for small polling places, showing where all polling place machines and voting booths are placed and provide additional information such as locations of outlets and lights.

   b. Poll Worker Recruitment

      i. It was stated that some experienced poll workers were unaware of new procedures and used experienced knowledge rather than the poll worker manual. A suggestion was made to reassess poll workers that have served for a certain number of elections.

      ii. It was also suggested that there be a reading comprehension exam taken after poll worker training to test poll worker’s knowledge of Election Day duties.

   c. Election Center

      i. It was suggested that there be a call-back feature considered for when a poll worker receives a busy message when calling the Election Center at a time when call volume is high. For example, “Press 1 if you would like a call back.”
3. Upcoming changes to the November 5, 2019 Municipal Election
   a. Group was told to anticipate using a new voting system in November 2019.
   b. There will be less polling places, which potentially means more voters and poll workers per polling place.
   c. Polling places will be different for some voters from where they voted in the November 2018 election.
      i. Voters whose polling place location changes will be notified via post card. Members requested to review these post cards before they are printed and sent out. In the past, they mentioned it had too much content and was easily mixed in with other mail.
      ii. Signage at previous polling place locations that have been reassigned directing voters to their new polling place.
   d. Brief description was given of the Department’s plan to review and enhance the current assessment and interview process for new poll workers.
   e. Supplemental Online Trainings and Activities.
   f. Due to new voting system, all poll workers will attend New Inspector and New Clerk classes.
   g. It was explained that an increased stipend is planned, but is not official and the amount has not been finalized.

4. Voter Information Kiosk
   a. Discussed current iteration of the Kiosk.
      i. One poll worker explained that the angle of the old kiosk was essential. Placing it somewhere voters will see it right when they come in. Explained, when placed effectively, voters will typically spend 2-3 minutes reading the content.
      ii. When not placed effectively, voters did not read the kiosk because it was hard to see when placed against a wall or in the back of the polling place.
   b. Potential New Voter Information Kiosk
      i. Positive initial feedback.
      ii. One poll worker suggested using a 6” post with a plastic clip to help stabilize the base.
      iii. The content would be organized by topic.
      iv. The group suggested adding:
          • QR code to access Kiosk content through our website.
          • Brighter colors to draw attention.
   c. Poll Worker Manual Revision
      i. An argument against separating the Inspector instructions is that many members agreed that the current manual flows well and like how the Clerk and Inspector duties are chronologically integrated throughout the manual.
      ii. An argument for separating out the Inspector instructions is that it will make finding things in the manual more efficient. This would be beneficial to new inspectors or clerks who are promoted to Inspector on Election Day.
      iii. If Inspector instructions are separated, it was suggested to consider adding a notice to the job cards stating, “Once finished with duties, assist other clerks and inspector as needed”.
      iv. A member stated that he preferred pictures in the manual as opposed to illustrations.
v. Members of the Poll Worker Network requested to have the opportunity to review the Poll Worker Manual before the final version goes to print in September 2019.

5. Action Items:
   a. All – Send in topics members would like to discuss in future meetings.
   b. All – Send any more feedback that was not covered during the meeting.
   c. Clint – Send out RSVP link to our next Poll Worker Network Meeting during the Summer.