



Inajo Davis Chappell Jeff Hastings Eben O. (Sandy) McNair, IV Robert S. Frost Pat McDonald Anthony W. Perlatti
Chairwoman Member Member Member Director Deputy Director

Spanish-Language Advisory Board Minutes

June 3, 2013
5:30 PM

Meeting location: Esperanza Inc Board Room, 3104 Clark Ave, Cleveland Ohio, 44109

Bilingual Coordinator: Ivelisse Roig
Meeting facilitator: Magda Gómez

Attendance:

Magda Gómez- Chairwoman
Pablo Castro III- Co Chair
Ron Berger- Member
Marilyn Peña- Member
Henry Curtis- Board of Elections, Poll Worker Department Manager
Robert Frost – Board of Elections, Board Member
Anthony Alto- Board of Elections, Election Official, Poll Worker Department
Mike West- Board of Elections, Media and Voter Education Specialist
Maria Anderson- Attendee
Juan Molina Crespo- Attendee
Ricardo Peña- Attendee

Agenda Item I: Welcome:

Chairwoman Magda Gómez welcomed the attendees and introduced Cuyahoga County Board of Elections (CCBOE) Board Member Robert Frost. Mr. Frost said he was very pleased to be in attendance and back on the CCBOE Board.

Agenda Item II: Review and approval of minutes of the March 18, 2013 Board Meeting:

Chairwoman Gómez provided a review of the March Board Meeting when representatives of the US Department of Justice (DOJ) were present. She stated that one of the goals of the March meeting was to discuss the direction that the CCBOE should take after the consent decree had been satisfied in 2014. Ms. Gómez's opinion was that the Spanish Language Advisory Board should continue to meet and maintain a close relationship with CCBOE.

The meeting minutes were unanimously approved by the Board.



Agenda item III: Old Business & Updates:

Spanish Language Advisory Board Recommendations Summary:

The Bilingual Coordinator informed the Board that the recommendation summary has not been completed yet. As requested in the past meeting bilingual cost report was presented. The Bilingual Coordinator provided an expense report summary that illustrated all additional costs incurred in providing bilingual services for the last two years. Chairwoman Gómez said that this is the first time the CCBOE had provided a financial report to the Advisory Board. She stated that the report was very informative. According to CCBOE Board Member Robert Frost regardless of the additional costs he expects bilingual services to continue. Board members asked about conducting additional outreach. Mike West stated that CCOB staff would go to as many Hispanic events as we are able, but that booth fees are a consideration and that outreach staff would develop, print, and distribute any bilingual materials as deemed necessary to reach Hispanic voters during outreach events.

Hispanic Voter Turnout Report:

Chairwoman Gómez stated the importance of the turnout report to track outreach efforts in the Hispanic Community. The CCBOE had generated a Hispanic turnout report that the group felt was not accurate because the CCBOE may not be using the same Hispanic surnames as the DOJ uses to create its Hispanic precinct report used in each election to identify precincts that are required to be staffed by bilingual poll workers. Mike West explained that the CCBOE obtained a census Spanish surname list from a voting jurisdiction in another state. The list was used to generate the report. However, the accuracy of the turnout report was called into question when a CCBOE Hispanic precinct list did not match the DOJ Hispanic precinct list. Mike West stated that the CCOB staff had made many attempts to obtain the list that the DOJ utilizes to create its Hispanic precinct reports but has been unsuccessful. Chairwoman Gómez said that she would contact the DOJ and ask them for a list of the voter surnames they use to generate their Hispanic precinct list.

Agenda Item IV: New Business:

Board of Elections Announcements:

Anthony Alto was introduced as a bilingual full time employee. His title is Election Official Recruiter and will be working to recruit bilingual poll workers. Mr. Alto stated he has already developed contacts in the Hispanic community that will help him be successful in his work.

New Advisory Board Member Recruitment:

The Spanish Language Advisory Board is recruiting new members. Some of the nominated candidates were present at the meeting. The Bilingual Coordinator introduced three candidates for Board membership: Maria Anderson, a recent law degree graduate from Case Western Reserve University, Juan Molina Crespo, Director of the Hispanic Alliance, and Ricardo Peña of the Cuyahoga County Department of Job and Family Services.

New Role for Bilingual Coordinator:

The Bilingual Coordinator is now part of the Community Outreach Department. Board Member Frost commented that there are a lot of opportunities for the Bilingual Coordinator and the Outreach Department that will help reach additional Spanish speaking voters. He stated he is very confident that Anthony Alto and Ivelisse Roig will do an excellent job.

Agenda Item V: Updates:

Bilingual Poll Workers Recruitment:

Henry Curtis, the Manager of the Poll Worker Department, shared his concerns regarding the poor retention of bilingual poll workers and training attendance. Mr. Curtis stated that his department is doing research on these issues. They are contacting other jurisdictions under similar consent decrees to see if they have the same type of challenges and ask them to share their solutions.

The Bilingual Coordinator provided a summary of the bilingual poll worker recruitment and training efforts for the May 7th Special Election. Seven of the eleven bilingual poll workers scheduled for the specialized bilingual poll worker

training sessions were in attendance. Brooklyn Precinct A, at the Brooklyn Community Center, was scheduled to have two (2) bilingual poll workers, but one (1) poll worker did not show up on Election Day. The Bilingual Coordinator was deployed to the precinct to serve as a bilingual poll worker.

Agenda Item VI: Community Outreach and Voter Education:

Chairwomen Gómez announced that a Town Hall Meeting would take place on June 11th from 5:30-7:00 p.m. for the Hispanic Community at Lincoln West High School. The Bilingual Coordinator will be attending. The Bilingual Coordinator stated that part of her outreach plan involves increasing the number of meetings held with community agencies and Hispanic leaders.

Agenda Item 6: Misc. News & Closing Remarks:

Chair and Co-Chair:

Co-Chair Pablo Castro III thanked everyone for their time and participation. The meeting was adjourned at 6:30 PM.