



**CUYAHOGA COUNTY
BOARD OF ELECTIONS**

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Inajo Davis Chappell
Member

Eben O. (Sandy) McNair, IV
Member

Deborah Sutherland
Member

Jane M. Platten
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Pat McDonald
Deputy Director

Spanish- Language Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

July 23, 2012

5:00 PM

Cuyahoga County Board of Elections
2925 Euclid Avenue
Cleveland, Ohio 44115

Coordinator: Ivelisse Roig

Meeting facilitator: Magda Gómez

I. Welcome :

Present:

Dennis Anderson
Ron Berger
Marilyn Bagley
Luis Cartagena

Pablo Castro III
Blanca Figueroa
Luis Gómez
Magda Gómez

Dharma Valentín
Ivelisse Roig

Not Present:

Yasin Cuevas
Carlos Chinchilla
Adrian Maldonado

Lorna McLain
Javier Morales-Ortíz

Welcome:

Francisco Santiago

II. Review & Approval of Minutes from 01/23/2012

The motion was moved by Blanca Figueroa and seconded by Ron Berger. Minutes for 01/23/2012 meeting were approved.

III. Old Business & Updates:

A. Bilingual Election Program Update:

Bilingual coordinator provided a summary of all actions taken in accordance to the mandated requirements in the Consent Decree for August 7, 2012 Special Election.

- i. The municipalities or precincts that are participating at this election do not exceed 100 Hispanic surnamed voters; therefore no precincts are required to have Bilingual Poll Workers.
- ii. 4 Total Municipalities(Brecksville, Broadview Heights, North Royalton and Shaker Heights)



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- iii. Bilingual Ballots are provided County-wide regardless of having bilingual precincts or not.
- iv. 2 Issues (1 School Issue, 1 Municipal Tax Issue)

B. “Tú Decides” Summary:

Advisory Chair, Magda Gomez presented Rally event summary: It was well attended; 400- 500 people in attendance, it was a great event, had a lot of media attention (national and local) good volunteer support, 18 churches participated including pastors from the African American community.

IV. New Business:

A. November 6 Presidential Election: Summer outreach plan and best strategies to educate Spanish speaking community were discussed, and the importance of starting recruitment efforts for Bilingual Poll Workers, Bilingual Coordinator said we cannot rely 100% on the temporary recruiters since they will be starting by the end of August.

B. Puerto Rican Festival and Parade: August 2, 3, and 5

The Chair Magda Gómez and Bilingual Coordinator; Ivelisse Roig; requested the board members participation. BC will email the schedule to all members.

Things to do for the Festival:

- Confirmed our table
- “Tú Decides” will offer incentives for those who get registered at the Puerto Rican Festival. Some incentives ideas were; (University Hospitals, games, water, discounts from food vendors, opportunity to enter to a raffle drawing etc) It was suggested to have the discussion at the “Tú Decides” meeting next Monday.
- Luis Gómez will contact Julia De Burgos in regards to their refreshments policies and regulations.
- Have our booth at a strategic location- Talk to festival coordinator.
- Talk to MC so they can continuously promote our message and direct public traffic to our table.
- Obtain support from other agencies to direct people to our table.
- Bilingual coordinator will email booth schedule.

Parade:

- Bilingual Registration Card Sandwich to walk in the parade- Dennis Anderson
- Confirmed partnership participation with Remington College
- Ideas for the Parade are welcome

V. Subcommittees

A. Bilingual Poll Workers Recruitment

- i. **Bilingual Poll Worker Focus Group Summary:** Copies of Bilingual Poll Worker focus group report were provided to all members. The subcommittee chair; Blanca Figueroa shared important points from the focus group. Figueroa recommended the Bilingual Coordinator follow up with two important findings to ensure the effectiveness of the Bilingual Election Program; in this case referring to the training curriculum.

a. Hire a Bilingual Latino Trainer for the Bilingual Program

The trainer will culturally and linguistically relate to address questions and/or situations that Bilingual Poll Workers may have during the training session.



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- Bilingual Coordinator informed that according to the Poll Worker Department; Back in May the suggestion was communicated to Department managers and Bilingual subcommittee members were cc. Bilingual Coordinator reported that the BOE does not plan on bringing in any new trainers for the November cycle. They will probably hire new trainers in 2013 and plan to hire on a bilingual trainer at that point. The trainers have to go through the full application process with HR and have to submit a resume and have training background for consideration. They would like to use the Bilingual Coordinator as a trainer facilitator or a bilingual temporary in coordination with an English speaking trainer who has experience with the poll worker curriculum in the past.
- Blanca suggested follow up on this recommendation since it will be beneficial to add resources to the bilingual program.

b. Provide Cross Training: Ensure that regular training is provided before the Specialized Spanish Assistance training.

- Bilingual Coordinator update: According to the Poll Worker Department, bilingual poll workers in the fall will attend 5 hour training if they are new or 3.5 hour training if they are returning workers that will incorporate the specialized training into it in the last 30-45 minutes.

ii. **Training sites:**

a. Poll Worker Department bilingual actions:

- Progress regarding the three potential bi-lingual poll worker training sites, as of 05/30/2012:
 - We have not received a return call from El-Barrio
 - We were unable to leave a message with the Spanish American Committee Office on Lorain Rd.
 - We would be able to secure seven (7) straight Tuesdays (commencing September 11th and ending on October 23rd) from 8:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at Sagrada Familia Cleveland but at a cost of \$100 per session/day.

b. Advisory Board Members Recommendations:

- Board members requested specific training spaces requirements.
 - Training Room requirements for the upcoming fall General Election. We are looking for locations that:
 - * Provide training space/rooms for free
 - * Provide storage space for our DS200's and ADA AutoMarks utilized during training classes
 - * Allow for eight (8) hour blocks of time
 - * Have ADA accessible accommodations
 - * Will accommodate 20 to 25 training participants per class
- Training sites recommendations:
 - Nueva Luz Resource Center
 - Dharma Valentin
Community Organizer Stockyard, Clark-Fulton, & Brooklyn-Centre
Community Development Office
216- 961-9073
dvalentin@dscdo.org



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iii. Community Outreach and Voter Education:

a. Summer Outreach :

- òTú Decides òChurches outreach event on September 9 (we need volunteers)
- Campaña Misionera
- Metro Health Fair
- Puerto Rican Festival

VI. Misc. News & Closing Remarks

- A. Denise Anderson, Community Outreach Manager; briefly talked about registration deadline, and vote by mail applications.
- B. Pablo Castro, Co-Chair of the Advisory Board stressed the importance of including in the next meeting's agenda a discussion to evaluate the current bilingual election program strategies effectiveness. Also to ensure that all requirements are being met in accordance to the decree. òThis will help us provide the BOE recommendations and therefore a transitional plan to operate the Bilingual Program after 11/14; which is the end date for the Consent Decree.ö Castro said.
- C. Meeting was adjourned at 6:19 p.m. by Magda Gomez-Chair. The next general meeting will be at 5:00 p.m. on 09/17/2012.