

1 Introduced by the Council President at the request of the Mayor:
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4 **ORDINANCE 2002-373-E**

5 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 59 (RESERVED),
6 *ORDINANCE CODE*, TO CREATE THE DUVAL COUNTY
7 ELECTION ADVISORY PANEL; PROVIDING AN
8 EFFECTIVE DATE.
9

10 WHEREAS, subsequent to the November 2000 election, the City
11 Council President and the Mayor established the Duval County
12 Election Reform Task Force to investigate the 2000 election
13 procedures and experiences and to propose recommendations to
14 improve the voting process for future elections in Duval County and
15 restore or bolster voter confidence in the elections system; and

16 WHEREAS, the Duval County Election Reform Task Force presided
17 over numerous public hearings, received valuable testimony and
18 evidence, and recommended an extensive array of improvements and
19 reforms to be implemented at the local level; and

20 WHEREAS, one of the recommendations presented by the Duval
21 County Election Reform Task Force was to create an election
22 advisory panel to serve in an advisory capacity to the Supervisor
23 of Elections, the Mayor and the City Council on behalf of the
24 registered voters of Duval County regarding various election
25 issues; now therefore,

26 **BE IT ORDAINED** by the Council of the City of Jacksonville:

27 **Section 1.** Chapter 59, *Ordinance Code*, is hereby amended
28 to read as follows:

29 **CHAPTER 59**

30 **RESERVED***

31 **DUVAL COUNTY ELECTION ADVISORY PANEL**

1 **Sec. 59.101. Establishment.**

2 There is hereby established a panel to be known as the Duval
3 County Election Advisory Panel (hereinafter known as the *Panel*).

4 **Sec. 59.102. Intent of the Council.**

5 It is the intent of the Council in establishing the Panel to
6 create a body to review the voter registration and the election
7 process, procedures, and experiences in Duval County to ensure a
8 fair, impartial and effective election process. Because of the
9 lessons learned from the November 2000 general election, the
10 creation of the Panel will serve as an effort to ensure that the
11 entire voting experience, from voter registration through election
12 day, in all future elections in Duval County, will be conducted in
13 a manner so as to uphold and expand voter confidence in the
14 election system, create a more informed electorate, and increase
15 overall participation in the voting process.

16 **Sec. 59.103. Membership; terms; composition.**

17 The Panel shall be composed of nine members, selected as
18 follows:

19 (a) Three members of the public designated by the Council
20 President; and

21 (b) Three members of the public designated by the Mayor; and

22 (c) Three members designated by the Supervisor of Elections,
23 one of whom shall be employed full-time at the Supervisor of
24 Elections' office.

25 Each Panel member shall at all times be a registered voter in Duval
26 County. Other than the employee of the Supervisor of Elections,
27 the designees shall be selected in such a manner as to represent a
28 diverse background in terms of race, gender, party affiliation, and
29 physical impairment and shall be confirmed by the City Council.
30 Each Panel member shall serve for a term of three years or until
31 his or her successor shall have been appointed; provided that, of

1 the initial appointments, two of the three initial designees of the
2 Council President and Mayor and one of the two initial designees of
3 the Supervisor of Elections shall serve for a period of two years
4 with the remaining members serving a three-year term. The
5 Supervisor of Elections' office employee designee shall serve until
6 such time as the Supervisor of Elections appoints a replacement.
7 Appointed panel members may be reappointed for up to one additional
8 term.

9 **Sec. 59.103. Organization.**

10 (a) The Chairman, or in his or her absence, the Vice-Chairman,
11 both of whom shall be elected, along with the Secretary, by the
12 Panel, shall preside at all meetings of the Panel and shall appoint
13 the members of various committees or other bodies as authorized by
14 the Panel in furtherance of its purposes. The Secretary shall keep
15 the records of the Panel and the minutes of its meetings.

16 (b) The Panel shall meet at least on a quarterly basis at
17 such times and places as are fixed by the rules of the Panel.
18 Special meetings shall be called by the Chairman in accordance with
19 the rules of the Panel.

20 (c) The Panel shall adopt, amend and rescind rules to
21 implement the provisions of this chapter. All reports, studies and
22 recommendations made by or at the direction of the Panel shall be
23 considered and approved by the Panel before same are released or
24 laid before the Council, Supervisor of Elections, Mayor or any
25 other body or individual.

26 (d) The Panel may establish such committees from among its
27 membership as it deems necessary to carry out its functions. The
28 Panel may also, from time to time, authorize the establishment of
29 task forces, study groups, and similar bodies to carry out
30 specialized and detailed purposes within the scope of the Panel's
31 overall purposes. Any such body may include persons who are not

1 members of the Panel, but the Chairman thereof shall be a
2 commissioner. The body shall report on its progress to the Panel
3 at such times as the Panel shall require, and no report, study, or
4 recommendation, favorable or adverse, may be made by any such body
5 unless the matter is first considered by the Panel.

6 (e) The Council Secretary's Office shall provide adequate
7 staff and support services for the Panel.

8 **Sec. 59.105 Duties.** The purpose of the Panel is advisory
9 only. In no way shall the Panel interfere with the performance of
10 the duties of the Supervisor of Elections. The Panel is
11 established for the following general purposes:

12 (a) To study and make recommendations to the Supervisor of
13 Elections to increase the quality of voter registration and
14 education efforts.

15 (b) To study and make recommendations to the Supervisor of
16 Elections to enhance the voter's election-day experience, including
17 poll worker training, polling locations, ballot styles, and fraud
18 prevention.

19 (c) To evaluate and recommend improvements on the election
20 effectiveness, including number of overvotes, undervotes and
21 spoiled ballots, voter complaints, and voter turnout.

22 (d) To review and comment on ballot styles, instructions and
23 absentee ballot appearance.

24 (e) To make an annual report to Council on the progress of
25 the Panel in the performance of its duties, including an
26 incorporation of any statistics, charts, studies, reports, or other
27 data and materials generated by or for the Panel.

28 **Section 2. Initial Appointees.** The initial appointees to
29 the Panel and their initial terms shall be as follows:

30 Mayoral Appointees: Berrilyn Houston (two years); Doug Milne
31 (three years); and Isaiah Rumlin (two years).

1 Council Presidential Appointees: Helen Ludwig (two years);
2 Mark Tippins (three years); and Hastings Williams (two years).

3 Supervisor of Elections' Appointees: Jack Gillrup (two years)
4 and Dr. Henry Thomas (three years).

5 Resum9s for the initial appointees are attached as **Exhibit A**.

6 Sylvia Schultz, Director of Education, is identified as
7 appointee from the staff of the Supervisor of Elections' office.

8 **Section 3. Effective Date.** This ordinance shall become
9 effective upon signature by the Mayor or upon becoming effective
10 without the Mayor's signature.

11 Form Approved:

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13 //s/ Jason R. Teal_____

14 Office of General Counsel

15 Legislation Prepared By: Jason R. Teal

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