

Task Force on Elected Representation Meeting Minutes for 10/04/2019

Attendees Present:

Jennifer Dirmeyer
Dave Shaffer
Beca Velaquez-Publes
Danielle Williams
Rick Baker
Joe Marogil
Becky Jo Glover (staff)
Richard Jelier
Doug Matthews (staff)
Daniel Kavame (staff)
Nadine Klein (staff)

1. General Updates:

Copies of the survey

Draft scheduled that Jennifer put together

Flier for the engagement meetings

MML report on local representation: Ratio of elected officials to people, ratio of elected officials to square miles

Clerk's office budget for election concurrent with state and federal for off year and primary elections, breakdown of how the election budget is spent

Individuals missing from task force, if they have been in contact, the impact it is having on the task force, lack of input.

2. Discussion of Online Survey:

Content & Methodology

- Preferences in terms of the drawing of districts, concern of lack of validity of specific questions, leading questions, questions too broad (Doug)
- Size of districts a concern, leading questions, should the focus be on the core questions (Beca)
- Concern on wording of the survey to achieve accurate and helpful results (Daniel & Richard)
- Concern about the validity and or wording of the Racial Equality question (Richard)
- Is the survey necessary? Should we be doing it? (Dave)

- Expressed concern over how much money/how big of a budget is allocated for special election (Nadine)
- Rephrasing the “would you prefer to have an elected or appointed official (Jennifer & Daniel)
- Questioning the validity of the survey “Is it statically valid?” (Rick, Richard & Dave)
- Potentially scrapping the surveys (Rick, Richard & Dave)
- Lack of comprehension of the survey, concerned that constituents will not understand the survey or how to take it (Beca)
- Purpose of the community meetings if 36 people come and those 36 people are the only constituents that take the survey. Lack of community impute (Jennifer)
- Promising response from fliers but primarily from GRDI (Becky Jo)
- Concern over constituents showing up to community meetings, being the people and/or groups that have a vested interest (Danielle & Dave)
- Believes that is a better process to collect data needed. Lack of time, lack of structure, expected hurdles & challenges. Charter Revision Process, proven alternative option (Dave)
- Lack of trust in representatives, informing voters by sharing information, rather than last minute voting with lack of information for voters
- Be extremely careful that community meetings aren’t taking over by organized groups, letting everyone have a chance to speak and voice their opinions (Jennifer)
- Outlay of the community meeting, agenda, education staying focused on task (Becky Jo & Jennifer)
- Think about standard of evidence and standard of delivered process (Jennifer)
- Plan for the 10th, if we’re providing info, what info are we providing (“High Importance”)

3. Meeting on the 10th / Discussion of in-Ward engagement

Organization of the community meetings (subcommittee Jennifer, Beca & Danielle)

Assigning and discussing preferences for ward assignments, who will answer questions, facilitator notes, question board, representatives from the city at each meeting, potential for open forum (Danielle, Jennifer & Beca) Make sure constituents understand that facilitators are community members and not experts and the benefit/intent behind the community meetings. Reach out to absent task force members to discuss their attendance.

Ward assignments for wards first, second & third:

Rick & Dave facilitators for first ward first ward

Richard facilitators for second ward

Joe third ward

4. Proposed Meeting Schedule:

Giving People chances to participate

Follow up meeting after community meeting with task force while insight is still fresh

Record meeting for those who can't attend

Eliminating meeting on the 11th and meeting again on the 18th due to presentations

Potential for a conference line (Joe & Danielle)

Figure out why people are not attending meetings and if that a conference call is needed

Structure of community meetings: content, layout for community meets (registration, intro of purpose of community meetings, group discussions at the table, talk more about specific topics, answering additional questions, feedback of what other things or problems task force should be considering)

Continued debate of survey value and validity

Richard & Nadine are expected to be absent for the meeting on October 18,2019

5. New Business

a. Odd vs. Even Elections

Evidence to support that people aren't sticking around after voting for officials to vote for mileages

Moving elections to even years versus odd years

If moved how would it apply to special elections and mileages

Even years reduces the ability of a small group passing a vote for items such as mileages

Opinion that certain millages would be passed with lower voter turnout, millages do not pass with higher voter turn-out. A small group will influence an election and/or ballot item.

Short term thinking in relation to elections, having a smaller group of people vs. a larger group of people to pass

Expense of campaigns, dilution of non-patrician elections on odd years

Clashing with state and federal elections if moved to an even year

Funding issues if moved for to an even year, saturation, constituent's pockets tapped due to giving to state and federal candidate giving

A low turnout election makes representatives less accountable

More people turning out and voting, a representative would have to work harder array of people, be more accountable versus.

Odd year elections are more accessible to candidates, even is more accessible to candidates

Equity concern of a broader/greater voter turn-out

Turn out of voters odd versus even years (research inconclusive, all the articles found were in support of odd year elections)

b. Values

Local odd-years are more focused on local representatives

Even- even years are not in favor of local representatives

Fair/Accessibility even years fair and accessible to minorities

Odd years are more accessible and fair to candidates

Representative: even- not in favor

Odd-in favor of representative

Accountability even- wider constituency

Odd-Too small informed, motivated constituency

6. New questions/research requests

a. Questions

- Turn out of voters odd versus even years (research inconclusive, all the articles found were in support of odd year elections)
- Absentees have a higher advantage because they have more time to read the ballot, last year there was an uptick in absentee voting?? (unsupported)
- Voter fatigue reduced by absentee voting (getting supportive data by offering absentee ballots)
- Asking people who vote if they vote, if they're only voting every 4 years for the presidential elections and why they're not voting?
- Staffing for the august election was roughly 56,000, is the postage paid for absentee voting less than paying election workers? How much more, how much less and how does it impact the cost?
- Turn out rate elections for residents and constituents?
- Is it on politicians to influence voter turnout, disperse information on agenda and potential ballot items so more voters turn out?