



Office of the Madison City Clerk

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To: Madison Election Advisory Committee
Fr: Maribeth Witzel-Behl, Madison City Clerk
Re: Election Worker Proposals

Per your request, I am providing you with my response to some of the proposed alternatives to the Ordinance on this agenda.

Proposal 1: Assign Hourly Employees to Non-Election Tasks

This proposal would make hourly employees responsible for the most complicated tasks in the City Clerk's Office: licensing administration and preparation of the agendas and minutes for the Common Council and the Alcohol License Review Committee. The full-time Council Clerk and License Clerk would need to spend at least one month providing one-on-one training for the hourly employees. The hourly employees would need to become notaries in order to assist license applicants at the counter.

Proposal 2: Designate 2 Employees to Accept Campaign Finance Reports

Under this proposal, candidates and their treasurers would be able to choose one of two full-time employees to work with when submitting their campaign finance reports. This proposal is fine as long as it does not interfere with the employee's ability to take a lunch break. We have had issues in the past with candidates jumping up and down, waving their arms, and whistling until our Campaign Finance Clerk would abandon her lunch break to review their campaign finance reports.

Proposal 3: Cross-Reference Election Official list with Campaign Treasurers

This proposal would require the City Clerk to review the campaign registration statements for Common Council, County Board, School Board, Municipal Judge, Circuit Court Judge, Mayor, and County Executive and cross-reference the treasurers identified in those reports with the election officials scheduled to work at the polls. I would need to determine whether a treasurer who was also an election official would be working within their candidate's School District, County Supervisory District, or Aldermanic District. The Circuit Court Judge campaign registration statements would need to be obtained from the State Elections Board. The County Board and County Executive campaign registration statements would need to be obtained from the County Clerk's Office. The School Board campaign registration statements would come from eight different school districts. I estimate that this would take me a minimum 50 hours per election.

City Clerk Proposal

It would be a lot more feasible to simply include a paragraph on our website and in the letter we mail to Election Officials stating, "If you are involved in the campaign of a local candidate, please contact the City Clerk's Office to be assigned to a polling place that is located outside of that candidate's district."

In addition, I have prepared the following Oath of Office to be administered to Election Workers before ballots are delivered to the City Clerk's Office:

I, _____, do solemnly affirm that I will fairly and impartially perform the duties of Election Worker for the City of Madison, in conformance with the election laws set forth in the Wisconsin Statutes, to the best of my ability.

To make every vote count, I will work diligently to ensure that all voter registration applications and absentee ballot requests are properly processed

I understand that I would be subject to applicable civil or criminal penalties if I failed to comply with State Statute 12.13 (Prohibited Election Practices), and that my solemn obligation is to fully and fairly implement election laws and to seek to have the intent of the electors ascertained.

(Signature of Election Worker)

Dated this _____ day of _____, 20_____.

(Signature of person administering oath)