



**City of Madison**  
**Meeting Minutes - Final**  
**MADISON ELECTION ADVISORY**  
**COMMITTEE**

City of Madison  
Madison, WI 53703  
www.cityofmadison.com

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Tuesday, August 29, 2006

4:30 PM

210 Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd.  
Room GR-27 (City-County Building)

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**Call to Order**

**Roll Call**

**Enis Ragland was present to represent the Mayor's Office.**

**Present:** Paul R. Malischke, Sybil R. Better, Warren E. Onken, Emanuel Scarbrough,  
Maribeth Witzel-Behl and Bob Ohlsen

**Excused:** Marlena G. Deutsch

**Introductions**

**Election of Chair and Vice Chair**

1. Election of Committee Chair for 2006-2007.

**A motion was made by Onken, seconded by Malischke, to Refer to the MADISON ELECTION ADVISORY COMMITTEE third or fourth meeting. In the meantime, the role of chair will be rotated among the members. The motion passed by acclamation.**

2. Election of Committee Vice Chair for 2006-2007.

**A motion was made by Onken, seconded by Malischke, to Refer to the MADISON ELECTION ADVISORY COMMITTEE third or fourth meeting. The motion passed by acclamation.**

**Public Comment**

**George Penn applauded the creation of the Madison Election Advisory Committee. Mr. Penn said that elections in Dane County are still clean, and that he hopes the committee will be more supportive than challenging of the City and County Clerk's Offices. Mr. Penn said that he is concerned in general about elections nation-wide, and that we should avoid national problems locally.**

**Discussion**

3. Establishment of a Meeting Schedule.

**Committee members agreed to schedule meetings on the second or fourth Tuesday of the months during which they meet. The next meeting will be at 4:30 p.m. on Tuesday, September 26.**

4. Purpose and Mission of Committee.  
Committee tasks are as follows:
- 1) Evaluate current procedures for conducting elections.
  - 2) Make recommendations for improvements in registration, polling places, voting equipment, election official training, ballots, absentee ballots, and tabulating votes.
  - 3) Monitor elections for optimal and appropriate accuracy, convenience, fairness, legality, and accessibility.
  - 4) Evaluate and make recommendations on State and Federal law changes as it relates to elections.
  - 5) Recommend methods to maintain proper balance between the security of elections, the openness of the process, and the right to a secret ballot.
  - 6) Solicit public comments and recommendations.
  - 7) Forward an annual report to the Common Council, Mayor, or City Clerk.

**Mr. Onken requested that the City Clerk's Office provide committee members with a copy of the Resolution that created the Madison Election Advisory Committee.**

#### **Report of the County Clerk**

5. Update on recent changes in State Election Law.
- County Clerk Bob Ohlsen reported on Election Day changes in Act 451, which was enacted on July 1, 2006. He said that voters with a current and valid Wisconsin driver's license must list their driver's license number on the voter registration application form. Election Day registrants will need to vote a provisional ballot if they are unable or unwilling to list their Wisconsin driver's license number on the registration application form. Voters who do not have a current and valid driver's license have the option of listing the last four digits of their Social Security Number or the number on their identification card issued by the Wisconsin Department of Transportation.**

**Mr. Ohlsen listed the acceptable forms of proof of residence for individuals registering on Election Day or first-time voters registering by mail:**

- Current and valid Wisconsin driver's license or Wisconsin identification card.
- Property tax bill or receipt for the current year.
- Residential lease if it is 30 days into the lease.
- Current utility bill.
- College ID card with photo if the college provides a certified residency list.

#### **Report of the City Clerk**

6. Update on Polling Place Accessibility.
- Ms. Witzel-Behl reported that signage and bell calls have been ordered to make Madison polling places accessible. She said that she is working with Alderperson Konkell on finding another polling place for Ward 39 because the slope in front of Gates of Heaven is too steep. In the meantime, a bell call will be placed at the bottom of the slope.**

7. Introduction of the AutoMark Voter Assist Terminal.

**The AutoMark Voter Assist Terminal marks your ballot based on the selections you make on the touch screen or Braille keypad. The AutoMark does not record any votes. Ballots marked by the AutoMark are put through the tabulator.**

**Mr. Ohlsen said he will be giving an AutoMark demonstration to the Commission on People with Disabilities. Ms. Witzel-Behl told committee members that they could try the AutoMark machine themselves as they are tested in Room 104 of the City-County Building this Thursday.**

8. Implementation of the Statewide Voter Registration System (SVRS).

**Ms. Witzel-Behl reported that the City Clerk's Office still needs to process absentee ballots through the city's old registration system, in addition to entering everything into the State Voter Registration System (SVRS). Absentee labels generated through SVRS do not indicate a school district, which will be a problem for elections for school district referenda and school board members.**

9. City Clerk's Office Preparations for the September 12 Primary Election.

**Ms. Witzel-Behl reported that the City Clerk's Office has updated and organized the Election Day materials for poll works. Election Official training will take place at Olbrich on Thursday, September 7, at 8:30 a.m., 10:30 a.m., and 5:00 p.m.**

10. Hiring of a New City Clerk.

**The City Clerk appointment of Maribeth Witzel-Behl will be introduced on September 5, and will be on the Common Council agenda for confirmation on September 19.**

### **Discussion**

11. Suggestions for Future Agenda Items

**Mr. Onken suggested that the next agenda include issues from the September 12 Election. Mr. Ohlsen added an agenda item regarding preparation for the November 7 Election. Mr. Malischke requested that the next agenda include the City Clerk's Office budget.**

### **Adjournment**

**A motion was made by Scarbrough, seconded by Malischke, to Adjourn at 5:53 p.m. The motion passed by acclamation.**