

Ranked Choice Voting Blue Ribbon Review Panel

Meeting Minutes May 9, 2007

The third meeting of the Blue Ribbon Review Panel to discuss the Implementation of Ranked Choice Voting in Pierce County was held May 9, 2007 at the Election Center, located at 3009 South 36th Street in Tacoma.

Pat McCarthy, Pierce County Auditor, began the meeting at 6:00 pm with a welcome and introductions. Present were:

Panel Members

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| Jeff Even | Office of the Attorney General |
| Katie Blinn | Office of the Secretary of State |
| Nathe Lawver | Pierce County Democratic Party |
| Deryl McCarty | Pierce County Republican Party |
| Ruth Bennett | Libertarian Party of Washington State |
| Kevin Phelps | Chamber of Commerce |
| Dennis Jones | Pierce County Veterans Advisory Council |
| Nancy Pearson | League of Women Voters of Washington |

Election Staff

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| Pat McCarthy | Pierce County Auditor |
| Lori Augino | Elections Manager |
| Michael Rooney | Elections Supervisor |
| Rebecca Brauhn | Elections Specialist |
| Gina Eckhart | Elections Clerk |
| Mary Johnson-Hall | Elections Specialist |

In addition to the Pierce County staff, members of the Technical Support Team were present to give a short presentation of their involvement and experiences with other jurisdictions with designing and implementing Ranked Choice Voting.

Present were:

| | |
|-----------------|--|
| Steven Bennett | Sequoia Voting Systems, Sales Executive |
| Paul Griego | Sequoia Voting Systems, Sales Executive |
| David Moreno | Sequoia Voting Systems, RCV Product Manager |
| Scott Konopasek | ForeFront Election Solutions, Managing Partner |

Also present were 10 persons representing the general public.

Pat re-introduced the discussion topic for this meeting. The topic was:

Ranked Choice Voting (RCV)-Results Reporting and Certification

Three scenarios were presented by Pat McCarthy as a conversation starter:

- Scenario No. 1 Apply RCV algorithm and report RCV results daily
- Scenario No. 2 Apply RCV on an interim reporting schedule (weekly)
- Scenario No. 3 Apply RCV algorithm once after all ballots are counted at certification

The panel members were asked to give consideration regarding the impact on and expectations of:

- The Candidates, Campaigns and Political Parties
- The Public
- The Media

Scenario No. 1 input and feedback

- Pros---Traditional way Pierce County reports
 - Opportunity for voter education
 - Results will be unofficial
 - All groups will have similar expectations
- Cons---Cannot apply algorithm completely in the event of a tie
 - Hurts expectations of Candidate and the Media
 - Each campaign may interpret unofficial report differently
 - Results report may cause confusion
 - Multiple candidate elimination could be misinterpreted
 - Could cause mistrust of the voting system
 - Need to educate everyone as to why there may be swings in results

Scenario No. 2 input and feedback

- Pros-- same as No. 1
- Cons-- same as No. 1

Scenario No. 3 input and feedback

- Pros--- The final results are the only ones that matter and are official
 - No guessing
 - High value in “every vote counts”
 - Simplify education of candidates and the media
- Cons---The winner from the beginning may end up the loser in the end
 - No transparency

Could cause confusion and anxiety

Additional scenarios were suggested:

Scenario No. 4 Apply algorithm everyday. If a tie occurs, don't resolve it (only report algorithm up until the tie occurs).

Pros--- Media will have something to report

Cons-- Releasing text files releases a lot of unnecessary data

Scenario No.5 Release Raw Numbers and ballot images Election Night
Apply algorithm at certification.

Pros--- Satisfy Media

Cons---Confusing

Releasing ballot images may raise voter intent question

Scenario No. 6 Release Raw Numbers of each Rank

Pros--- People will receive a ball park figure

Gives some information

Transparent

Cons---Does not illustrate the process accurately

People will guess who received the transferred votes

During the discussion, the Technical Support Team explained the different types of reporting such as Raw Numbers, Images, Ranking, Passes and the Algorithm process.

The Technical Support Team also noted that resolving write-ins, in some cases, could change the outcome during any time of the process.

All the Blue Ribbon Panel members contributed input to the discussion. The discussion time continued for approximately 1 ½ hours.

The second half of the meeting was presented by Lori Augino, Pierce County Elections Manager. She introduced the discussion topic for the next meeting:

Ranked Choice Voting (RCV)-Voting Options

An overview of the present voting options was given along with the considerations

during the next meeting:

Minimize complexity and confusion to:

Poll Workers

Voters

Election Staff

Public

Avoid barriers to voter participation

Maintain voter confidence

Prior to the next meeting , panel members were asked to review three scenarios:

1. Keep Current Complex System
2. Create Something New
3. Conduct Elections by Mail

Homework assignment is to review all scenarios, brainstorm other scenarios, provide input and feedback, come to the next meeting on May 23rd prepared to discuss.

Pat concluded the meeting with a thank you to all Blue Ribbon Review Panel members
And the Technical Support Team.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:10pm