

Open Session Addendum

Public Comments
Agenda Item “H”

Magney, Reid - GAB

From: reid.magney@wi.gov on behalf of Government Accountability Board [reid.magney@wi.gov]
Sent: Monday, November 22, 2010 9:07 PM
To: GAB Public Comment; Magney, Reid - GAB
Subject: Form submission from: Election Observer Rule Comments Form

Submitted on 11/22/2010 - 9:06pm
Submitted by anonymous user: [184.60.38.121]

Submitted values are:

Name: Paul Malischke
Street Address: 4825 Bayfield Terrace
City: Madison
State: WI
Zip Code: 53705
E-mail: malischke@yahoo.com
Telephone: 608-238-8976
Comments:

Please consider the following changes to the rule.

These will help to clarify rights and responsibilities and thereby reduce conflicts between observers and pollworkers.

- 1) Specify whether observers have the right to enter the polling place before the 7:00 a.m. starting time. Controversy will be avoided if both observers and chief inspectors have the same understanding. Give the chief inspector the option to bring them into the polling place before the opening.
- 2) Specify that the poll closing procedures must remain open to observers, even those arriving past 8:00 pm. On November 4, 2008, I arrived at 8:05, asked to observe, and was told I could not enter the polling place since I had arrived late.
- 3) Specify that observers have the right to see the serial number on all seals, see the signed zero tape, and also to receive a copy of the tabulator printout with the results. For the 2010 November election, there was a highly publicized confrontation in Milwaukee over printing a poll tape.
- 4) Section 4.02 (6) This currently reads, "Observers may not use any video or still camera inside the clerk's office." Add "while voting is in progress". A rule has the force of law, and should be written precisely.
- 5) Specify that before duplicating a ballot, the pollworker must announce that it is being done, and why (e.g. an absentee ballot contains an overvote). Duplicating ballots is one of the most sensitive Election Day procedures.

The results of this submission may be viewed at:
<http://gab.wi.gov/node/1439/submission/628>

Magney, Reid - GAB

From: reid.magney@wi.gov on behalf of Government Accountability Board [reid.magney@wi.gov]
Sent: Thursday, December 02, 2010 2:42 PM
To: GAB Public Comment; Magney, Reid - GAB
Subject: Form submission from: Election Observer Rule Comments Form

Submitted on 12/02/2010 - 2:41pm
Submitted by anonymous user: [216.54.131.253]

Submitted values are:

Name: Noreen Johnson
Street Address: 4331 N 65th St
City: Milwaukee
State: wi
Zip Code: 53216
E-mail:
Telephone:
Comments:

This rule is a good thing. It is reasonable that the Chief Election official be in control of his/her election site and not the observers. The best rule is the one that states the observer cannot use the cell phone while in the voting site.

The results of this submission may be viewed at:
<http://gab.wi.gov/node/1439/submission/633>

Haas, Michael R - GAB

Subject: FW: Here is my report on my experience as an election observer. No legal issues. I thanked the poll workers for a boring day :).

-----Original Message-----

From: Our Family [mailto:pjdykman@chorus.net]
Sent: Wednesday, November 24, 2010 8:32 AM
To: voting@cityofmadison.com; GAB HelpDesk
Subject: Here is my report on my experience as an election observer. No legal issues. I thanked the poll workers for a boring day :).

Here is my report on my experience as an election observer. No legal issues. I thanked the poll workers for a boring day :).

There were a number of ballots rejected by the machine that had to be replaced with another ballot. The signs on how to mark a ballot were placed on the wall above the voting "booths", quite above eye level. Only one "booth" had the sign inside the "booth". The two main problems in that regard were not marking correctly, either at an angle instead of level or not connecting the sides all the way, and voting a party ballot but also one office for the other party. The voters had to be told each time there were issues on both sides of the ballot.

The poll workers and especially the chief inspectors need training by the GAB (or city clerk) on setting up the room, placing of signage, and on work flow. (I think I read an article after the election that quoted the GAB as of the same opinion on the same issue.) My polling place this time was not organized very well. I assume that it is not easy to find persons willing to be chief inspectors but I think 20 years in the job might be too much. In addition, his hearing loss was one of his and the other workers' problems.

The chief inspector is required by the city clerk to fill out a report on diversity of poll workers, including age. The form has age ranges but he asked for exact ages, something that some of the workers didn't appreciate saying out loud. Just having them point to the age range they are in would be fully adequate.

New registrations and address changes were done at the first table coming into the room, quite close to the door. The new registration table was asked about 80% of the time where to vote if already registered. I would think that the tables should be set up to have the first table for the most number of voters and the second table for the least number of voters.

There were no signs telling people that they needed to reregister if their address had changed since the last time they voted. A number of voters had to be sent from the already registered table back to the first table to change their address. The signs for the already registered table were facing out but the voters came to it from the end and could not tell that A-L voters stopped at the first two workers and the M-Z voters at the last two workers. Most everyone had to ask where to go next to get their ballot. Most voters had to be told to put only the white ballot in the machine and put the blue privacy cover in a pile and the marking pen in the box. No signs. One person was so confused and was told different things by workers at different tables that he left (I think with the ballot). When picking up the blue privacy covers and returning them to the ballot table, the one poll worker took all of them each time. One worker was smart enough to leave one in the pile to show where they were to be left. I think the city clerk could have more types of formal (metal signs on stands) to help things go more smoothly.

There were not enough ballot marking "booths" at times so some voters had to wait or use the tables used by the workers or other desk type tables in the room without privacy screens, not that they seemed to mind though.

The two 17 year high school students who served as poll workers did a fine job-noticeably better than the two 75 year old poll workers. It worked best when one student and one 75

year old were paired, not well when the two 75 year olds were paired. (I am retired too and might be slower too.) The substitute who was called in for a no show did a fine job too as did two of the workers with more poll experience.

I think one of the students was in a civics/history/political science class at Edgewood. I strongly urge you to publicize this opportunity better and strongly encourage schools and maybe community centers to have classes where part of the curriculum is taking the poll worker training and serving as a poll worker.

Quite a few voters, especially younger voters and African-American voters, asked for "I Voted" stickers but there were none. Providing the stickers and getting business and other organizations to pay for the stickers would be a very good idea.

Five local restaurants served free coffee and cocoa outside. Good idea that could be encouraged. In 2008, the retirement center hosting the polls provided food. Another good idea that could be encouraged

I arrived at the polling place at 6:30 and was told by the chief inspector that I could not be in the polling place until 7 am. Your training should cover that situation.

I enjoyed the enthusiasm that everyone including the poll workers had for first time voter-cheering them as they put the ballot in the machine. It was interesting that it was usually mothers who brought in their 18-19 year old sons to make sure they voted. It was more likely their 18-19 year old daughters came with their friends. I don't know how you could encourage that but it is another good idea to be encouraged by someone.