

Subject: Citizen Oversight of Audit-related Public Meetings for Aug 28, 2018 Primary

From: Ray Lutz <raylutz@citizenoversight.org>

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To: soedade@miamidade.gov, Elections@browardsoe.org, susanbucher@pbcelections.org, voter@hcsae.org, voter@ocfelections.com, election@votepinellas.com, mhogan@coj.net, sharrington@leelections.com, soe@votebrevard.com, loriedwards@polkelections.com, elections@volusia.org, webcomment@pascovotes.com, kdent@sarasotavotes.com, ertel@voteseminole.org, Elections@VoteMarion.com

CC: Susan Schneider <susants07@yahoo.com>

[Elections Officials: Please confirm your reception of this email. Also, please answer the questions below. Thank you!]

Dear Elections Official:

Our organization's primary mission is increased civic engagement and increased oversight by the public of the processing of our elections. In this election, we are encouraging citizens to provide oversight of your public meetings regarding selection of races and precincts involved in manual tally audits in your county.

Because the random draw is a public meeting and contains no sensitive material, (such as ballots, signatures, etc.) the public has the right to video record these meetings, just like any other public meeting. As a matter of courtesy, we wanted you to be forewarned that citizens may wish to attend these meetings AND will want to discretely video record the selection process.

Now, it is also the case that some districts in recent elections are also helping by creating their own live-stream or YouTube videos of the process. We hope you will do the same. If you do, please send us the link so we can observe and add it to our archive of audits we have been witnessing.

We also encourage our volunteers (or you) to video record the actual tallying process, as the identity of the voter cannot be determined by looking at the ballots, and so there is no reason to restrict creation of such a video. I hope you will again consider making your own video so you can be sure that there are no issues with regard to voter privacy and anonymity, and again, make this video available to us.

Please let us know in advance if you intend to block access or disallow video recording of the audit selection

public meetings. According to state "sunshine" laws, such recording is allowed unless it disrupts the meeting. We have provided instructions to the volunteers not to disrupt the meeting.

The other thing we have asked them to do is to download the election results, broken down by precinct, race, and ballot type, prior to the selection procedure. We believe you normally provide this on your website. If not, those members of the public may request that file. It is essential that these results are "frozen" prior to the random selection so that there is no possibility that the computer results could be changed. From what we have been able to learn, it appears that you normally publish this file. Nevertheless, we suggest that you mention the location of the published file in your meeting.

Although we have suggested that members of the public attend these meetings and document what is done, they are not officially representing Citizens Oversight, Inc. but act instead as individual members of the public.

As we did observe many random selection meetings in the state of Florida in the 2016 General Election, we observed that many districts use a raffle-like method where you draw items from a container. This method is not optimal because 1) it is hard for observers to make sure that all the items to be chosen are actually in the container and 2) it is very easy to perform sleight-of-hand to predetermine that one race will not be chosen.

Therefore, we recommend that you use a LIST of all the races from which you will choose from and associate these with sequential numbers, and then throw ten-sided dice to select the races. This way, it is very easy to verify that all the races are included in the random draw and it is really impossible to orchestrate any sort of manipulation. The dice are color-coded and you throw all digits at once. If the resulting number is out of range, throw again. Visit this link for some options to purchase ten-sided dice: <https://www.amazon.com/s/?field-keywords=ten-sided+dice>

The random draw in San Francisco County was self-recorded by the Registrar of Voters and is a great example of best practice in terms of the random draw, while also live-streaming it so the public can witness the event. (In California, all races are audited and they need only choose 1% of the precincts)
Please visit this link: <http://www.copswiki.org/Common/M1859>

So in summary, Please answer these questions:

1. What is the place and time of the a) random draw and b) manual tally audit process.
2. How are you planning to do the random draw? (i.e. List + dice approach?)
3. Are you planning to video record or create a live-stream of the a) Random Draw b) Audit Process?

4. If so, please provide the links.
5. Where will the canvass results be posted that can be compared with the audit results?
6. Are you planning to impose any restrictions on observers who wish to record these meetings?

THANK YOU!!

Sincerely,

Ray Lutz

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Ray Lutz

Citizens' Oversight Projects (COPs)

<http://www.citizenoversight.org>

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