

ST JOHNS COUNTY CIVIC ROUNDTABLE

September 10, 2018 Meeting Minutes

The meeting was opened by President Lofgren at 9:07 am.

Secretary's Report – A motion was made and approved to accept the minutes of the meeting of August 13, 2018 as written.

Treasurer's Report – No Report

President Lofgren introduced our guest speaker Vicky Oakes, Supervisor of Elections for St. Johns County. Supervisor Oakes was appointed to her post in 2011 by Florida Governor Scott. She was subsequently re-elected and is now serving her second term. Vicky has over 23 years of election management experience.

Election security tops the list of important objectives according to Vicky Oakes. In spite of public misinformation, she is 100% confident in the security and reliability of the election process in St Johns County. Mrs. Oakes noted that all our ballots are paper ballots that are counted to ensure compatibility with the machine counts. No connection exists between the computers and servers involved in election tabulation and the internet. Therefore the opportunity for "hacking" into the system does not exist. The FBI and

Homeland Security provide updates on any potential threats to the security of our elections. When election results are placed on internet service sites, it is done with a thumb drive that allows no access to the County's system.

Vicky told us that all the voting machines are rigorously tested and that paper ballots are even made from the touch screen voting that disabled voters have access to. All ballots are kept for two years. Ballots MUST be received by 7:00pm on election day. Many ballots go uncounted each year because they arrive late.

Last year the federal government provided \$120,000 to provide additional security for our elections in St Johns County. Homeland Security considers the election system as "critical infrastructure" and invests heavily in its security.

Voting records are open to the public and information can be purchased for \$3 for County and \$5 for State rolls. Interested parties follow the voting closely and one way to stop political phone messages is to vote early. Who you voted for is not made public and other key info such as Social Security and Driver's License numbers is kept confidential.

Other interesting facts from Vicky Oakes:

- 1) For the General election, amendment #8 has been removed. Amendments 7,9, and 11 are being appealed but will be on the ballot.
- 2) 29% of voters voted in the recent primary election. 60% or higher expected in the general election.
- 3) 75 ballot styles have been made to account for local issues and irregular borders of various election districts.
- 4) 11 days of early voting will be available this year.
- 5) Ballots must be bilingual (Spanish) by 2020.
- 6) Voters can now register on line.

Mrs. Oakes said that although significant cross checking goes on to verify the eligibility to vote in St Johns County, it is not possible to identify that someone voted in another state and then came to Florida and voted again.

General Discussion:

Lisa McGreevy made a motion to send a letter to City and County Commissioners supporting the purchase of the Fish Island Property to bring it into the public domain and preserve its natural beauty in perpetuity. The motion was seconded and approved. See attachment for letter.

Bill McCormick made a motion to have the St Johns County Civic Roundtable craft a letter opposing the Kings Grant Development. That motion was also

seconded and approved. The details of that letter are still to be determined.

The Civic Roundtable meeting closed at 10:45am

Respectfully Submitted,

Dennis Froio, Secretary