Marion County Election Board

VOTER EXPERIENCE PROJECT

TONIGHT’S AGENDA
1. CALL TO ORDER
2. MEMBER INTRODUCTION
3. WHAT IS THE VOTER EXPERIENCE PROJECT?
4. OBJECTIVE & OUTCOME OF THE STUDY GROUP
5. BUSINESS

March 27, 2013 | Organizational Meeting

Study Group Members

MARION COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PARTY
MARION COUNTY REPUBLICAN PARTY
MARION COUNTY LIBERTARIAN PARTY
MARION COUNTY BOARD OF VOTER REGISTRATION
INDIANAPOLIS-MARION COUNTY CITY-COUNTY COUNCIL
MARION COUNTY OFFICE OF FINANCE & MANAGEMENT
MARION COUNTY INFORMATION SERVICES AGENCY
GREATER INDIANAPOLIS NAACP
LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF INDIANAPOLIS
CENTRAL INDIANA COUNCIL ON AGING

What is the VEP?

NEED
PURPOSE
TWO PHASES
NEED

- Aging Fleet of Voting Equipment
  - Purchased in 2002; 2000 model technology
  - Replacement parts becoming difficult to find
  - Equipment showing signs of age:
    - Tabulation software license expires 12/2014
    - Machine service contract expires 12/2014

Before the county makes an investment in new technology, we must have a community conversation about how to meet future voting needs

PURPOSE

- Explore cost and benefits of the two Election Day voting methods permitted under state law:
  - Precinct-based Voting
    - Person votes in their precinct at their neighborhood’s polling place on Election Day
  - Vote Center
    - Person votes anywhere in the county on Election Day

- Inform the Election Board’s decision-making when it’s appropriate to purchase new voting equipment
  - Type of equipment purchased impacts the way we vote

TWO PROJECT PHASES

- Phase 1: Study Group
  - Small group of political party leaders, poll workers, elected officials, city-county partners and advocacy organizations will be immersed in the way elections are conducted under these two models and report their findings to the Election Board

- Phase 2: Community Input
  - Use the study group’s report to host a series of community conversations to allow all Marion County residents weigh-in on this important issue
OBJECTIVE

MISSION STATEMENT

OUTCOME

OBJECTIVE

- Learn more about election administration and best practices from other jurisdictions
  - Election Fundamentals
  - Poll Workers & General Procedures
  - Polling Sites & Accessibility
  - Voting Technology
  - Security Needs
  - Cost

  Mission: To present a well informed, fully deliberated report identifying the cost and benefits of Marion County’s future voting needs, and present those findings to the Election Board.

OUTCOME

- Obtain input from your stakeholders
  - Identify and report areas of consensus
  - Identify and report areas of disagreement and reasons underpinning members’ positions
- Report to the Board the cost and benefits of the two available voting methods
  - Findings will be the foundation for future community conversations about our future voting experience
RULES OF CONDUCT

- Group Communication
- Meeting Format
- Member Decorum & Attendance
- Public Access
- Final Report

MEETING LOGISTICS

- Plan for seven meetings
- Budget about 2 hours for each
  - Presentation/Guest Speaker – 45 minutes
  - Break – 10 minutes
  - Facilitated conversation – 45-60 minutes
- Meet in the Public Assembly Room
- Attendance mandatory
  - Proxies are permitted, but not encouraged
FUTURE MEETINGS

- Staff recommendation:
  - Sunday, April 7 – Election Fundamentals
  - Sunday, April 21 – Poll Workers & General Procedures
  - Sunday, May 5 – Polling Sites & Accessibility
  - Sunday, May 19 – Voting Technology
  - Sunday, June 2 – Security Needs
  - Sunday, June 9 – Cost
  - Sunday, June 30 – Finalize draft report

VOTER EXPERIENCE PROJECT
Phase 1 – Study Group

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