

CITY OF LONG BEACH
ELECTIONS OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE
MINUTES

TUESDAY, JULY 22, 2008
COUNCIL CHAMBER, 1:00 PM

Vice Mayor Bonnie Lowenthal, 1st District,
Chair
Gerrie Schipske, Vice Chair
Val Lerch, Member



CALL TO ORDER

At 1:00 P.M. Chair B. Lowenthal called the meeting to order.

ROLL CALL

Also present: Heather Mahood, Assistant Chief City Attorney; Larry Herrera, City Clerk;
and Gloria Harper, City Clerk Specialist.

Chair B. Lowenthal gave opening remarks.

Councilmembers B. Lowenthal and Lerch
Present:

Councilmembers Schipske
Absent:

1. 08-0717 Recommendation to receive and file the minutes of the Elections Oversight Committee meeting of Tuesday, July 8, 2008.
A motion was made by Member Lerch, seconded by Chair B. Lowenthal, to receive and file the minutes of the Elections Oversight Committee meeting of Tuesday, July 8, 2008. The motion carried by the following vote:
Yes: 2 - B. Lowenthal and Lerch
Absent: 1 - Schipske

SECOND ROLL CALL

Councilwoman Schipske joined the meeting.

Councilmembers B. Lowenthal, Schipske and Lerch
Present:

2. 08-0666 Recommendation to receive and discuss the City Clerk's report relative to projected costs savings of Instant Run-off Voting (IRV) elections and efforts aimed at facilitating increased voter turnout.

Larry Herrera, City Clerk, gave a staff report.

A dialogue ensued between Chair B. Lowenthal and Larry Herrera, City Clerk.

Chair B. Lowenthal spoke.

Larry Herrera, City Clerk, continued with staff report and responded to questions.

Chair B. Lowenthal spoke.

A dialogue ensued between Larry Herrera, City Clerk and Chair B. Lowenthal.

Vice Mayor Lerch spoke.

Larry Herrera, City Clerk, spoke.

Chair B. Lowenthal spoke.

A dialogue ensued.

Councilwoman Schipske spoke.

Larry Herrera, City Clerk, spoke.

A dialogue ensued Larry Herrera, City Clerk and Councilwoman Schipske.

Chair B. Lowenthal spoke.

Councilwoman Schipske spoke.

Larry Herrera, City Clerk, spoke.

Vice Mayor Lerch spoke.

Larry Herrera, City Clerk, spoke.

A dialogue ensued.

Chair B. Lowenthal spoke.

Christopher Steinhauser, Superintendent, Long Beach Unified School District, spoke.

Vice Mayor Lerch spoke.

Councilwoman Schipske spoke.

Christopher Steinhauser, Superintendent, Long Beach Unified School District, spoke.

Mark Taylor, Director of Community & Government Relations, California Community College District, spoke.

Councilwoman Schipske spoke.

Chair B. Lowenthal suggested offering outreach opportunities regarding IRV; suggested that input be received from Long Beach Unified School and California Community College Districts; and request the League of Women Voters to address IRV through sponsoring outreach workshops.

Phyllis O'Conner, President, League of Women Voters, spoke.

Chair B. Lowenthal spoke.

Councilwoman Schipske made comments and suggested a study session before the full City Council.

Phyllis O'Conner, President, League of Women Voters, spoke.

Councilwoman Schipske spoke.

Larry Herrera, City Clerk, spoke and gave an overview of San Francisco's Voter Turnout, November 2005.

Chair B. Lowenthal spoke.

Gautam Dutta, Esq., Deputy Director, Political Reform Program, New America Foundation, spoke.

Councilwoman Schipske spoke.

Chair B. Lowenthal spoke.

A dialogue ensued.

Vice Mayor Lerch requested that a memo regarding the next steps be sent to the Committee from the office of the City Clerk.

Larry Herrera, City Clerk, spoke.

Gabrielle Weeks, Long Beach resident, spoke.

Chair B. Lowenthal spoke about outreach opportunities and a study session.

A motion was made by Vice Chair Schipske, seconded by Member Lerch, to request of the full City Council a study session regarding the Instant Run-off Voting (IRV) process; to be coordinated with the League of Women Voters, California State University Long Beach, Department of Political Science, Long Beach Unified School District, Long Beach City College School District, City of Lakewood, City of Signal Hill and the City of Avalon; to be scheduled at a time that would perhaps produce a greater turn out of working class people. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 3 - B. Lowenthal, Schipske and Lerch

3. 08-0718 Recommendation to receive and discuss the City Clerk's report relative to projected costs savings associated with a Charter Amendment to move municipal elections to odd-calendar-year elections.

Larry Herrera, City Clerk, gave a staff report.

Vice Mayor Lerch spoke.

Larry Herrera, City Clerk, responded to questions.

A dialogue ensued.

Councilwoman Schipske spoke.

Larry Herrera, City Clerk, spoke.

A dialogue ensued.

A motion was made by Vice Chair Schipske, seconded by Member Lerch, to recommend to the City Council, to forward to the Charter Amendment Committee, due back on 8/5/2008. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 3 - B. Lowenthal, Schipske and Lerch

4. 08-0667 Recommendation to receive the City Clerk's Preliminary Report on the conduct of civil marriages, by City Clerk Department staff, in the City of Long Beach.

Larry Herrera, City Clerk, gave a staff report.

Chair B. Lowenthal spoke.

Councilwoman Schipske spoke.

Larry Herrera, City Clerk spoke.

A dialogue ensued.

Vice Mayor Lerch spoke.

Chair B. Lowenthal spoke.

A motion was made by Vice Chair Schipske, seconded by Member Lerch, that this matter be receive and file. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 3 - B. Lowenthal, Schipske and Lerch

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

No members of the public addressed the committee at this time.

ADJOURNMENT

At 2:11 P.M., there being no objection, Chair B. Lowenthal declared the meeting adjourned.