

JCCI Forward

2001 Issue Forum: Political Leadership and Citizen Participation

The primary focus of this forum group was to determine what elected officials and local voters can and should do to address voting irregularities in Duval County.

Key findings:

- The issues pertaining to voting irregularities in Duval County are often politicized and obscured by rhetoric. This further inhibits the citizens' ability to uncover and understand correctable flaws in the voting process.
- Vast improvements are needed in voter education, both in terms of the process (registration, poll locations, voting mechanics) and the issues (unbiased candidate and issue information).
- New technology such as laptop computers and optical scan voting machines will require poll workers to have a wider variety of skills. Enhanced poll worker training will be necessary, but may not be sufficient. Broader civic participation is required, especially by more technologically savvy citizens.

Action plan:

- The committee will devise a report consisting of their findings and recommendations.
- The committee intends to encourage poll workers...
- by example – committee members have pledged to volunteer as poll workers,
- through outreach to college students,
- and by creating form letters including information about becoming poll workers, and distributing those letters in various locales.
- Also, some committee members intend to profile local candidates through unbiased questionnaires, and distribute the results.

Issue forum groups met with both community leaders and resource experts who provided valuable information for group discussions. We thank the following individuals for their contributions to the Forward process.

Wayne Hogan; Democratic Party Attorney; Brown, Terrell, Hogan, Ellis, McClamma & Yegelwel
Reynold Hoover; Republican Party Attorney; Smith, Hulse, & Busey
Terri Ganson; Public Information Officer; Division of Driver Licenses
Suzanne Jenkins; Councilwoman – District 4; Jacksonville City Council
Betty Schroeder; Volunteer Poll Worker
Robert Phillips; Director of Operations; Supervisor of Elections Office
Ray Reid; Assistant General Counsel for the City of Jacksonville
Reggie Fullwood; Councilman – District 9; Jacksonville City Council
Patricia Clark Taylor; Political Consultant
Leslie Goller; Attorney; Brown, Terrell, Hogan, Ellis, McClamma, & Yegelwel
Jim Post; Attorney; Smith, Hulse, & Busey
Barbara Sheen-Todd; State Election Task Force

Forum groups met biweekly for five months. They received information from knowledgeable resource people and additional written materials provided by *Forward* staff. We congratulate their efforts, civic involvement, and advocacy.

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