

## Spanish Language Advisory Committee

### Meeting Minutes February 27, 2013

**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order by Paul Adams at 7:05pm.

**Roll Call:** Members in attendance; Rigoberto Reveron, Richard Turner, Mildred Narvaez, and Sheila Soptelean. Staff in Attendance: Paul R. Adams, James D. Kramer, Janet Sutter, Barbara Aldridge

**Review and Approval of Minutes:** A motion was made by Mildred Narvaez to accept the minutes with the following corrections of the meeting dates i.e., change Thursday, February 27, 2013 to Wednesday, February 27, 2013 and June 30, 2013 to June 20, 2013. The motion was seconded by Richard Turner. Motion carried 4-0.

**Old Business:** The February 5, 2013 Special Election went efficiently, bilingual poll workers and interpreters were available to assist voters, however no language assistance was needed for this election.

On November 6, 2013 federal observers monitored nine polling places in Lorain County that are designated as vote centers where bilingual poll workers and interpreters are required.

The findings were similar to the concerns that the committee raised, for example the lines were long at Sacred Heart as voters waited for precinct information and bi-partisan support. It was noted that while bi-partisan voter assistance is required by the Ohio Secretary of State, the Department of Justice guidelines regarding voter assistance are different.

Mr. Kramer stated that South Lorain is the epicenter of the Hispanic community and the number of republican voters is small. We will continue to aggressively recruit more republican workers. Committee member Sheila Soptelean shared a referral of a potential republican bilingual worker from the school system. Sheila also shared with the committee that when she worked as an interpreter she felt intimidated when questioned by the federal observers and hoped that others did not have that same experience.

Larger Spanish language signs will be posted and a universal layout for required materials will be implemented at the vote centers to address the findings.

Paul D. Adams discussed the proposed changes in the Pilot Project polling locations/vote centers. The changes will allow for little to no waiting; voters will sign in upon arrival according to their last name and be moved through the voting process without delay.

**New Business:** The ballot language for the May 7, 2013 Primary Election was discussed. The election will be county wide, some areas will have issues only, and most will have candidates on the ballot. March 14, 2013 is the next scheduled meeting; we would like to have the committee's responses by that date. The UOCAVA voting begins March 23, 2013.

Mr. Turner shared his concern about the Spanish language instructions on the TSX Touch Screen. The committee members reviewed the instructions on the touch screen and made recommendations for changes.

Mr. Kramer will address the electronic voting instructions language changes with the vender and election commission.

Motion made by Reveron and seconded by Turner to post the minutes of the Spanish Language Advisory Committee on line within one week of approval.  
Motion carried 4-0.

The committee felt that having a bilingual greeter at the polling locations that are under DOJ requirements would clarify that Spanish language assistance is available.

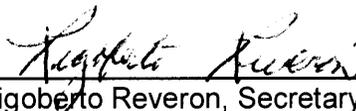
**Adjournment:** Motion to adjourn at 8:10 pm by Sheila Soptelean, seconded by Richard Turner, motion carried 4-0.

ATTEST:



David Arredondo, Chairman

ATTEST:



Rigoberto Reveron, Secretary