

FINAL REPORT OF THE NORMAN ELECTION COMMISSION (NEC)

2013 MUNICIPAL ELECTION CYCLE

JULY 1, 2013

Commission Members:

Ty Hardiman, Chair
Richard Hilbert, Vice-Chair
Robin Allen
Nina Flannery
Elizabeth Windes

I. GENERAL MEETINGS

The 2013 Norman Election Commission met on January 7, March 25, April 1, and May 29. All meeting dates and times were posted at City Hall. City Clerk Brenda Hall attended all meetings and Jeff Bryant and Kristina Bell of the City Legal Department attended several of the meetings. Appendix "A" includes meeting minutes from all general meetings.

II. ADDITIONAL MEETINGS

Two additional public meetings were held to address issues beyond the scope of the general meetings:

1. Candidate Orientation Meeting, January 30, 2013.

The NEC invited candidates to an orientation session to explain financial reporting requirements. The session was conducted by Chairman Hardiman, City Clerk Hall, and City Code Compliance Officer Kelvin Winter. The PowerPoint presentation and Candidate Orientation Manual are included in Appendix "B-1".

2. Special Meeting of the Norman Election Commission, April 8, 2013.

The NEC held a special public meeting on April 8, 2013, with Jeff Bryant and Kristina Bell of the City Attorney's Office present. The purpose of the meeting was to allow the City Attorney to respond to questions which were submitted at the previous two NEC meetings. At the request of NEC, City Clerk Hall forwarded those questions to the City Attorney's Office on April 1, 2013. (See Appendix "B-2"). Several members of the public addressed the commission as well.

III. CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTIONS AND EXPENDITURES REPORTS

During the General Meetings, NEC reviewed Campaign Contributions and Expenditures Reports. The reports were generally provided in a timely and compliant manner with the following exceptions:

1. *Brande' Kauffman for Ward 7* (candidate committee) - Closed out past election account with donations to 2013 council candidates, filed reports upon request from City Clerk.
2. *Better Norman Advocates, Inc.* - Filed reports but missed City of Norman deadline. Reports were filed upon request from City Clerk. The committee paid a \$70 late fee as a result of the missed deadline.
3. *Friends of Jackie Farley* (candidate committee) - Donated to 2013 council candidates and filed reports upon request from City Clerk.
4. *Benjamin Carter* (Ward 3 candidate) - Withdrew from the race, but it was too late to prevent his name from appearing on the ballot; therefore, a City report was required. Filed reports upon request from City Clerk.

Appendix "C" includes copies of all reports.

IV. COMPLAINTS AND INVESTIGATIONS

The NEC received one written complaint during the election cycle and after review and investigation, the NEC responded to the complainant. In addition, questions were voiced, both from NEC members and members of the public during several meetings, which were submitted by the City Clerk to legal staff for follow-up. The Legal Department responded through two memos dated April 8 and May 20, 2013. Copies of the complaints, response from NEC, and Legal Department responses are included as Appendix "D" to this report.

1. *Better Norman Advocates, Inc. (BNA)* - Legal staff responded to questions raised alleging BNA failed to comply with state election requirements regarding printed literature and that BNA failed to file municipal reports in a timely manner.
2. *Norman Chamber of Commerce* - Legal staff responded to questions alleging the Norman Chamber of Commerce failed to file municipal reports as required by City ordinance.
3. *Friends of Dave Spaulding* - Legal staff responded to concerns raised regarding the legality of certain campaign funds expended during the campaign.
4. *Councilmember Tom Kovach* - Legal staff responded to concerns raised as to whether or not Mr. Kovach was required to file campaign reports given his role as a paid consultant during the 2013 election period.