

FINAL REPORT OF THE NORMAN ELECTION COMMISSION (NEC)

2015 MUNICIPAL ELECTION CYCLE

August 25, 2015

I. GENERAL MEETINGS

The 2015 Norman Election Commission (NEC) met on January 5, February 2, March 31, May 4, and August 3, 2015. All meeting dates and times were posted at City Hall. City Clerk Brenda Hall attended all meetings as well. Meeting minutes from the general meetings are included in Attachment A.

II. SPECIAL MEETING

Candidate Orientation Meeting was held on January 21, 2015. The NEC invited candidates and the public 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 meeting minutes, presentation, and Candidate Orientation Manual are included in Attachment B.

III. CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTIONS AND EXPENDITURES REPORTS

During the General Meetings the NEC reviewed Campaign Contributions and Expenditures Reports. The reports were generally provided in a timely and compliant manner. The new reporting requirements resulting from changes in state law led to minor errors and omissions which were resolved by City Clerk Hall.

IV. COMPLAINTS AND INVESTIGATIONS

At the March 31, 2015, meeting, Candidate Bobby Stevens addressed the NEC on the topic of candidate sign placement and wording. Chairman Hardiman and City Clerk Hall responded to the questions from Candidate Stevens during the meeting. A summary of this discussion can be found on Page 4 of the March 31, 2015, NEC meeting minutes.

V. STATE LEGISLATION AFFECTING MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS

The adoption of SB1745 and SB1746 during the 2014 Oklahoma legislative session fundamentally altered the methods by which municipal candidates file reports. The Norman Election Commission spent extra time during the 2015 municipal election cycle to ensure the new rules were understood by all affected parties. Also, in 2014, the Norman City Council adopted revisions to the municipal code in order to ensure compliance with the new state laws.

On December 9, 2014, the Norman City Council adopted Resolution R-1415-63 expressing concern over the 2014 state legislative actions and requested Norman's legislative delegation consider modification of the legislation. As a result, the Oklahoma legislature passed SB438 during the 2015 session. SB438 allows municipalities to opt out of state oversight by adopting a local ordinance and enforcement method to ensure compliance with state-mandated election reporting requirements.

During the May 4th and August 3rd NEC meeting, the Commission discussed the potential implications of SB438 and the concept of opting out of state oversight. The conclusion of the Commission was that the no ordinance changes should be attempted for the 2016 Norman municipal election cycle and the issue would be considered at a future meeting.

Norman Election Commission Members: Ty Hardiman, Chairman; Dr. Richard Hilbert, Vice-Chairman, Robin Allen, Elizabeth Pierce, and Elizabeth Windes