

FINAL REPORT OF THE NORMAN ELECTION COMMISSION (NEC)
2016 MUNICIPAL ELECTION CYCLE
September 27, 2016

Commission Members:
Ty Hardiman, Chair
Richard Hilbert, Vice-Chair
Robin Allen
Elizabeth Pierce
Elizabeth Windes

I. GENERAL MEETINGS

The 2016 Norman Election Commission (NEC) met on November 9, January 20, February 8, March 30, May 2, June 22, and August 1. All meeting dates and times were posted at City Hall. City Clerk Brenda Hall attended all meetings. Meeting minutes from the general meetings are included in Attachment A.

II. SPECIAL MEETINGS

January 20, 2016, Candidate Orientation Meeting: 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 presentation and Candidate Orientation Manual are included in Attachment B.

July 27, 2016, Public Meeting Regarding State and Local Election Rules: The NEC invited the public to a presentation regarding the history of local election reporting requirements and recent state laws. The presentation was conducted by Chairman Hardiman, City Clerk Hall, and Assistant City Attorney Kristina Bell. The presentation notes are included in Attachment C.

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

No complaints or investigations were conducted during the election cycle.

V. STATE LEGISLATION AFFECTING MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS

The adoption of SB 1745 and SB 1746 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 2016 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 requesting modification of the legislation. As a result, the Oklahoma legislature passed SB 438 during the 2015 session. SB 438 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.

In each NEC meeting during the 2016 election cycle, the commission discussed the potential implications of SB 438 and the concept of opting out of state oversight. Full discussion is included in the minutes in Attachment A. The special meeting on July 27, 2016, was held to distribute this information to the press and general public.