

RESOLUTION

Supporting the recommendation of the Cuyahoga County Election Review Advisory Commission and the Cuyahoga County Board of Elections to appoint Cleveland State University, Center for Election Integrity, as the public monitor for election activities in Cuyahoga County.

WHEREAS, on May 18, 2006, the Board of County Commissioners (“BOCC”) endorsed the creation of the Cuyahoga Election Review Panel (“Panel”) to evaluate the Cuyahoga County Board of Elections’ (CCBOE) conduct of the May 2, 2006 primary, charging the Panel to report both its findings and its recommendations for CCBOE reforms needed to achieve “fair, accurate, and efficient elections in November 2006 and beyond.

WHEREAS, on July 20, 2006, the Panel issued its comprehensive Final Report totaling over 400 pages and including over 300 recommendations for needed improvement, thus fulfilling its public charge.

WHEREAS, in Final Report Recommendation 8:17, the Panel urges the appointment of a qualified, independent Public Monitor to oversee the implementation of the Panel’s recommendations, and to make periodic reports to the public and to the Boards of both the Cuyahoga County Commission and the Board of Elections on the CCBOE’s progress.

WHEREAS, the Final Report recommends in 8:17 that no public monies be requested to support the Monitor’s activities, whose intent is obviously to assure the public and both Boards that the Monitor is exercising its public duties with complete independence and integrity, and will produce its assessments free from both the appearance and possibility of influence by government officials and political party leaders.

WHEREAS, on August 7, 2006, the CCBOE Board Members voted to appoint the Center for Election Integrity (of Cleveland State University) to serve as Public Monitor.

AND WHEREAS, Panel Recommendations 8:17 also urges that a consensus be reached between these two County Boards on the selection of the Monitor.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Commissioners of Cuyahoga County, Ohio:

- 1. Endorses Panel Recommendation 8:17 that seeks the appointment of an independent Public Monitor.**
- 2. Appoints the Cleveland State University, Center for Election Integrity as the Public Monitor for implementation of the Panel’s short term and long term recommendations, to end on December 31, 2008, or at the end of the November 2008 General Election cycle (including any recounts).**
- 3. Pledges to request promptly from appropriate foundations financial assistance to support the Monitor’s independent activities in the public interest, and to work with Board Members of the CCBOE to obtain funding to support the Monitor’s activities.**

4. Designates County Administrator, Dennis Madden and his assignees to expeditiously work with the CCBOE's appointees, the Center for Election Integrity, and the participating funding entities to craft the Monitor's work plan in a collaborative fashion as delineated in Recommendation 8:17 so that the Monitor can begin work quickly and so that the Boards and public receive the information and assistance that they desire, thus to restore public confidence in their elections and support the efforts to substantially improve the CCBOE's election administrative performance in time for the November 2006 elections, and continuing through the November 2008 elections.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the Board be, and she is, hereby instructed to transmit a copy of this resolution to Dennis Madden, County Administrator; Michael Vu, Director, Board of Elections; Hugh B. Shannon, Government Services Coordination Manager, Administrator's Office and Candice Hoke, Director, Cleveland State University Center for Election Integrity.

On Motion of Commissioner Hagan, seconded by Commissioner Jones, the foregoing resolution was duly adopted.

Ayes: Hagan, Jones, Dimora.

Nays: None.

Resolution Adopted.

**Penelope M. Hughes,
Clerk of the Board**

**Journal 291
August 17, 2006
063401
fg**