Introduced by the Council President at the request of the Mayor:

**ORDINANCE 2002-373-E**

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 59 (RESERVED), *ORDINANCE CODE*, TO CREATE THE DUVAL COUNTY ELECTION ADVISORY PANEL; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

 WHEREAS, subsequent to the November 2000 election, the City Council President and the Mayor established the Duval County Election Reform Task Force to investigate the 2000 election procedures and experiences and to propose recommendations to improve the voting process for future elections in Duval County and restore or bolster voter confidence in the elections system; and

 WHEREAS, the Duval County Election Reform Task Force presided over numerous public hearings, received valuable testimony and evidence, and recommended an extensive array of improvements and reforms to be implemented at the local level; and

 WHEREAS, one of the recommendations presented by the Duval County Election Reform Task Force was to create an election advisory panel to serve in an advisory capacity to the Supervisor of Elections, the Mayor and the City Council on behalf of the registered voters of Duval County regarding various election issues; now therefore,

 **BE IT ORDAINED** by the Council of the City of Jacksonville:

 **Section 1.** Chapter 59, *Ordinance Code*, is hereby amended to read as follows:

**CHAPTER 59**

# RESERVED\*

**DUVAL COUNTY ELECTION ADVISORY PANEL**

**Sec. 59.101. Establishment.**

There is hereby established a panel to be known as the Duval County Election Advisory Panel (hereinafter known as the *Panel*).

**Sec. 59.102. Intent of the Council.**

It is the intent of the Council in establishing the Panel to create a body to review the voter registration and the election process, procedures, and experiences in Duval County to ensure a fair, impartial and effective election process. Because of the lessons learned from the November 2000 general election, the creation of the Panel will serve as an effort to ensure that the entire voting experience, from voter registration through election day, in all future elections in Duval County, will be conducted in a manner so as to uphold and expand voter confidence in the election system, create a more informed electorate, and increase overall participation in the voting process.

**Sec. 59.103. Membership; terms; composition.**

The Panel shall be composed of nine members, selected as follows:

(a) Three members of the public designated by the Council President; and

(b) Three members of the public designated by the Mayor; and

(c) Three members designated by the Supervisor of Elections, one of whom shall be employed full-time at the Supervisor of Elections’ office.

Each Panel member shall at all times be a registered voter in Duval County. Other than the employee of the Supervisor of Elections, the designees shall be selected in such a manner as to represent a diverse background in terms of race, gender, party affiliation, and physical impairment and shall be confirmed by the City Council. Each Panel member shall serve for a term of three years or until his or her successor shall have been appointed; provided that, of the initial appointments, two of the three initial designees of the Council President and Mayor and one of the two initial designees of the Supervisor of Elections shall serve for a period of two years with the remaining members serving a three-year term. The Supervisor of Elections’ office employee designee shall serve until such time as the Supervisor of Elections appoints a replacement. Appointed panel members may be reappointed for up to one additional term.

**Sec. 59.103. Organization.**

(a) The Chairman, or in his or her absence, the Vice-Chairman, both of whom shall be elected, along with the Secretary, by the Panel, shall preside at all meetings of the Panel and shall appoint the members of various committees or other bodies as authorized by the Panel in furtherance of its purposes. The Secretary shall keep the records of the Panel and the minutes of its meetings.

(b) The Panel shall meet at least on a quarterly basis at such times and places as are fixed by the rules of the Panel. Special meetings shall be called by the Chairman in accordance with the rules of the Panel.

(c) The Panel shall adopt, amend and rescind rules to implement the provisions of this chapter. All reports, studies and recommendations made by or at the direction of the Panel shall be considered and approved by the Panel before same are released or laid before the Council, Supervisor of Elections, Mayor or any other body or individual.

(d) The Panel may establish such committees from among its membership as it deems necessary to carry out its functions. The Panel may also, from time to time, authorize the establishment of task forces, study groups, and similar bodies to carry out specialized and detailed purposes within the scope of the Panel’s overall purposes. Any such body may include persons who are not members of the Panel, but the Chairman thereof shall be a commissioner. The body shall report on its progress to the Panel at such times as the Panel shall require, and no report, study, or recommendation, favorable or adverse, may be made by any such body unless the matter is first considered by the Panel.

(e) The Council Secretary’s Office shall provide adequate staff and support services for the Panel.

**Sec. 59.105 Duties.** The purpose of the Panel is advisory only. In no way shall the Panel interfere with the performance of the duties of the Supervisor of Elections. The Panel is established for the following general purposes:

 (a) To study and make recommendations to the Supervisor of Elections to increase the quality of voter registration and education efforts.

 (b) To study and make recommendations to the Supervisor of Elections to enhance the voter’s election-day experience, including poll worker training, polling locations, ballot styles, and fraud prevention.

 (c) To evaluate and recommend improvements on the election effectiveness, including number of overvotes, undervotes and spoiled ballots, voter complaints, and voter turnout.

 (d) To review and comment on ballot styles, instructions and absentee ballot appearance.

 (e) To make an annual report to Council on the progress of the Panel in the performance of its duties, including an incorporation of any statistics, charts, studies, reports, or other data and materials generated by or for the Panel.

 **Section 2. Initial Appointees.** The initial appointees to the Panel and their initial terms shall be as follows:

 Mayoral Appointees: Berrilyn Houston (two years); Doug Milne (three years); and Isaiah Rumlin (two years).

 Council Presidential Appointees: Helen Ludwig (two years); Mark Tippins (three years); and Hastings Williams (two years).

 Supervisor of Elections’ Appointees: Jack Gillrup (two years) and Dr. Henry Thomas (three years).

 Resums for the initial appointees are attached as **Exhibit A**.

 Sylvia Schultz, Director of Education, is identified as appointee from the staff of the Supervisor of Elections' office.

**Section 3. Effective Date.** This ordinance shall become effective upon signature by the Mayor or upon becoming effective without the Mayor’s signature.

Form Approved:

//s/ Jason R. Teal\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Office of General Counsel

Legislation Prepared By: Jason R. Teal

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