

Agenda Item No. C - 3

VILLAGE OF ROYAL PALM BEACH
Agenda Item Summary

AGENDA ITEM: Approval and authorization for the Mayor to execute the “2023 Municipal Election Vote Processing Equipment Use and Elections Services Agreement” by and between the Palm Beach County Supervisor of Elections Office and the Village of Royal Palm Beach.

ISSUE: It is the desire of the Village and the Palm Beach County Supervisor of Elections Office (“SOE”) to work together to provide for the municipal elections and to allocate certain responsibilities and expenses between the two parties to ensure that the provisions of the Election Code are followed during municipal elections.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Motion to Approve.

Initiator	Village Manager Approval	Agenda Date	Village Council Action
Village Clerk		10/20/2022	



2023 MUNICIPAL ELECTION VOTE PROCESSING EQUIPMENT USE AND ELECTIONS SERVICES AGREEMENT

This Vote Processing Equipment Use and Elections Services Agreement (hereinafter referred to as the “Agreement”) is hereby entered into by and between the **Palm Beach County Supervisor of Elections Office** (hereinafter referred to as “SOE”) and _____, **Florida** (hereinafter referred to as “MUNICIPALITY”).

WITNESSETH:

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 101.34, Florida Statutes, SOE is the legal custodian of certified vote processing equipment owned by Palm Beach County, Florida, and is hereby charged with the responsibility for custody and maintenance of said equipment; and,

WHEREAS, MUNICIPALITY desires, or is otherwise statutorily obligated, to conduct an election that requires the use of vote processing equipment to count ballots; and,

WHEREAS, all vote processing equipment requires specially trained and knowledgeable individuals to program, operate and maintain said equipment; and,

WHEREAS, the Palm Beach County Board of County Commissioners has authorized SOE to provide any necessary terms and conditions for the use of such voting equipment; and,

WHEREAS, SOE can provide the necessary personnel to program, operate and maintain said equipment; and,

WHEREAS, MUNICIPALITY hereby acknowledges full responsibility for all applicable requirements under the Florida Election Code and any provision of the City Charter or municipal ordinances which may not be addressed or included in this Agreement.

NOW THEREFORE, in consideration of the premises and of the mutual promises, terms and conditions stated herein, SOE and MUNICIPALITY agree as follows:

ARTICLE 1 – RECITALS

The above recitals are true and correct and incorporated herein.

ARTICLE 2 – AGREEMENT

SOE shall provide MUNICIPALITY such necessary vote processing equipment and election services according to the terms and conditions stated in this Agreement, for the purposes of conducting a Municipal Election to be held on March 14, 2023, and a Run-Off Election, if necessary, along with the necessary vote processing equipment and election services to facilitate any early voting sites, polling locations and polling places as may be necessary and agreed upon by the parties.

ARTICLE 3 – OPERATION AND PROGRAMMING SERVICES

3.1 Municipal Services. For each election, MUNICIPALITY shall pay SOE for election operations.

3.2 Vote-By-Mail Ballots. MUNICIPALITY shall pay SOE for vote-by-mail operations and materials.

3.3 Repairs. For any election, all maintenance, repairs or other troubleshooting services for vote processing equipment, including any tabulators, check-in devices, and other voting equipment, will be performed exclusively by SOE and such services are included in all stated charges. However, SOE does reserve the right to seek reimbursement from MUNICIPALITY for any repairs or maintenance caused by any neglect or unauthorized acts by any employee or representative of MUNICIPALITY.

ARTICLE 4 – OTHER ELECTION CHARGES

4.1 Precinct Services. For each election, MUNICIPALITY shall pay SOE for precinct preparation and poll worker training.

4.2 Other. For each election and upon proper notice to MUNICIPALITY, MUNICIPALITY shall pay SOE for any other election services not contemplated herein which may be needed to conduct an orderly election.

ARTICLE 5 – TERM

For each election, the terms of this Agreement begin with ballot layout and conclude when ballots have been processed, election results have been certified, all vote processing equipment has been returned to the SOE's warehouse and an audit, if applicable, has been completed. In the event of an election contest or challenge, SOE agrees to cooperate in providing any public records which the SOE maintains or otherwise controls.

ARTICLE 6 – APPLICABLE REQUIREMENTS OF FLORIDA'S ELECTION CODE

MUNICIPALITY shall properly call the election in accordance with any Florida Statutes, applicable charter provisions or city ordinances. MUNICIPALITY agrees that the Municipal Clerk is responsible for the conduct of the city's elections and for ensuring compliance with all applicable Florida Statutes, including the Florida Election Code and any municipal charter provisions and ordinances. Any obligations or duties not set forth in this Agreement shall be the sole responsibility of MUNICIPALITY.

ARTICLE 7 – NOTICE AND ADVERTISEMENT OF ELECTIONS

7.1 Uniform Municipal Election. MUNICIPALITY shall prepare and arrange for publication of all legal advertising required by state and federal statutes, city charter and city ordinances, unless MUNICIPALITY has already coordinated publication with SOE. MUNICIPALITY agrees that all advertisements of elections conducted in Palm Beach County shall be published in both English and Spanish and that MUNICIPALITY shall be responsible for the accurate and complete translation of any such notices.

SOE shall, if available, provide samples of required advertising upon request. SOE may also coordinate with MUNICIPALITY to translate and publish notices on behalf of MUNICIPALITY. MUNICIPALITY is responsible for the cost of translation and publication of required notices.

7.2 Run-Off Election. In the event of a run-off election, MUNICIPALITY shall prepare and arrange for publication of all legal advertising required by state and federal statutes, city charter and city ordinances. MUNICIPALITY agrees that all advertisements of elections conducted in Palm Beach County shall be published in both English and Spanish and that MUNICIPALITY shall be responsible for the accurate and complete translation of any such notices. SOE shall, if available, provide samples of required advertising upon request.

ARTICLE 8 – QUALIFYING OF CANDIDATES

MUNICIPALITY is the qualifying officer for all municipal candidates and is therefore responsible for all associated duties including collecting petitions, collecting filing fees, and posting notices or advertisements required by municipal charters/ordinances not already required by statute.

MUNICIPALITY may provide qualifying packets to candidates. MUNICIPALITY shall accept and process all qualifying papers and fees. For audio ballots, MUNICIPALITY shall collect pronunciation guides from candidates at the time of qualifying and shall submit them to SOE at the close of qualifying.

If petitions are part of qualifying process, MUNICIPALITY shall pay SOE Ten Cents (\$.10) per name, or such other amount as determined per Florida Statutes or the Florida Administrative Code, checked to verify any signatures on qualifying petitions. SOE agrees to verify any signatures for any qualifying petitions timely submitted by MUNICIPALITY in the order such petitions are received.

SOE is responsible for verifying petition signatures once MUNICIPALITY has delivered them off to SOE's Main Office, certifying the total number of valid signatures, and returning the petitions to the clerk, who will determine whether the total number of valid signatures is sufficient for the candidate to qualify, and posting legal notices required by Florida Law.

In no event shall SOE issue any recommendations or make any legal determinations as to the qualifications of eligibility of any candidate for municipal office.

ARTICLE 9 – PRINTING OF BALLOTS AND BALLOT SERVICES

9.1 Uniform Municipal Election.

MUNICIPALITY shall furnish, immediately upon the conclusion of the qualifying period, and at least ninety-five (95) days before Election Day, all ballot information in English, including the name of the candidates as they are to appear on the ballot, the name of MUNICIPALITY, the name of the election, the title of office or referendum title, explanation, and questions.

SOE reserves the right to not administer a municipal election if MUNICIPALITY does not provide all ballot information by the 95-day deadline

SOE agrees to provide the layout of the ballot(s) based on the information furnished by MUNICIPALITY and deliver ballot layout to the approved printer. Both SOE and MUNICIPALITY must sign off on ballot proof(s) prior to finalizing.

MUNICIPALITY shall confirm the number of ballots needed. SOE shall place an order for sufficient quantity of Election Day ballots with a third-party printer as selected exclusively by SOE.

SOE will provide all necessary translations of ballots, in accordance with Section 203 of the Voting Rights Act, as well as Creole translations for the ExpressVote machine. MUNICIPALITY shall be responsible for all translation costs.

The SOE will be responsible for layout out and ordering test ballots. Once test ballots are received from the printer, SOE will test all vote processing equipment in accordance with the standards established by the Florida Division of Elections and any applicable Florida Statutes. Upon receipt of the printed ballots from the printer, SOE shall receive, securely store, and account for all ballots until disbursed to poll workers. SOE shall also control and limit all access to un-voted ballots while in possession of SOE.

The SOE will be responsible for delivery of Early Voting and Election Day ballots to polling locations, as well as Mailing Vote-By-Mail ballots to voters with valid requests on file.

9.2 Run-Off Election.

In the event of a run-off election, MUNICIPALITY will be responsible for providing all information stated in 9.1. MUNICIPALITY must approve ballot content and layout prior to printing.

MUNICIPALITY will be responsible for reimbursing SOE for any costs incurred.

ARTICLE 10 – POLL WORKERS

10.1 Selection and Training of Poll Workers. SOE will hire and train all poll workers in accordance with the Florida Election Code and other guidelines, procedures or regulations as followed or adopted for the conduct of elections in Palm Beach County. The clerk for MUNICIPALITY, or a representative, shall be in attendance for poll worker training sessions. Poll workers shall undergo job specific training and complete required number of training hours as specified by SOE poll worker department management. All necessary supplies and ballots will be provided by SOE and stored in precinct cabinets or transported in poll worker clerk bags.

10.2 Uniform Municipal Election. MUNICIPALITY shall pay poll workers directly for their services.

10.3 Run-Off Election. In the event of a run-off election, MUNICIPALITY shall pay poll workers directly for their services.

10.4 Uniform Municipal Election in Conjunction with County-Wide Election. SOE shall pay poll workers directly for their services. (Most likely to occur every four years during a March Presidential Preference Primary but may apply in similar instances in which a county-wide election occurs, upon which municipalities choose to “piggyback.”)

ARTICLE 11 – SELECTION OF POLLING PLACES

MUNICIPALITY is ultimately responsible for securing its own ADA-compliant polling location(s) for stand-alone municipal elections. If MUNICIPALITY is having an election in conjunction with a county or state-wide election, SOE will secure all polling locations.

Upon request, SOE will provide MUNICIPALITY with the list of the polling locations that are currently assigned to MUNICIPALITY’S precincts.

MUNICIPALITIES are encouraged to use the same polling locations for stand-alone municipal elections as the SOE does for county-wide elections, to avoid voter confusion and unnecessary expense. If a different location is used, SOE must be informed at least sixty (60) days in advance of Election Day and a Department of Justice survey must be performed.

MUNICIPALITY will be responsible for all costs incurred with Polling Place changes, including the mailing of Polling Place change notices to voters.

MUNICIPALITY is responsible for coordinating Monday (the day before Election Day) set-up and 5:30 a.m. access on Election Day.

ARTICLE 12 - POLL WATCHERS

12.1 Standalone, Uniform, or Runoff Municipal Election. MUNICIPALITY is responsible for collecting the Designation of Poll Watchers form and submitting it to SOE for processing. SOE will make the required identification badges and provide them to MUNICIPALITY.

MUNICIPALITY will be responsible for all costs associated with the preparation of the badges.

MUNICIPALITY will create a master poll watcher list to be supplied to their poll workers on Election Day.

12.2 Uniform Municipal Election in Conjunction with County-Wide Election. MUNICIPALITY is responsible for collecting the Designation of Poll Watchers form and submitting it to SOE, for those poll watchers specific to a municipal race or question. SOE will be responsible for collecting Designation forms for county-wide or multi-municipality races or initiatives.

SOE will create a master poll watcher list to be supplied to their poll workers on Election Day.

MUNICIPALITY may be responsible for costs associated with the preparation of municipal race or initiative petition poll watcher badges.

ARTICLE 13 – SAMPLE BALLOTS

13.1 Uniform Municipal Election.

MUNICIPALITY shall review the sample ballot(s) and confirm the accuracy of the election date, office, candidate name(s), polling locations, polling places and all other information contained therein. At MUNICIPALITY’S option and expense, SOE shall coordinate the mailing of the sample ballots to all registered voters in the municipality prior to the election.

13.2 Run-Off Election.

In the event of a run-off election, SOE *shall not* create or mail sample ballots.

ARTICLE 14 – TRANSPORTATION OF ELECTIONS EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES

14.1 Uniform Municipal Election.

SOE will be responsible for delivery and pick up of any vote processing equipment. Election equipment will be delivered by SOE, or a third-party representative of SOE on an agreed upon date, up to eight (8) days prior to the election. SOE, or a third-party representative of SOE, will pick up voting equipment on an agreed upon date. SOE shall have full discretion and authority to hire and employ any outside third parties to assist with or perform delivery and pick up of voting equipment.

MUNICIPALITY shall coordinate with Voting Equipment Center manager (Hector Lugo) and Polling Location(s) regarding delivery and security of voting equipment.

14.2 Run-Off Election.

SOE will maintain responsibility for transportation of equipment and supplies as stated in 14.1. MUNICIPALITY shall reimburse SOE for any and all costs incurred for equipment delivery and pickup.

14.3 MUNICIPALITY is not permitted to deliver any election equipment.

ARTICLE 15 – LOCATION AND STORAGE OF VOTING EQUIPMENT

All voting equipment shall be stored, maintained, and located in a well-protected, secure, temperature-controlled, indoor room or facility. Once the voting equipment is delivered to a voting site, no equipment shall be relocated without the prior written approval of SOE.

ARTICLE 16 – CANVASSING OF ELECTION RESULTS

16.1 Canvassing Board Duties. At least one member of the Canvassing Board must be present at the Logic and Accuracy Testing, though all three must certify the accuracy of the testing.

A member of the Canvassing Board must be present at all times ballots are being processed; that is, when ballots are being opened, duplicated, and tabulated. A majority of the Canvassing Board must be present during any Canvassing procedure which requires a vote.

The Canvassing Board must be present at the Voting Equipment Center until all ballots have been collected and canvassed on Election Night.

A majority of the Canvassing Board must certify the results of the election, though three signatures is preferable. The Supervisor and SOE staff will ascertain the results and provide them to the Canvassing Board for certification.

At least three members must be present for a recount if one is necessary.

A majority of the Canvassing Board must be present at all times during the post- election Audit. The SOE staff will complete the Audit process.

16.2 County Canvassing Board. If MUNICIPALITY is using the County Canvassing Board (as defined by Section 101.141, Florida Statutes), SOE shall schedule and coordinate the date(s) on which the Canvassing Board is to assemble to canvass the election. SOE shall notice and advertise, as needed, the dates of any canvassing board meetings.

MUNICIPALITY **must** utilize the County Canvassing Board in the event of a county-wide election or an election which encompasses more than one municipality (i.e., Congressional elections, etc.).

16.3 Municipal Canvassing Board. If MUNICIPALITY is using its own, separate Canvassing Board, MUNICIPALITY shall coordinate with SOE and schedule the date(s) on which MUNICIPALITY'S Canvassing Board is to assemble to canvass the results of the election. Supervisor of Elections will not be a member of the MUNICIPALITY'S Canvassing Board. The Supervisor of Elections may be a substitute member. MUNICIPALITY shall notice and advertise in both English and Spanish, as needed, the dates of any Canvassing Board meetings. MUNICIPALITY shall convene the Canvassing Board to determine which voted ballots are to be tabulated. MUNICIPALITY shall provide for collection of results from each precinct.

ARTICLE 17 – AUDITS

MUNICIPALITY agrees to pay SOE for any additional costs as may be necessary, including overtime expenses, for conducting an audit, if necessary.

ARTICLE 18 – POST-ELECTION RECORDS RETENTION

SOE shall process affirmation forms and sort, inventory, and pack all election materials for pickup by SOE for retention and disposition. SOE shall store or cause to be stored all necessary election records and ballots until expiration of retention period as prescribed by applicable Florida Statutes and Rules. The MUNICIPALITY is responsible for maintaining candidate qualifying documents and certified results in accordance with Florida Law.

ARTICLE 19 – VOTER HISTORY

MUNICIPALITY and SOE will make mutually acceptable arrangements for recording and maintaining voter history. MUNICIPALITY is responsible for determining whether voters are eligible electors, pursuant to municipal charters and ordinances.

ARTICLE 20 – OTHER NECESSARY COSTS

Any additional costs or fees that may be incurred by SOE in compliance with the Florida Election Code and as a direct result of a municipal election, that are not specified in this Agreement, shall be paid for by MUNICIPALITY at rates and fees as established by SOE. Examples of such additional costs or reimbursements include, but are not limited to, the following:

A. Recounts. Any expenditure for conducting a recount, including any overtime expenses for reprogramming voting equipment, and other expenses as may be necessary to conduct a recount; and,

B. Attorneys' Fees and Costs. Actual attorneys' fees and costs incurred by SOE for research or representation on any election-related matter shall be invoiced by SOE for reimbursement by MUNICIPALITY.

ARTICLE 20 – HOLD HARMLESS COVENANT

MUNICIPALITY shall at all times hereafter indemnify, hold harmless and, at SOE's option, defend or pay for an attorney selected by SOE to defend SOE, its officers, agents and employees against any and all claims, damages, injuries, losses, liabilities and expenditures of any kind, including attorneys' fees, court costs and expenses arising out of or resulting from any or all acts of omission or commission of or by the MUNICIPALITY, its officers, agents or employees with respect to any election conducted pursuant to this Agreement. MUNICIPALITY also agrees to indemnify SOE against any administrative challenges, civil suits or other legal challenges or appeals that may arise, including all attorneys' fees and costs, from the contest of election results or the validation of any candidate qualifications arising from MUNICIPALITY'S actions.

The foregoing indemnification shall not constitute a waiver of sovereign immunity beyond the limits set forth at Sec. 768.28, Florida Statutes. In no case shall such limits for SOE or MUNICIPALITY extend beyond \$200,000 for any one person or beyond \$300,000 for any judgment which, when totaled with all other judgments, arises out of the same incident or occurrence. Furthermore, nothing herein shall be construed as consent by SOE, as a state agency or subdivision of the State of Florida, to be sued by third parties in any matter arising out of any contract.

These provisions shall not be construed to constitute agreement by either party to indemnify the other for such others' negligent, willful, or intentional acts or omissions.

ARTICLE 22 – ENTIRETY AND AMENDMENTS

The Agreement embodies this entire agreement between SOE and MUNICIPALITY and supersedes all prior agreements and understandings relating to the conduct of elections. No modification, amendment or alteration to this Agreement shall be effective of binding unless submitted in writing and executed by the duly authorized representatives of both SOE and MUNICIPALITY.

ARTICLE 23 – EFFECTIVE DATE

The effective date of this Agreement shall be the latest date of execution by duly authorized representatives of SOE and MUNICIPALITY as shown on the signature page hereto.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, we, the undersigned, do hereby state that we have the authority to bind and obligate as promised herein, SOE and MUNICIPALITY for purposes of executing this agreement on the dates set forth below.

SUPERVISOR OF ELECTIONS:

MUNICIPALITY:

Signature

Signature

Wendy Sartory Link

Name (Printed or Typed)

Name (Printed or Typed)

Palm Beach County Supervisor of Elections

Title

Title

Date

Date

Wendy Sartory Link Palm Beach County Supervisor of Elections