

CITY OF FORT BRAGG

ELECTIONS REVIEW COMMITTEE

PROGRESS
report

MAY 13, 2019



ELECTIONS REVIEW COMMITTEE

PURPOSE



1. Research and evaluate electoral systems
2. Evaluate options available to general law and charter cities; opportunities and limitations
3. Recommend a preferred electoral system
4. Recommend the benefits and limitations of a charter city, and (if appropriate)...
5. Suggest a draft charter city ordinance in time for November 2020 City Council election ballot

ELECTIONS REVIEW COMMITTEE

PROGRESS



1. Don Rowe explained various voting systems and cities using them.
2. Started collecting a library of documents and references on

Cities with Alternate Voting Systems, Election methods, Voting Machines old and new

3. City Manager summarized demographics and possible districts for Fort Bragg
4. Discussed Charter City steps to become; advantages/ disadvantages

Discussed SB 212 (allows ranked choice voting for general law cities) which would save step to charter city requirement—suggested city support the concept

ELECTIONS REVIEW COMMITTEE OBSTACLES



1. Too many members led to arguing, grandstanding, and random comments, both on and off-topic
2. Drop-in public wanted to talk
Added more ground rules limiting comments by both public and committee

Ft. Bragg Advocate News
April 11, 2019

Election Review Committee meets CITY GOVERNMENT

By Kelci Parks

reporter@advocate-news.com

The Fort Bragg City Council's Election System Review Committee, established after the city's election system was challenged under the California Voting Rights Act last year, met again last Wednesday, April 3, to discuss the demographer's report commissioned by City Hall. City Manager Tabatha Miller presented what she admitted was a watered down version of the report.

A portion of the hour-long meeting was spent in arguments between committee members and Miller was barely able to get through her report in the allotted time due to side-tracking, interruptions and nonagendized discussions despite some committee members' best efforts to keep the group focused.



ELECTIONS REVIEW COMMITTEE OBSTACLES, cont.



3. No milestones set after 3 meetings and members not getting along

Divided into smaller subcommittees of compatible people to meet and report back

ELECTIONS REVIEW COMMITTEE

MEMBER ISSUES



1. Too many members accepted on committee
2. Members not all open-minded about election systems
3. Some members not contributing

Reporting deadline will not be met



MANY THANKS TO
REUBEN ALCALA
JIM BRITT
SHARON DAVIS
REX GRESSETT
ANDREW JORDAN
JUNE LEMOS
SCOTT MENZIES
RICK RILEY



ELECTIONS REVIEW COMMITTEE FUTURE?



Small committee

- Dedicated, disciplined, creative
- Work together harmoniously
- Stay on task and develop and complete assignments on time

Council action requested

Suggestions and Comments?

