Emerald Coast Republican Liberty Caucus
President Sherry Chapman
Vice President Rene Johnmeyer
Treasurer David Farrow
25February2025

Sherry Chapman Called the Meeting to Order
David Farrow Prayer
George Oedsma Pledge

✨ Summary

The meeting focused on upcoming elections, community engagement strategies, and updates on local governance issues. Key decisions included plans for voter outreach and scheduling vetting sessions for candidates. Additionally, discussions covered election integrity issues in Florida, the need for better oversight and accountability in the election process, and the challenges faced in recalling elected officials. Legal concerns regarding election processes and the integrity of voter rolls were also addressed, with an emphasis on the need for audits and transparency in the election system.

📋 Outline

1. Upcoming Elections • 0:03:04

- The primary election for Florida's representatives is on April 1st, and voter turnout is crucial for success.
- Emphasis was placed on grassroots efforts to encourage community members to vote, as financial resources are limited for advertising.

2. Voter Outreach Strategies • 0:05:00

- Discussion on potentially renting digital signs to remind the public about the upcoming election.
- Plans to contact individuals who did not file for mail-in ballots to ensure they are informed about voting options.

3. Vetting Committee Report • 0:07:10

- The vetting committee has completed three candidate vettings and has two more scheduled for the upcoming Monday.

- A proposal was made to compile results and conduct an email vote for candidate endorsements by the following week.

4. Candidate Introduction • 0:10:40

- Joshua Sik introduced himself as a candidate, highlighting his military background and commitment to fighting for Florida.
- He outlined his key issues, including Second Amendment rights and the importance of protecting individual liberties.

5. Local Governance Updates • 0:16:01

- There is a vacancy on the Community Improvement Board, which does not require residency in Milton.
- Updates were provided on a lawsuit involving the mayor, with hearings scheduled to address the case's status.

6. Election Costs and Accountability • 0:19:47

- The speaker emphasized that election costs are transparent across Florida counties, and there is no need for further studies on appropriations.
- A proposal was made to present an 'oath breaker' award to Don Gates for failing to fulfill his promises.
- The speaker highlighted the limitations of the recall process, which currently only applies to charter counties in Florida.

7. Election Integrity Efforts • 0:24:11

- Diane Warner was recognized for her extensive work on election integrity issues, and a report on current bills was requested.
- The upcoming elections were outlined, with the primary on April 1 and a special election on June 10.
- Concerns were raised about the lack of citizenship verification in the election process, with a bill being proposed to address this issue.

8. Chain of Custody Issues • 0:29:10

- There were significant concerns regarding the chain of custody for ballots, with reports of ballots being improperly handled.
- The speaker noted that some counties were not following proper procedures for ballot transport and storage.
- Evidence was presented to Don Gates regarding these issues, but there was frustration over the lack of response from officials.

9. Legislative Actions and Challenges • 0:38:07

- Senator Garcia was commended for supporting three important bills related to election integrity.
- There was concern about the absence of a House representative for a technology bill and a reconciliation bill for audits.

- The group plans to mobilize support for these bills through the Liberty Caucus and other organizations.

10. Legal Concerns Regarding Election Processes • 00:40:47

- There are concerns about the legality of certain meetings and agreements related to election processes.
- A FOIA request has been submitted to understand the county's agreement with FSE regarding payments, but responses have been delayed.
- The discussion included the potential for legal action against entities involved in questionable practices.

11. Funding and Transparency of NGOs • 00:42:43

- Recent statements from Trump indicate a push to eliminate certain election machines and reduce federal funding.
- The Center for Internet Security (CIS) received significant funding from the federal government, raising questions about its role in election security.
- There is a lack of audits and certifications for various election systems, which poses risks to election integrity.

12. Signature Verification Issues • 00:46:00

- There are high rejection rates for signatures on ballot petitions, with concerns about the accuracy of the verification process.
- Candidates have reported issues with signatures being rejected despite witnessing the signing process.
- The need for better communication and verification methods was emphasized to reduce rejection rates.

13. Upcoming Advocacy Trip • 00:51:30

- A bus trip is planned for March 12 to advocate for election integrity and meet with key officials.
- Participants are encouraged to support those who may not afford to attend by contributing to a donation sheet.
- The trip aims to raise awareness and gather support for election-related issues.

14. Voter Roll Integrity • 00:55:15

- Concerns were raised about outdated and inaccurate voter rolls, including deceased individuals still listed.
- The need for regular updates and audits of voter rolls was highlighted to ensure accuracy.
- Participants discussed the challenges faced by election officials in maintaining accurate records and the implications for future elections.

15. Election Integrity Concerns • 0:00:00

- Mark Early's wife, Stacey Rodriguez, runs a major ballot printing company, Fiddler Printing, which raises concerns about conflicts of interest in election processes.

- There are significant issues with the current voting machines, which are outdated and lack proper auditing capabilities.
- The chain of custody for ballots has been questioned, particularly regarding the counting process and the use of thumb drives that may introduce security risks.

16. Future Organizational Activities • 0:06:21

- Plans were discussed to invite speakers on constitutional sheriff topics to engage local law enforcement and community members.
- The organization aims to raise funds and establish a banking account to manage finances effectively, with a two-signature policy for withdrawals.
- Future meetings will be scheduled for the third Tuesday of each month, starting in March, to avoid conflicts with other local meetings.

17. Membership Dues and Fundraising • 0:15:51

- Membership dues were proposed to be set at $45 annually, with discussions on potential discounts for couples.
- The organization plans to conduct fundraising activities to support its initiatives and ensure financial stability.
- Members were encouraged to bring checks to the next meeting for dues and to facilitate the establishment of a treasury.