

Credibility Crisis with our current Supervisor of Elections

Fiscal Explosion

Under Kathy Dent's watch, the budget for the supervisor of elections office has exploded from \$2.2M in 2000 to \$7.1M in 2008.

Recent 2008 Election Problems

Kathy Dent refuses to let independent observers monitor the Absentee Ballot processing during the November 2008 election.

Kathy Dent did not report failures of the new GEMS software in the Logic and Accuracy tests in May, 2008.

Kathy Dent did not report failures of the GEMS software again in the mock election July 8, 2008.

Kathy Dent made false statements publicly by claiming there were no problems with the Premier Central Scanners (PCS) machines during the August 6th Logic and Accuracy test, when those problems were clearly documented in Canvassing Board minutes and in the Conduct of Elections report. The PCS machines failed again in the August 26th Primary. She finally returned the equipment.

Credibility Crisis

Security of Paper-less Ballots – Lost the battle

Kathy Dent supported purchasing the iVotronic touch-screen ballot system. As research continued to question the security of the paperless voting, Dent denied the concerns.

Kathy Dent supported the voting machine manufacturer ES&S, despite Sarasota County Commissioners refused to do business with them after they proved to be influencing the audits of their own equipment.

Undervote Crisis – 2006 election

Kathy Dent denied problems with touch screen machines in 2006, when hundreds of voters who cast a vote reported their votes missing on the summary screen. Kathy Dent blamed the 18,000 missing votes on voters who either didn't see the race on the ballot or chose not to vote.

Citizen Lead Charter Amendment Crisis – Lost the battle with the people

Kathy Dent campaigned against the citizen-initiated charter amendment to require paper ballots amendment. Kathy Dent filed a lawsuit against SAFE (Sarasota Alliance for Fair Elections) to keep the paper ballot amendment off the ballot in 2006.

As quoted in the Herald-Tribune ***“Dent’s response to both challenges fell short of expectations. In opposing the charter amendment (which voters approved), she breached the neutrality required of elections supervisors, critics contend. Then, when early voters reported difficulty casting touch-screen voters in the congressional race, Dent did little to address the complaints.”***

“Dent’s reputation was battered – in part because, under the stressful spotlight of controversy, shortcomings were evident in her temperament, judgment and technological acumen.”