**Board of County Commissioners**

**Workshop: Non-Partisan Elections**

**Monday, May 5, 2014**

The Board of County Commissioners in and for Wakulla County, Florida, met for a regularly scheduled Workshop on Monday, May 5, 2014 with Chairman Richard Harden presiding. Present were Commissioners Randy Merritt, Jerry Moore, Howard Kessler and Ralph Thomas. Also present were County Administrator David Edwards, County Attorney Heather Encinosa and Deputy Clerk Brandy Raye Price.

The purpose of this meeting is to allow discussion relating to non-partisan elections and the process of such.

Supervisor of Elections, Henry Wells, presented Florida Statutory information to the Board as it relates to the election process. He informed the Board that the Wakulla County School Board has been doing non-partisan elections for several years with success.

There was discussion regarding the pros and cons of non-partisan elections and the Board discussed putting this issue on a referendum for the people to vote on during a presidential election year. The Charter Review Committee can bring forward a request to put the issue on the ballot on the next election.

Commissioner Kessler strongly urged the Board to wait until a presidential election that will have a larger voter turnout before moving this issue to the ballot so more citizens will be able to vote on the issue.

There was discussion about having two important referendums on the next election and moving the non-partisan election issue forward now so the Charter Review Committee can focus on the other changes to the charter.

The Supervisor of Elections informed the Board that any changes to the ballot need to be turned into the at least 90 days before the vote.

The Board discussed applying the non-partisan elections to all constitutional officers: Tax Collector, Clerk of Court, Sheriff, Property Appraiser, Supervisor of Elections and County Commissioners.

There was discussion regarding how this workshop came to be scheduled at 4:00pm instead of 5:00pm.

The Supervisor of Elections clarified that non-partisan elections does not mean the candidate is not allowed to be a registered member of a certain party, but the candidate cannot campaign under that party.

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned by order of the Chairman at 4:39pm.