

portland model cities

CITY DEMONSTRATION AGENCY
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288-6923

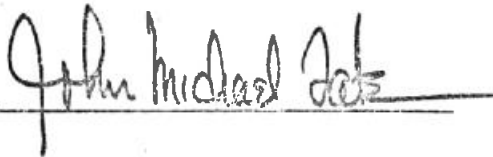
September 29, 1970

TO: Brenda Green, Citizens Participation Coordinator
FROM: John Michael Tate, Citizens Participation Information Specialist
SUBJECT: 1970 Model Cities Citizens Planning Board Elections

In drafting an evaluation of this past (1970) Planning Board Election, I found myself leaning towards an "opinion paper" covering both the election and the role of Citizens Participation in general.

In review I find it difficult to separate the two. Therefore, be advised that, in many areas, the following serves two purposes. Be further advised that a number of remarks set forth border on personal opinion (as opposed to Agency comment) and should be accepted as such. Nonetheless, I hope that some valid points can be extracted and that the picture presented has been broadened.

JMT



cc: Official files (2)
Director
Mrs. Lillie Walker, CP Specialist
Ray Coffman, CPB Election Chairman
Mrs. Regina Flowers, CPB Election Secretary

JMT/ljs
9/29/70

To set up ground-work I have broken the Model Neighborhood into its eight (8) voting components since each has an individual situation.

BOISE: ELECTION DATA 1968-1970

	Number of Candidates	Total Votes	Winning Total	Lowest Total
1968	5+	445	75	--
1969	7	149	67	2
1970	2	80	50	30

Over the three year period, there seems to be no real election pattern except in diminished voter participation. In 1969, however, it is interesting to note that there was a larger candidate roster than in either of the other years and yet the "low total" was 2. This would lead one to believe that candidates for that particular year were not necessarily campaigners or representative of the citizenry.

In 1970 we started with four candidates but by election time, two had withdrawn leaving Robert W. Boyer to face R. L. Anderson. Boyer defeated Anderson in what would appear to be a fairly balanced voting pattern and we can assume, by work of the candidates themselves, that they both were active in pre-election campaigning. Due to the notoriety surrounding Anderson there may have also been a voter back-lash in favor of his opponent. (Anderson has since challenged the election on a number of counts.)

Over the three year period we can recognize a definite decrease in voter participation (even though we had, as noted, a sizable field of candidates in 1969). It leads me to believe that, among other things, certified candidates did not or could not generate the required enthusiasm with area residents. There are, of course, other probable causes for this small turn-out, but they will be covered in a general way further on in this evaluation.

ELIOT: ELECTION DATA 1968-1970

	Number of Candidates	Total Votes	Winning Total	Lowest Total
1968	4+	173	36	--
1969	2	55	36	19
1970	2	50	43	7

In the total picture, Eliot has had poor representation in all areas and a diminishing profile over the three year period. This years picture, vote-wise, is severely unbalanced with incumbent Rev. E. L. Jackson running against Bobby Lee Scarborough as his only opposition. That Scarborough received a mere 7 votes would lead one to assume that he did not campaign enough, that Rev. Jackson is, by now, an Eliot "household word" or both.

It is reasonable to assume that Jackson, being a present board member and quite active in other community affairs, had the upper hand, but another assumption might also be put forth -- that area residents saw no clear cut choice in a field of two and therefore were reluctant to take time to vote in what was a lop-sided election.

Taking Eliot just a step further, it might be noted that in 1969 Rev. Eugene Boyd was elected to the board but has, over the past year, registered less-than-adequate attention to board meeting attendance. Interested area residents are sure to have noticed this and I believe that situation can also be a detracting factor. One last point, Eliot is one of the more blighted districts within the Model Neighborhood and yet -- at election time, Irvington and Woodlawn (two of the better areas) are the areas that are slated for "uplifting." This, to an Eliot resident, could also be a "turn-off" factor.

HUMBOLDT: ELECTION DATA 1968-1970

	Number of Candidates	Total Votes	Winning Total	Lowest Total
1968	4+	420	79	--
1969	4	32	15	1
1970	4	189	120	0

It will be noted that voter interest in Humboldt greatly increased in 1970 with at least a fair number of candidates running. Opal Strong, incumbent, won handily over her closest opposition, George Christian -- 120 to 58. Mr. Christian and Vicki Ida Jones filed after the cut-off date had been extended and it is my feeling that this accounted for a sizable percentage of the increased voter participation. Again, as in Eliot, we can chart the "edge" that incumbents hold over their opposition.

At least three of the four candidates are familiar names in the community -- all active on various programs, committees and/or boards and all, to the best of my knowledge, campaigned vigorously. The fact that Strong and Christian implemented their own voter transportation "shuttles" probably accounts, in part, for the increased voter participation also.

Once more we have a blatant inconsistency in candidate voting. William Sanderlin, an early filer, apparently chose not to vote or campaign as attested to by a "no vote" next to his name. The quality of the candidate (or the criteria that allows a candidate to be certified) comes under considerable question -- again, a point that we will cover in general later on in the evaluation. It is difficult to believe that voter interest could drop so sharply and then rise so sharply in two consecutive years unless candidate appeal is strongly considered.

IRVINGTON: ELECTION DATA 1968-1970

	Number of Candidates	Total Votes	Winning Total	Lowest Total
1968	4+	793	115	--
1969	4	130	90	4
1970	3	170	90	27

As with Humboldt, we have an increase in voter response this year. Christopher Thomas, an attorney, 25 years of age, caucasian, won handily over representative-appointed Burnett Austin, Sr. -- 90 to 53. Austin, prior to the count, would have seemed the likely winner -- a long-time area resident, a family man with three children in area schools and an incumbent. It's to be assumed that Thomas was an active campaigner in an area that is predominantly white middle-class. (As an aside, it might be mentioned that Thomas is associated, in a business sense, with Lee Kell's law firm and every little bit helps -- as we all should recognize. There is, by the way, no intimation here -- simply a fact of life!)

In John L. Hartley, we have a "late-starter" (although he had filed prior to original cut-off date) who might have made a better showing had he begun his campaigning sooner than the three days prior to election. (Hartley expressed an inclination to contest the election after the ballots were counted, but it has not been determined whether he will pursue this course or not.)

We do note a somewhat balanced voting pattern this year as opposed to 1969 and coupled with an increase in turn-out, we might even have an encouraging trend to look for in 1971.

KING: ELECTION DATA 1968-1970

	Number of Candidates	Total Votes	Winning Total	Lowest Total
1968	4+	363	72	--
1969	8	131	37	3
1970	5	82	56	3

King, as with the majority of areas, showed another decrease in voter interest although the candidate roster (along with that of Sabin) was the largest. Mrs. Scott, a very active community figure, swamped her four opponents with 56 of 82 votes cast.

The King turn-out is poor but might have been caused, in part, by the fact that Candidate Night in that area was not promoted as in the other seven districts. Although a meeting was conducted at Highland Community Center, notification was word of mouth and candidates, with the exception of Mrs. Scott and Judith Aiken were not aware of the gathering. In all cases, except Scott's and possibly Smith's, candidates were little-known and not adequately "seasoned" for campaigning. Once more we have a low vote of 3 -- an unfortunate

but fairly representative picture of candidate profile.

It should be noted that Opal Strong, a Humboldt candidate received one write-in vote in the King area. How can this be explained except for lack of sufficient voter information preparation? It is interesting to see that during all 3 elections, King has had adequate candidate representation (although this doesn't mean quality candidate representation.)

SABIN: ELECTION DATA 1968-1970

	Number of Candidates	Total Votes	Winning Vote	Lowest Vote
1968	4+	212	61	--
1969	5	198	72	5
1970	5	163	60	7

Sabin area, along with King, registered the largest field of choice for candidates and also shows the smallest percentage of decrease in voter participation for the 3 year period of all 8 areas. Barbara Friday registered a surprise victory over two seated board members, Ted Baugh and Tom Wilson-- 60-44-36. Turn-out was the third highest for the Model Neighborhood possibly showing that youth and a common-sense approach to areas of concern could win over chronological maturity and filibuster.

Wilson and Baugh were active campaigners as was Mrs. Friday, but in Wilson's case caustic, often aimless, criticism of the program may have cost him votes. (Wilson is also contesting the election.)

It appears that, even with a falling-off of voters, Sabin is maintaining as one of the more demonstrative voting precincts and one that can offer up a fair cross-section of candidates. Three young adults (under 25) in a field of five is encouraging and it would be hoped that program education will be developed to keep this spirit afloat.

VERNON: ELECTION DATA 1968-1970

	Number of Candidates	Total Votes	Winning Votes	Lowest Votes
1968	4+	168	68	--
1969	4	43	24	0
1970	3	98	70	12

Yet another area that showed an increase in voting that was substantial -- if compared to the year previous -- and with fewer candidates than in part years. LeRoy Patton, a late filer, won handily over his closest opponent, Ruthann Fountaine, and it could be assumed that, as with R. L. Anderson, Fountaine's "bad press" had something to do with Patton's large vote and the increased voting in general. Lech, who ran last year and got no votes, was

also a late filer but, to my knowledge, did not actively campaign. (Mrs. Fountaine is contesting the election.)

Patton has been active in many community affairs and is a teacher at Adams. (student votes may have helped him, also.)

Vernon, as you know, was a one-candidate area until filing deadlines were extended.

WOODLAWN: ELECTION DATA 1968-1970

	Number of Candidates	Total Votes	Winning Votes	Lowest Votes
1968	4+	629	250	--
1969	4	172	84	16
1970	2	70	68	2

Woodlawn was absolutely unique in its candidate structure. Joe Nunn filed to replace his wife, Bobbie Nunn, and upset his only opponent (running as a "token" candidate in as much as no one else would bother to file) 78 to 2.

The Nunns are a highly respected family in the Woodlawn area, but surely there are other people with ample qualifications that could have prevented this self-perpetuation image.

Voter turn-out has dropped drastically and, as in the Eliot situation, it might be stated that there was no choice of candidates which may well have resulted in lack of citizen involvement. Elections in this precinct were definitely not representative and that should be an area of utmost concern.

MODEL NEIGHBORHOOD: VOTE TOTALS

1968	3,203	(accredited)
1969	910	
1970	910	

Although we did not lose ground in the total picture (1969-1970), it is apparent that we did in district versus district totals. We lost a total of 260 votes in areas where turn-out was reduced this year so in effect we polled 260 votes less than last year. What can be done to prevent this same occurrence in 1971?

In Part One (of my book!!) I have attempted to present a picture of this years elections -- in some cases relying on past years knowledge of candidates and/or area. Part Two concerns itself with stimulating voter interest and the role that Citizens Participation will have to assume if we are to re-ignite the citizen interest.

I cannot be totally objective since the extent of my participation in this years elections was limited to media promotion (and further limited by a late arrival on the Model Cities Program scene). There are areas that I might point a finger at, however, in the hope that elections will be more representative in the coming years.

My first impulse is to say that we/they/someone dropped the ball -- based on lack of resident involvement. With a potential voter strength of 20,000, it is sad to realize we gathered only 910 votes -- less than 5%. It's realistic to recognize that a high percentage of the Model Neighborhood is turned-off, or if you prefer, lacking in social/political consciousness. Motivation is at a low as evidenced by the areas' poor record of voter registration. A deeper problem, although one that is tangent to the first, is a lower educational profile -- not so evident with the upcoming students (although it is still speculative as to how well "today's better educational institutions" are coping with this problem) -- but with our middle-aged and elderly citizens. Therefore, if we are to have citizens participation and motivation we have to address ourselves to these areas immediately (within the limits of the Program, of course).

Citizens Participation (Agency) is the responsibility to reach affected residents in a meaningful, positive manner -- 365 days a year -- for the remainder of the program so that when Model Cities is no longer a functioning body, the concept will have been adopted and in a position to be carried forward.

On the other hand, citizens' participation (people) is the desire of the community in question to make its collective powers felt, to guide its own future and, in this instance, to elect its own representatives who will supply the direction that will make the community "one."

People will not come to us -- sad, but true. Locked away in this community "mind" is the thought that Model Cities: is a game; is someone else's program; is a non-productive government cop-out; is a "feather-bed" situation for those of us who hold down staff positions, etc., etc. We have, either consciously or unconsciously, locked ourselves away from the very element we need to reach. These situations will always exist in the minds of some individuals but from a collective standpoint this need not be the case. "Reach out and touch..."

I hate to admit it, but for all the mass media promotion we implemented this year we came up empty-handed. Saturation we need but apparently on a person-to-person basis. If we are really concerned with next year's election, then we must begin to gear ourselves to it now!

We've mentioned the use of radio. Let's do it -- maybe not on a grand scale but on a consistent basis. Every day, if possible. We must be careful, however,

to remember the example set by none-other than Sesame Street -- to teach effectively, we must also entertain. If we represent a "people program" then we must present ourselves as people -- not as just another "agency." Consider expanding our informational half-hour program into a citizen-Model Cities representative dialogue program -- either "in person" or via telephone.

Neighborhood Organizations need our support but we also need theirs. Coordination at top level is important -- not only to carry their approval but to keep tabs on what they are doing. Was, for instance, the Woodlawn Association in any way responsible for an almost one-candidate race? Couldn't they have made a more respectable race out of this year's elections? Could we have helped them in any ways other than what we did? Consider a once-a-month meeting with these organizations.

Our news-letter is young, it's expensive but it is also necessary. We need input however. We need lively comment and, I believe, a departure from text-book structure. If we mailed to only those we knew would be interested, would grasp, would care then that would be one thing. When we mail to 15,000, however, we have a different ball game. Consider and advise on a more meaningful approach to this project that costs us approximately \$1,000 a month.

We have children in schools who have eager, quick minds. If we educate the children they can lift our load at home. Consider setting up assemblies for guest speakers, films, general discussion. Meet the student leaders and get them involved. Get the teachers involved. Is it possible to set up a situation where school papers could cover and run articles on Model Cities happenings (yes, we might lose our skins a few times, but then our city dailies aren't too delicate at times, either).

There are approximately 140 minority businesses in this community and we need these businessmen. No, they won't all be on our side, but we need their participation in any case. Not just for surveys, or random samplings, but for "pulse." These businessmen know more about the community than we can ever hope to know and we need to tap this "storehouse."

Churches are abundant. We must speak from these platforms -- continuously -- and we need the support of these church leaders.

We have the news media and that is, at least now, not an area for concern since in most cases we are asking for and receiving positive cooperation.

All of the mentioned areas must be hammered at throughout the coming year in order to stimulate and motivate. If we can reach the leaders, they can ease the load. Above all, we need to get to the citizens if we want them to open up to us. After all, we are not Model Cities -- The Mayor's Program, we are Model Cities -- The People Program (with all due respect, of course!). We are "them" -- "they" are not us! If "they" were, we wouldn't be in the position to help -- there would be no one left to help. So, we now have partially laid the ground work within Citizens Participation (agency) for citizen participation (people).

Election time will be here again in another year. Looking over last year's evaluation and recommendations, I think we might have taken some constructive steps from there. The evaluation is attached -- the underlining is mine.

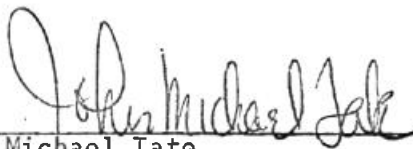
It is unfortunate that election deadlines were extended if only because we lose when we falter -- and falter we did. It would be valuable if we could offer campaign instruction to those interested or in need prior to election time -- candidates and concerned citizens alike.

Could we set up a system of roving polls within each area (if you put it under my nose, I'm likely to see it)? If the people won't come to us, let's go to them.

Criticism has been leveled regarding the desirability of at least two of this year's candidates. What does their candidacy do to our credibility as a progressive program? Rehabilitation has its limits. Can't we strengthen our criteria without strangling ourselves--we do have responsibility to the individual but we also have responsibility to the whole and if necessary, I think we must compromise to truly represent the whole.

Please note in last year's recommendations, the portion devoted to candidacy by petition. Can it be done? If so, why not try it. If nothing else, it would save us the embarrassment of having candidates running but earning not one vote -- not even their own!

Well, that's my input. Rambling and maybe off-center but sincere nonetheless. Maybe there is something in it we can use. We can't afford another election like the two past.



John Michael Tate
Citizens Participation
Information Specialist

October 7, 1969

TO: Citizens Planning Board
FROM: The Election Committee

The Election Committee met October 2, 1969 to certify and evaluate the election. It was the conclusion that the mechanics of the election were very good. There were few problems associated with the polling places, election clerks, poll watchers and ballot counting. We feel the election was fair and honest in every way. The counting was deemed correct and was notarized. Hence, the Election Committee certifies the election and declares those indicated as having the most votes as elected. The votes for each candidate are listed on attached sheet.

The Committee realizes that there may be requests for recounts or other possible challenges. It is the feeling of the Committee that the Citizens Planning Board should handle such requests and dispose of such requests within 30 days at which times the ballots and stubs will be destroyed. The Committee intends to dissolve itself, but if the Citizens Planning Board desires to look into any problems, the Committee would be willing to reconvene itself for that purpose.

The Committee by no means feels that the election was anywhere near perfect; certainly the turnout was very disappointing. The Committee would like to offer some comments -

1. More time should have been and must be allowed for an election. We had approximately 25 days for the entire election process. Candidates had little time to campaign, particularly, those who filed at the last minute - on September 22. Next year this problem will be alleviated by the Citizens Planning Board's policy of an election every year on the last Saturday of September. However, we would recommend that the final filing date be approximately one month prior to the date of the election. Also we would recommend that the Citizens Planning Board have all rules changes and procedures decided one month prior to the election. (* The fact that the Citizens Planning Board changed some rules only 11 days prior to this election complicated the Committee's work and probably confused residents.)

(*) apparently a re-occurring situation!

2. We feel the low turnout was due to many factors. Probably, the main one was the lack of visible activity of the Model Cities Program during the past months. The fact that Model Cities will soon have programs in operation and we will be an ongoing agency should increase the interest and turnout next year. Also, it is hoped that by next year community organizations will be functioning in all areas and that they will be able to assist in any elections.

3. As a Committee we undoubtedly made mistakes. * One was lack of television and radio advertising. This, however, was due in part to the lack of time. For TV spot announcements, almost three weeks lead time is required. Radio also requires some lead time. These facts were not known so we did not have any TV or radio advertising. We will know better next time.

4. The Committee was confused as to the status of those receiving the second largest number of votes. Do these people become alternates or not? We would like a clarification from the Citizens Planning Board. The Committee would also like to make some concrete suggestions for next year's election. These are not recommendations, but suggestions we feel should be explored by the Citizens Planning Board.

1) We definitely feel the election precinct boundaries are confusing. In many cases they do not follow school boundaries, and in others the school boundaries themselves are illogical. We would strongly recommend these boundaries be studied and redrawn. If nothing else boundary lines should be squared and put in a straight line to alleviate confusion of both the voter and the election clerk.

2) We would like to suggest the possibility of establishing a run-off election between the two top candidates, two weeks after the election if no one obtains a majority. This would insure that the person elected had a majority and a run-off might create more interest - due to more campaigning, etc. In most cases the winner is elected by a plurality particularly when 6 or 7 candidates are running.

* Worth exploring - but expensive without prior "conditioning".

Election Committee

3) We feel 8 precincts were not enough. At any regular primary or general election approximately 50 voting places are provided. We feel more precincts should be made available and a procedure for accomplishing this be established. If this is done it might also solve the school boundary line problem.

4) We would also like to suggest the possibility of candidates filing by petition. A petition would create interest - certify the candidate had some support and involve the community in the filing process. The number of signatures necessary for one to be on the ballot should be kept low - say 25 signatures, but we consider it a possibility worth exploring.

5) If the petition suggestion were adopted, it might also be explored that a person from out of the particular school area be allowed to file if he can obtain the necessary signatures from the area in which he is running. This might solve some residency questions.

We would hope that the Rules Committee or some other appropriate committee of the Citizens Planning Board look at our suggestions. We would hope that next year with more time and better procedures to have a larger turnout, and better election. We would like to thank all those who helped on this election - working long hours for no pay and little thanks. They did a good job under difficult conditions.

Respectfully submitted,
Richard Celsi, Chairman

B-22-04

portland model cities

CITY DEMONSTRATION AGENCY
5329 N.E. UNION AVENUE
PORTLAND, OREGON 97211
288-6923

September 28, 1970

KGAR Radio
Attention: Danny Dark
949 S. W. Oak
Portland, Oregon

Dear Sir:

The Model Cities staff and Election Committee would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your assistance prior to, during, and after this years' Citizens Planning Board elections.

We realize that, quite often, we were forced (by time and manpower limitation) to supply "skeleton" information with short notice and yet we found everyone in media, without exception, eager to assist us in promoting this all-important area of citizens participation in our Model Cities Program.

Again, our thanks.

Sincerely yours,



John Michael Tate
Citizens Participation
Information Specialist

cc: Official Files (2)
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