

President Briefing  
ROV Appointment Process  
January 3, 2019

The Parish Council has issued calls for two special meetings to be held on January 3, and January 7, 2019, for the purpose of interviewing applicants for the position of parish registrar of voters. Please accept this briefing as a statement of my continued problem with the apparent procedure the Parish Council has decided to follow in the appointment process.

The primary reasons for my concern about the Council process include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. As I stated at the Council meeting on December 17, the elimination of any role by the Parish President in the appointment process results in the President not being able to perform his lawful role under the home rule charter form of government.
2. The appointment of a ROV by a resolution rather than an ordinance violates the home rule charter provisions that all operating budget expenditures must be approved by ordinances duly enacted by the Parish. The appointment of a ROV by a resolution includes the commitment of financial resources from future Parish budgets without the proper authorization provided by an ordinance.
3. The language in one section of the constitution that defines the parish governing authority as the legislative body of the parish does not consider the recent creation of home rule charter governments wherein an elected president is a part of the local governing authority. That language must be taken in context of the entire constitution, state laws and the authority granted to home rule charter governments.
4. At the meeting on December 17, I offered to work with the Parish Council to reach a mutually-agreeable resolution to the conflict regarding the process by which the new registrar of voters would be appointed. The announced Council process does not appear to be aimed at reaching an amicable resolution of the conflict.

While we have respect for the staff of the DA Office and appreciate the work of the office on behalf of the Parish, we respectfully hold a different opinion in this matter.

Rick Nowlin