

Ohio Association of Election Officials

Legislative Committee Meeting

September 16, 2013

The legislative committee of the Ohio Association of Election Officials met on a conference call on Monday, September 16, 2013 at 1:00 PM. Ken Terry and Adam Booth presided.

Peggy Byers called the roll. Present were: Adam Booth, Curt Braden, Penny Brooks, Peggy Byers, Steve Harsman, Karla Herron, Sally Krisel, Llyn McCoy, Kathy Meyer, Carla Patton, Brian Sleeth, Shantiel Soeder, Ken Terry, Lisa Welsh, and Kim Zurz. Aaron Ockerman, Executive Director, was also on the call. Aaron emailed the absentee voting recommendations, put together by our Task Force, during this conference call.

SB 109 update – this bill would move the board member appointments to odd years. There is some compromise language about the double bubble in this legislation. There is direction about the certification of the e-poll books in this legislation also. Aaron says the legislature is eager to get this legislation through, so there is expected to be some movement as soon as they get back in to session in early October.

HB 194 – had some language about consolidating poll workers in a multi-precinct location. Aaron says this will come back as special legislation

HB 240 – does away with special elections in February and August. There was discussion that supported this among the attendees today. Brad Cromes from Portage County suggested this was not our fight and we might not want to weigh in on this issue. Penny Brooks moved a motion that the association supports this bill. Lisa Welch seconded the motion. The motion carried.

HB 250 - absentee voting period to be 17 days, excluding UOCAVA voters. This legislation would end absentee voting at 6:00 PM on the Friday before the election; both in person and by mail. Carla Patton moved a motion we not support this as our group already has a set of recommendations in place. Penny Brooks seconded the motion. The motion carried.

HB 263 - absentee voting, summarized by Ken Terry:

Absentee Hours are set to 8AM to 4:30PM Monday through Friday

Steve Harsman moved a motion we not support this as our group already has a set of recommendations in place. Joyce Kale-Pesta seconded the motion. The motion carried.

HB 266 as presented to us by Aaron - ELECTION FORMS MAILING (BECKER J) To generally prohibit the mailing of unsolicited election forms and prepayment of postage for the return of election forms and to clarify that a board of elections is responsible to send and receive absent voter's ballot materials.

Ken Terry and Adam Booth prepared these bullets:

- Change term "Armed Service Absente Voter" to "Uniformed Services or Overseas Absent Voter"
- SOS **may** mail unsolicited registrations or Absentee Applications statewide. Not allowed to include prepaid return postage wether solicited or unsolicited.
- BMV, BOE, County Treasurer, other agency of a political subdivision, designated agency, public

High school, Vocational School or Public Library are prohibited from mailing unsolicited registrations or absentee apps.

-BOE prohibited from prepaying return postage for registrations and applications

-Changes references of director of BOE to just Board of Elections in the sending and handling of absentee applications and return of the ballot

In the matter of mailing unsolicited absentee mailings, the discussion went on to say that all public offices or agencies that receive public funds other than political parties should participate in the spirit of this legislation. Joyce Kale-Pesta moved a motion we support this legislation, but these are the recommendations of the OAE. Matthew Thalac seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Several counties remarked that they put lines like:

_____ I am going to work.

_____ I need an absentee application.

on their poll worker mailings so they can take care of their poll workers who will not be working in their home precinct without the mailing being considered unsolicited.

Aaron noted that he was meeting with Representative Becker the next day and would be able to make our intentions very clear.

There was some extensive discussion about the fact that county elected officials and Board Members have not received a cost of living adjustment in the last 10 years. Many options will be presented to the legislature. Action in this matter is to be determined.

Penny Brooks moved a motion the meeting be adjourned and Kim Zurz seconded the motion. The motion passed.

There is a legislative committee meeting on the calendar for October 21. Aaron will send an email to confirm this.

Respectfully submitted,

Peggy Byers

Peggy Byers