

# Ohio Association of Election Officials

## Legislative Committee Meeting

### October 7, 2013

The legislative committee of the Ohio Association of Election Officials met on a conference call on Monday, October 7, 2013 at 1:00 PM. Adam Booth and Aaron Ockerman presided.

Peggy Byers called the roll. Present were: Adam Booth, Curt Braden, Penny Brooks, Peggy Byers, Bradley Cromes, Tom Gerrity, Karla Herron, Sally Krisel, Sharon Locke, Faith Lyon, Llyn McCoy, Chuck Miller, Jeanette Mullane, Carla Patton, Brian Sleeth, Shantiel Soeder, Ken Terry, Lisa Welsh, Dale Whitt and Kim Zurz. Aaron Ockerman, Executive Director, was also on the call.

Aaron made mention about the fact that county elected officials and Board Members have not received a cost of living adjustment in the last 5 or 10 years. Many options will be presented to the legislature. An adjustment in this matter is in order. Action in this matter is to be determined.

SB 269 (Voter ID) – this bill would require a photo identification in order to register to vote. The members of the OAEO are pretty evenly divided on this bill. Kim Zurz expressed that we should stay silent on this legislation. Lisa Welch talked about what a hassle a photo identification requirement would create in her county as there is a great Amish population in Holmes County. There are different groups who for religious reasons or whatever, do not take pictures. There was mention that there is a state identification with no picture on it. The bill is not on the Senate agenda at this time. Kim Zurz then moved a motion our group stays neutral on this topic. Jeanette Mullane seconded the motion. The motion passed on a voice vote.

HB 193 (minor party ballot access) – It was mentioned that the code was too restrictive in this matter in the years before 2005 or 2006. No bills have passed to address the matter. Secretary Brunner addressed the issue with a directive. It was thought this bill would hit the Senate floor tomorrow, but there are several amendments expected. This matter does not directly affect our organization; we just follow instructions in this matter. Therefore, Kim Zurz moved a motion our group stays neutral on this topic. Penny Brooks seconded the motion. The motion passed on a voice vote.

SB201 (statewide voter registration) – the law says voter registration should be top down; not county up as it actually happens in the state of Ohio. Kim Zurz says someone at the Secretary of State's office had shared with her that it is not likely that their wish for online voter registration will pass through the legislature. There was a comment that these new concepts could provide for more data sharing, which would be better for all of us. The Department of Health will likely work through the state portal in the future. Adam Booth suggested this would make the process more streamlined and hopefully more accurate. There will likely be many more opportunities to supply death certificates to Boards of Election in the future. Many OAEO members lamented the fact that we can't accept a death certificate when someone brings one in to the Board of Elections office. This creates some very uneasy situations when loved ones still see the name on our books when the relatives know they have tried to rectify the situation. There are no party implications to this bill. Penny Brooks moved a motion we support the movement of this bill on to the trustees. Kim Zurz seconded the motion. The motion passed on a voice vote.

Brad Cromes had asked the group to address confidentiality for domestic violence voters. We are already redacting this info for police officers. It was suggested this was a good conversation for our group to have. The Secretary of State's office took this matter up; but then it went nowhere. When the SOS discussed, only the SOS was going to handle absentees for this group. There would have been a box to check on the existing forms for this group. The victim would then have to attach the judgment. Many other groups have

expressed interest in this exception of their info being available for the public to see. The discussion suggested we wait for Representative Stinziano or Clyde to show interest. The group decided not to weigh in until after Aaron has the opportunity to have some conversations with some legislators.

Split shifts for poll workers (by Rep. Landis) – Lisa Welch expressed that there are very few Democrats in Holmes County. The split shifts would allow their county to employ more people who do not want to work a 15-hour day or cannot work a 15-hour day for health reasons or whatever. The questions raised were:

Would we stagger shift change?

What would we do about people who do not show up?

How would the payroll sheet work?

If someone does not show up, does the first poll worker have to stay?

How would we handle the chain of custody?

How much would this idea raise our training costs?

The large counties commented that they see this as a logistical nightmare for them. Franklin County commented that it might double payroll for them. Another worry was that if smaller counties used this concept, and poll workers conversed across county lines, this could set a precedent that larger counties would not be able to deal with. Representative Landis values our input on this topic. Our group wants to see many questions answered before taking a stance on this issue. Aaron is going to speak with Representative Landis and bring this back up at a future meet. Lisa Welch asked the group to at least consider. Lisa feels Holmes is making a concession in that they do not need to vote on Sunday in their county, but the directives sometimes dictated they now do that. She would like to see consideration for her smaller county in this matter.

Aaron Ockerman made mention that the OAEO website had been hacked. It is hoped it will be up and running again very soon. Aaron also mentioned that several pieces of election legislation may become active in the month of October. Aaron will shoot an email to get us to discuss if we need to weigh in on any of this legislation.

Penny Brooks asked if anything had changed on the matter of taking absentee ballots to county hospitals. The particular concern was for poll workers who might have to deal with people who are in isolation. No decisions were made by the group in this matter.

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

While we are in this busy election season, no confirmed dates for a future meet were set. Aaron will send an email in the immediate future if this need changes.

Respectfully submitted,

*Peggy Byers*

Peggy Byers