

Ohio Association of Election Officials

Legislative Committee Meeting

February 13, 2017

The legislative committee of the Ohio Association of Election Officials met on Monday, February 13, 2017 at 2:30 PM via conference call. Tim Ward and Susie Bloom presided. Aaron Ockerman, executive director of the Ohio Association of Election Officials was also present and assisted with the lead when asked.

Peggy Byers called the roll today. Present were: Susan Bloom, Penny Brooks, Cheryle Browning, Jocelyn Bucaro, Peggy Byers, Judith Craig, Andrea Eastman, Amy Grubbe, Steve Harsman, Sally Krisel, Lyn McCoy, Ross McDonald, Carol Perry, Debbie Reiter, Luke Scott, Brian Sleeth, Stephanie Slifko, Michelle Wilcos, Kathy Wyenandt, Cecilia Blevins, Terry Burton, Stephanie Clase,,Kathi Creed, Sue Donohoe, Karla Herron, Jan Kelley, Sarah Kneuss, Julie Leathers, Renae Lentz, Brian Mead, Carla Patton, Shantiel Soeder, Olga Thomas, Tim Ward, Lisa Welch and Kay Wick.

Guests today: Beth Ann Snyder, Rob Frost, Jody O'Brien

The minutes had been sent out by email. Lisa Welch moved a motion the minutes be accepted. Renae Lentz seconded the motion. The motion passed.

First on the agenda today was an update on the money for new voting machines. Aaron says the committees are working toward this goal. The next step is to take a survey of the counties to see what the plans are to get a better estimate of what this project is actually going to cost. Aaron reported that he believes there are 6 vendors certified and involved. The Department of Administrative Services has reached out to each of these vendors. Aaron urged us to continue to reach out to our legislators. He has heard that many legislators have heard from their county commissioners. We are on track to make this happen. By the time the legislative committee meets next month, Aaron says the committee should have much more info for all of us.

HB 14 was introduced by Representative Kathleen Clyde who represents the 75th Ohio House District. This legislation would automatically register a person to vote when they turn 18 if they have an Ohio Driver's license or State I. D. They would have a 21 day period to withdraw if they wished. Aaron does believe this will get a hearing, but Aaron reported that Rep. Clyde has not been very successful in getting legislation passed. Tim Ward mentioned lack of the need for identification and the need for a signature for comparison. Amy Grubbe asked the group to talk with Rep. Clyde with our concerns. Carla Patton in Franklin County wants registration to be an opt in process, rather than opt out. Tim mentioned the problem with record retention. Jocelyn agreed there are several question about how this would be implemented. People should be registered to vote and voting. There are several states that are doing automatic registration successfully so Jocelyn asked that we explore. Carla continued her concern that we are relying on other agencies for the opt out. Amy Grubbe asked that we investigate more thoroughly. Lyn McCoy mentioned we should not reject thoughts on this issue just because it will cause more work for the Board of Elections. Susie Bloom, Sally Krisel, Amy Grubbe, Debbie Reiter and Jocelyn agreed to do some research with other states and bring their findings back to our committee. Aaron did not feel we needed to formalize the group. Debbie Reiter offered that we could offer our research to Rep. Clyde.

HB 18 – Eliminate unnecessary primaries

SB 10 – Eliminate unnecessary primaries

Aaron reported that SB10 contains many more of Paul Adams' thoughts. These pieces of legislation are pretty straight forward and awaiting a hearing.

SB21 is the reintroduction of SB 212 from last year. This bill would reduce the number of poll workers in counties that use electronic poll books. This bill would also get rid of the death notice. We were reminded the reduction in poll workers would not be mandatory. It would be up to the board in each individual county. This bill will be heard next Wednesday at 9:45 AM.

HB 41 would make in-person absentee voting similar to Election Day voting. There would no longer be an application or an envelope for the in-person voter. There is still some discussion about the kind of identification needed and how would the signature be captured. If a voter did not have identification, they could just fill out the application as they did in the past. Rep. Landis is working on an amendment to address these issues. Aaron will get that amendment to everyone to take a look at as soon as the amendment is available. Tim Ward suggested the section that indicates we will send our absentee ballots out to the precinct to be scanned there be deleted as none of us were doing that anyway. Tim also wanted some change on Page 37 about tabulating equipment. Karla Herron raised the issue of voters who voted in two counties because the duplication process was not entirely resolved yet. Karla wants us to be sure the voter is eligible. We will be waiting to see the amendment. Steve Harsman wants us to consider the reward and measure the risks. We can't legislate for everything.

Aaron put the item for using schools as polling places back on the agenda as he detected there was some concern in our group about an erosion of our authority to use schools as a polling place. There will be effort to coordinate the school calendar and the election calendar. The concern here is for municipalities that have charters that allow elections to pop up unplanned. How would we get those on the school calendar?

Adam Booth in Columbiana County asked why are Boards of Elections notifying candidates that their filing is due with the Ohio Elections Commission. Adam is suggesting we try to get this requirement eliminated. It was the consensus of the group that we would try to get this fixed.

Tim Ward raised the question of consolidating legal notices and the proclamation for the newspaper to save some money. Someone mentioned that not everyone is reading a newspaper anymore. Could we use websites and social media? Tim and Aaron were going to work on this issue.

SB 44 on campaign finance has been reintroduced. Aaron promised to send an update on where all of the bills are at this point.

Steve Harsman made a motion that the group adjourn. Amy Grubbe seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Peggy Byers

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