

Ohio Association of Election Officials

Legislative Committee Meeting

May 11, 2017

The legislative committee of the Ohio Association of Election Officials met on Thursday, May 11 at 1:30 PM via conference call. Tim Ward and Joyce Kale-Pesta 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: Penny Brooks, Cheryl Browning, Jocelyn Bucaro, Peggy Byers, Steve Harsman, Joyce Kale-Pesta, Sally Krisel, Sharo Locke, Ross McDonald, Carol Perry, Debbie Reiter, Luke Scott, Brian Sleeth, Stephanie Slifko, Michelle, Wilcox, Kathy Wyenandt, Tony Perlatti, Jeanette Mullane, Beth Goldenfield, Cecilia Blevins, Terry Burton, Sue Donohoe, Jan Kelley, Sarah Kneuss, Julie Leathers, Renae Lentz, Brian Mead, Carla Patton, Sherry Poland, Kristen Ross, Shantiel Soeder, Olga Thomas, Tim Ward, Lisa Welch, and Kay Wick.

Guests today: Jody O'Brien, Pam Miller, Curt Braden, Tom Gerrity, Kaylin Fox, Rob Frost

The minutes had been sent out by email. Jocelyn Bucaro moved a motion the minutes be accepted. Joyce Kale-Pesta seconded the motion. The motion passed.

The voting machine update said there is some money in the budget in order to reimburse for new voting equipment. Aaron expects full replacement to be in the budget before 2019. Aaron would love to see \$7 million in order to fully reimburse counties. Everyone acknowledges the need for the program, just trying to find the money now. Aaron shared there will be a demo in the statehouse on May 16 from 9 AM to 1 PM. Seven vendors will demo their offerings. Aaron feels like it will be left up to the counties and the Secretary of State to figure out the disbursement.

The absentee subcommittee met on the topics pertaining to an online absentee application and a permanent absentee application discussed at our January meeting. The meeting was held on Monday, March 20, 2017 via conference call and raised these questions for more discussion:

Permanent Absentee Voting request

- 1) How do you handle voter registration changes, such as address changes, name changes, or voters moving out of state?
- 2) How do you handle party affiliation? Do voters affiliate when they register or when they vote in a primary? If the latter, how do you address concerns from voters who want to change affiliation?
- 3) How do you address mailing address changes for voters who may spend part of their time at another address?

This group planned to talk to other states that have a permanent absentee. They also inquired about how those states handle registrations and party changes. This group met again on Monday, May 8, 2017 for a lively discussion. At the end of the day, everyone was to work on a list of pros and cons for the permanent absentee application. The next meeting for the absentee workgroup is planned for June 12, 2017.

Joyce Kale-Pesta asked Jocelyn if the committee was exploring anything where split school districts ending up with very few voters could do the entire election by mail in order to save money. Jocelyn explained it was not something on the group's agenda, but the group would take this item up in another meeting.

David Koehl, board member in Seneca County, wanted the group to talk about going back to hand counting ballots so we would not need all the money for the computerized systems we are using today. Hand counting would not be outdated every few years like our election equipment is often outdated. While there was a lengthy and lively discussion, at the end of the day, there was no support for this idea in this group.

On House Bill 49 concerning the dissolution of a village, Aaron just wanted us to know that he and others from our group had worked with Representative Sears on some language. Aaron says this language will be incorporated. The group is supportive of this.

House Bill 41 which allows an absentee voter to be treated more like an Election Day voter, incorporated the language our group wanted for an amendment. Tim Ward moved a motion our group support this legislation. Joyce Kale-Pesta seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Joyce Kale-Pesta pointed out language that required (3503.24, 3rd paragraph) notice for challenges within 3 days. The discussion indicated that with current turnaround on the mail, none of us could meet the requirements. When it came time for a vote on this matter, Joyce stated we should not change this part of the law at this time as it would hold up the bill and she really did not want to do that. Discussion closed with no vote on this point.

Senate Bill 135 is the supplemental operating appropriation bill – would reimburse counties that have already purchased voting equipment to the tune of \$7 million dollars. There would be \$82 million appropriated for the counties that still need to purchase new election equipment. The proposal is for an 80/20 (state/county) match. Tim Ward moved a motion the legislative committee support this legislation. Caleb Fox seconded the motion. The motion passed. The legislative committee will make this recommendation to the trustees.

Aaron had sent us some language and wanted us to bring up the definition of DRE so we could help some of the vendors to get their hybrid voting equipment certified. Joyce Kale-Pesta says the DREs will be the future of voting equipment. Joyce also predicted the E S & S Express Vote would be certified as a tabulator in the next five years. This device can be used as a touch screen marking device instead of pencil and paper. The discussion was heated and lively. Jocelyn wanted the group to be aware of the newest technology to be offered by Dominion. We should be able to see this machine at summer conference. Carla Patton wanted our group to support getting rid of the VPAT in the state of Ohio. Many counties did not want us to go back to paper ballots. Newer scanners take a picture of the ballot. Joyce says it is important to change the language now. Luke suggested we get the Secretary of State to take the first steps here. The group would like to see the language again. Aaron wants the vendors to have the opportunity to get their systems certified as a tabulator. These systems will be demonstrated at the statehouse on May 16 so Tim Ward suggested we table our discussion today. We should then take some time to see this equipment and how it works. Cheryl Browning moved a motion we table this discussion. Julie Leathers seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Ranae Lentz made a motion that the group adjourn. Jocelyn Bucaro seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Peggy Byers

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