

# Ohio Association of Election Officials

## Legislative Committee Meeting

### June 20, 2017

The legislative committee of the Ohio Association of Election Officials met on Tuesday, June 20, 2017 at 2:30 PM at the Student Union on the Ohio State Campus as a precursor to our Summer Election Conference. 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.

Some members also joined on a conference call. Peggy Byers called the roll today. Present were: Penny Brooks, Cheryl Browning, Peggy Byers, Judith Craig, Steve Harsman, Joyce Kale-Pesta, Sally Krisel, Sharon Locke, Lyn McCoy, Ross McDonald, Carol Perry, Debbie Reiter, Luke Scott, Stephanie Slifko, Michelle Wilcox, Kathy Wyenandt, Jeanette Mullane, Carolyn Adams, Terry Burton, Stephanie Clase, Sue Donohoe, Karla Herron, Jan Kelley, Sarah Kneuss, Renae Lentz, Brian Mead, Carla Patton, Sherry Poland, Shantiel Soeder, Olga Thomas, Tim Ward, Lisa Welch, and Kay Wick.

Guests today: Meredith Bodey, Jodi Flora, Lynn Mintchell, Beth Ann Snyder, Jane Hiveling, Pat Ziegler, Bill Rich, Dale Whitt, Chris Burnett, Tom Gerrity, Paul Adams, Jody O'Brien, Pam Miller, Kathy Meyer, Paul Johnson, Stephanie Aker, Rob Frost, Curt Braden, Rob Frost, Cecilia (Huron County).

The minutes had been sent out by email. Jeanette Mullane moved a motion the minutes be accepted. Kathy Wyenandt seconded the motion. The motion passed.

There was no old business to discuss today.

Aaron relayed that HB 222 allows for the use of a Concealed Carry License as voter identification. Aaron pointed out that a CCL is already allowed to be used for voter identification. He will get with the bill sponsor and give him that information.

Aaron reported on HB 237. This bill to says each county should use county overlap software to assure no counties are missed when ballot issues pertain to several counties. The state would like us to purchase software to assure no counties are missed. Dan Shebasta and Triad are going to offer a software solution. All are waiting to see the final bill to see what is necessary to be included.

Carla Patton brought up the matter of how ballot language is to appear on the ballot. She was concerned with upper and lower case, etc. Aaron agreed this might be a good time to address this issue. Carla agreed to head this venture.

House Bill 274 is Representative Clyde's bill on purging and list maintenance. The Supreme Court has agreed to hear the case on this matter. Everyone is just waiting to see how the Supreme Court does rule on this before proceeding.

Senate Bill 249 pertains to allowing schools to be used as polling places. The intent of this bill is to be sure that students are out of the building on Election Days. Paul Adams reported that many of the schools in his county have auditoriums and gymnasiums that are away from the school population so they have been operating in schools for some time. Tim Ward says there is a waiver to allow for this to continue being the case.

Senate Bill 10 would eliminate unnecessary primary elections. It has passed out of the Senate and is pending in the House. Aaron expects good results.

Senate Bill 21 is the bill that would allow counties to reduce the number of poll workers in multi-precinct locations. There was an attempt to get this attached to the Budget Bill so it could get passed immediately, but this did not happen. There is a real strong desire to get this passed. The legislature does want to help us to save this money. Aaron does not expect we will get this before the legislature adjourns, but he does expect it will be brought back early in the fall. I asked Aaron if there would be a chance this legislation could be in place before the November Election, but Aaron did not feel it could happen that soon.

Senate Bill 44 has to do with local campaign finance. Aaron states this bill will allow local candidates to file their campaign finance reports online. This bill has passed the Senate and has moved on to the house.

House Bill 18 has to do with unnecessary primaries. This bill only deals with special congressional elections. It is not all encompassing like Senate Bill 10. This bill has passed the House and is on to the Senate.

House Bill 41 deals with eliminating the application and envelope for voters who choose to vote early at the county selected site. Peggy Byers and Tim Ward testified on this bill. There have been some amendments. If someone does not have identification with them, they can still fill out an absentee application and vote a regular ballot. This was important for the group to get this language added.

House Bill 49 is the budget. It does contain 1 million dollars to reimburse counties who have already purchased election equipment. In this budget, there is no language for a 50/50 match. This budget says the money will be distributed on a per voter basis. This is the legislature's good will gesture. They understand the problem. The legislature will come back in the fall or spring and put together a full program for replacement of voting equipment. Counties cannot absorb this cost on their own. Joyce Kale-Pesta asked about leasing. Aaron said the language does include leasing. Tim Ward made note that \$7 million has already been spent so \$1 million is not going to make anybody whole.

Aaron thanked the trustees for allowing him to go to the National Conference of State Legislators. He says many states are looking at replacing voting equipment. We are not alone and probably ahead of the curve. Cheryl Browning wanted to thank our association for working with the commissioners. It was noted that this made the communication go much more smoothly for many of the counties who commented.

Janet Carson brought up the possibility for a split shift day for poll workers. After discussion, it was discovered there was no support in this group for this issue.

Tim Ward asked the group to comment on how the 65% collection in advance for funds to cover a special election had gone for them. It was noted that the counties added in the additional hours we have had to work in overtime. While the Secretary of State did provide a form for this, there was some discussion on improvement to this process. Someone brought up getting rid of the August specials in Ohio, but Aaron did not feel this was the time to approach this issue with the legislature. Aaron noted there were counties who were sending all their voters to another county, but they had to still remain open for all the overtime hours. Aaron said this would stay this way until the lawsuit is settled.

Aaron says we have to get through this cycle and get our money for machines, but he thinks we should consider requesting that all chargeback money be put in to a separate fund in the future so we don't find ourselves in this same position in another few years. The group was receptive to this idea.

Carla Patton made a motion that the group adjourn. Steve Harsman seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

*Peggy Byers*  
Peggy Byers