

Ohio Association of Election Officials

Legislative Committee Meeting

January 10, 2018

The legislative committee of the Ohio Association of Election Officials met on Wednesday, January 10, 2018 at 1:00 PM at the winter conference for the Ohio Association of Election Officials which was held at the downtown Columbus Hilton. 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, Beth Goldenfield, Judith Craig, Steve Harsman, Joyce Kale-Pesta, Sally Krisel, Ed Leonard, Sharon Locke, Ross McDonald, Jeanette Mullane, Tony Perlatti, Carol Perry, Debbie Reiter, Luke Scott, Bill Rich, Stephanie Slifko, Michelle, Wilcox, John Welker, Cecili Blevins, Terry Burton, Stephanie Clase, Kathi Creed, Sue Donohoe (excused), Jane Hanley, Karla Herron, Jan Kelley, Julia Leathers, Renae Lentz, Carla Patton, Sherry Poland, Kristen Ross, Shantiel Soeder, Olga Thomas, Tim Ward, Lisa Welch, Tonya Wichman and Kay Wick.

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

First on the agenda today was the naming of a committee for a Future of Elections Task Force. On the Republican side, Tim Ward said he wished to defer his appointments to Rob Frost who is the incoming 1st Vice President for the Ohio Association of Election Officials. Jocelyn asked for volunteers on the Democratic side. She will be announcing that committee shortly. This will be a brainstorming task force. She does not expect all of the work to be done in one year. Rob expects to announce his appointments shortly.

On the legislative update for Senate Bill 10 (unnecessary primaries), Aaron reported that Paul Adams (Lorain County) had testified this morning in favor of this bill. It has passed out of the Senate and had its second hearing in the House today. Aaron expects this bill to pass, just not in time to help with this primary season.

Senate Bill 21 (reduce the number of poll workers in multiple precinct locations if you use electronic poll books). There was some discussion about folding this in to the budget bill in the spring. Obviously this did not happen, but Aaron has it on word from the Senate President that they want to get this done and over to the House in the very near future. The death notice provision that was part of the original bill has been removed.

Senate Bill 44 (local campaign finance/recall reform) would allow local candidates to file their campaign finance reports electronically with the Secretary of State. It has passed the Senate, is now out of the House Committee and is just waiting on a floor vote in the House. At that point, it will be headed to the Governor for a signature. There was an amendment thanks to Joe and Sherry from Hamilton County that deals with municipal charter recalls. There was some language inserted to clarify the timeframes. Passage of this bill and a signature by the Governor is eminent.

House Bill 42 (early in-person voting procedures) has passed the House, is pending in the Senate. Aaron says he plans to meet with the Senate President next week with the hopes of keeping this bill moving along. When Aaron was asked if we would see this bill in use this year, Aaron responded that it hopes are to get it passed in the spring so it may be in place for the November Election,

When Aaron was asked about the death notices that were originally a part of Senate Bill 21, Aaron expressed the legislation had been separated with the hopes of the getting the in-person voting legislation passed. Aaron said we might be able to get this legislation reintroduced at a later date.

Carla Patton asked what had happened with House Bill 237 concerning the legislation to provide software for overlapping county issues. Aaron says it did get a couple of hearings and the interest is there. The problem is financial. The state is just not in the mood to make the appropriation for the software with the need for new voting equipment still on the agenda. Aaron had suggested that the state try to get some money in the capital budget for this project. Carla expressed that this needs to be a statewide project so none of us have problems with overlapping counties. Aaron reported that some counties have moved on their own to purchase this software. It is hoped Dan Shebasta will be on the agenda for our District Meetings. It was the consensus of the group that we do want to get this legislation moving.

Ed Leonard started a discussion about where we were on allowing electronic ballot images to be the official ballot for retention. You can have multiple copies in various places for security reasons. As we move forward, our group definitely wants to keep this discussion alive.

There was then an extensive discussion on securing money for new voting equipment. Aaron reported the number being floated just now is \$118 million dollars which he suspects will be distributed based on the number of registered voters in each county. It is hoped we will know much more as early as this summer. Of particular concern to the group was those counties who have purchased or are leasing their equipment already. Much of the discussion centered on the Department of Administrative Services and whether we will get the most bang for the buck with their negotiating practices. Are we going to be able to get the latest or greatest technology?

Carla Patton made a motion that the group adjourn. Jane Hanley seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Peggy Byers

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