

**Ohio Association of Election Officials**  
**Legislative Committee Meeting**  
**Emergency Meeting**  
**March 15, 2018**

The legislative committee of the Ohio Association of Election Officials met for an emergency meeting on Thursday, March 15, 2018 at 10:00 AM on a conference call to further discuss the monetary distribution of state funds for new voting machines. 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, Ed Leonard, Sharon Locke, Ross McDonald, Jeanette Mullane, Tony Perlatti, Carol Perry, Luke Scott, Bill Rich, Stephanie Slifko, Michelle, Wilcox, John Welker, Terry Burton, Stephanie Clase, Sue Donohoe, Jane Hanley, Karla Herron, Jan Kelley, Sarah Kneuss, Julia Leathers, Renae Lentz, Brian Mead, Carla Patton, Sherry Poland, Kristen Ross, Shantiel Soeder, Olga Thomas, Tim Ward, and Lisa Welch.

The meeting was called to discuss the distribution of the funds for the new voting equipment. There has been a group of Ohio Association of Election Officials that has been regularly meeting with a group from the County Commissioners Association of Ohio. From those meetings, there was a spreadsheet derived that would allow the smallest county enough funding to purchase new voting machines. The larger counties were concerned the formulas on this spreadsheet would leave them short on the number of pieces of equipment they need to conduct an election. The formulas were debated for approximately 90 minutes. Aaron continually cautioned the group that we did not want to make any moves that would jeopardize this funding.

On March 16, 2018, Aaron sent these words to follow up:

*I am humbled and honored to be a part of this group. It was a difficult discussion today to say the least. But I could not be more proud of each and every one of you for ultimately supporting each other in this effort. I said all along that I personally was less concerned about who got what and more concerned that we arrived at a consensus. That is exactly what happened, and it will prove to be invaluable as the process moves forward.*

*The debate was spirited, but respectful. It was emotional but even-keeled. I am quite certain that no one got exactly what they wanted, but as was said on the call, given the limitations in overall funding, maybe that is for the best. To quote the great philosopher Mick Jagger, "You can't always get what you want. But if you try sometimes, you just might find, you get what you need."*

*And we need \$115 million for voting machines. You are all in crisis mode trying to patch together your voting systems. This legislation will change all that. We will all benefit greatly from its passage. Unfortunately, we began to speak in terms of winners and losers. There are NO LOSERS in this group. We are all WINNERS!*

*With this discussion behind us, we can now move forward in a unified and bipartisan way to support funding for voting equipment. I pledge to you that I will do everything I can to get every nickel available for you. The hard work you all did today will make my job infinitely easier, and I commit to doing my best for EVERY county in this state, be they big, small or somewhere in between.*

After a long discussion and a roll call vote at the meeting, it was decided the group would support the initial spreadsheet that was agreed upon by the Task Force assigned to work on with the Commissioners' Group. Penny Brooks made a motion that the group adjourn. Renae Lentz seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

*Peggy Byers*

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