

MINUTES

WASHINGTON COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTION August 11, 2009

35 W. Washington Street
Hagerstown, MD 21740
240-313-2050

Present:

Board

Eileen Wiggins, President
John Benchoff, Democratic Member
Clyde Tate, Republican Member
Sharon Washington, Democratic Alternate
Carroll Earp, Republican Alternate
Roger Schlossberg, Attorney

Staff

Dorothy Kaetzel, Election Director, I
Kaye Robucci, Deputy Director, I

Eileen Wiggins called the meeting to order at 2:00 PM. There was a quorum present.

Approval of Minutes of July 14, 2009

Eileen Wiggins asked if the Board had any corrections or modifications to the minutes of the July 14, 2009 Board Meeting. Eileen Wiggins requested the 1st sentence under Member Remarks to be removed. Approved as corrected.

Additions/Changes to the Agenda:

Dorothy Kaetzel requested the following additions to the agenda:

Correspondence: Boundary Change

Old Business: E-mails from Greg Murray and Kristin Aleshire and MAEO Early Voting Implementation Plan

Correspondence:

A. Inactive Voters

Letter from Attorney General, Sandra Brantley, to Linda Lamone, Administrator SBE, regarding the exclusion of inactive voters to determine the quantity of early voting sites. Roger Schlossberg, Attorney, said there is a conflict between Federal Law and the Maryland Constitution. HAVA (Federal Law) allows for the removal of inactive voters from the registration rolls but currently the Maryland Constitution does not make provisions for keeping two separate lists of voters (active and inactive).

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B. Early Voting Proposed Regulations

The Early Voting Regulations have been adopted by the State Board. They are scheduled to be published in the September 11, 2009 edition of the Maryland Register.

Roger Schlossberg, Attorney, responded to Nikki Trella, SBE, regarding the Early Voting Proposed Regulations. Roger Schlossberg requested for the series of conference calls between the attorneys to begin now.

C. Boundary Change

Memo from Donna Duncan, SBE, regarding the request for boundary changes as specified by law. On July 29, 2009 the State Board approved the request.

Reports:

A. MAEO Attorney Breakout Session:

Roger Schlossberg, Attorney, reported on the Attorney Breakout Session at MAEO. The following was discussed:

- Petitions and what constitutes an acceptable signature
 - Montgomery County had 10,000 challenges to a petition.
 - Section 6-203(1) of the current law must be followed; it says “sign the individual’s name as it appears on the statewide voter registration list or the individual’s surname of registration and at least one full given name and the initials of any other names”.
- Voting System Procurement
- Referrals to State Prosecutor’s Office
 - Few cases are prosecuted
 - Lack of follow-up information to the LBE’s

B. Election Director’s Conference Call – August 4, 2009

Kaye Robucci reported on the Conference Call held August 4. The following items were discussed:

- RFP – two contracts
 - Hardware – deadline is September 4, 2009
 - Services – deadline will be around September 4, 2009 due to requested extension
- Early Voting
 - Regulations were approved by SBE
 - Ballot on Demand Printers will only be given to counties with over 20 ballot styles

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- UOCAVA Summary
 - SB1415 – would simplify voter registration and voting for UOCAVA voters. It would remove the requirement of the 2-election cycle request
- Furloughs – more are expected
- Biennial
 - Board – held 1 day between October 22 and October 30, 2009
 - Staff – later in the year

Old Business:

A. Early Voting Facility

Dorothy Kaetzel updated the Board on the e-mail correspondence between herself, the County Commissions and County Administrator, Greg Murray

- July 9, 2009 – e-mail from Dorothy Kaetzel to all County Commissioners requesting their assistance in locating an early voting site
- July 15, 2009 – e-mail from Commissioner, Kristin Aleshire, asking if any response had been received. No response had been received
- July 15, 2009 – e-mail from Commissioner, Kristin Aleshire, indicating he had sent the information on to County Administrator, Greg Murray
- July 31, 2009 – e-mail from Dorothy Kaetzel to Greg Murray indicating that she would need to budget for an early voting site if the county doesn't have a location
- August 10, 2009 – Dorothy Kaetzel sent the Early Voting Regulations to County Commissioners and Greg Murray
- August 11, 2009 – e-mail from Greg Murray indicating that communication had occurred and the county had several sites in mind

If Dorothy Kaetzel doesn't hear from Greg Murray she will call him about their proposed sites. We are to plan for 800 voters a day during early voting. The Board discussed possible sites: Valley Mall, Longmeadow Shopping Center, South End Shopping Center and the Phoenix Color Building.

The Board liked the idea of using the Phoenix Color Building. Roger Schlossberg, Attorney, suggested sending a letter to County Administrator, Greg Murray, with copies to the County Commissioners and Sherriff Mullendore; reminding them of our need for the "common area" for election worker training classes and possible early voting site. Include our schedule for training and early voting dates and a reminder that the floor needs to be fixed.

B. MAEO Early Voting Implementation Plan

The Early Voting Implementation Plan was distributed. An Early Voting Task Force has been created.

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C. Picnic

The office picnic will be held Friday, August 14, 2009 at 6:00 PM at the home of Clyde and Sadie Tate.

New Business:

Doris James showcased the new Tutto supply bags on wheels

Member Remarks:

No remarks at this time

Executive Session:

Sharon Washington made a motion to go into executive session at 3:05 PM to consult with counsel; Carroll Earp seconded the motion and all were in favor. Regular session resumed at 3:10 PM.

Adjournment:

The next Board Meeting will be September 8, 2009.

There being no further business to come before the Board at this time, Clyde Tate made a motion to adjourn at 3:13 PM, Carroll Earp seconded the motion and all were in favor.

Compiled by
Kaye E. Robucci
Election Deputy Director, I

Respectfully Submitted,

Eileen Wiggins
Eileen Wiggins, Board President

9/8/09
Date

Carroll Earp
Carroll Earp, Board Secretary

9/8/09
Date