

MINUTES

WASHINGTON COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTION

November 9, 2004

35 W. Washington Street

Hagerstown, MD 21740

240-313-2050

Present:

Board

Charles Mobley, Jr., President

Marianne Schneider, Democratic Member

John Barr, Republican Member

Eileen Wiggins, Democratic Alternate

Gregory Bannon, Attorney

Staff

Dorothy M. Kaetzel, Election Director, I

Kaye E. Robucci, Election Deputy Director, I

Guest

Carroll Earp

Charles Mobley called the meeting to order at 2:04 PM. There was a quorum present.

Approval of Minutes of October

Charles Mobley asked if the board had any corrections or modifications to the minutes of the October 12, 2004; Board Meeting. There being no corrections or modifications, the minutes were approved as submitted.

Addition/Changes to the Agenda:

Dorothy Kaetzel requested that a letter from an election worker and Attorney Minutes be discussed under Correspondence.

Correspondence:

A. Resignation Letter & Response Letter

Resignation letter was received from Dorothy Waters, Republican Alternate. Dorothy Waters is resigning due to health reasons. Charles Mobley sent a letter to Dorothy Waters thanking her for her years of service and how much she will be missed.

B. TrueVoteMV vs. State Board of Elections

Memo from Judith Arnold, Office of the Attorney General, regarding TrueVoteMD vs. State Board of Elections. Judge J. Frederick Motz upheld the 100' "No Electioneering" zone. Election Workers should not accept a Challenger and Watcher certificate signed by TrueVoteMD and they are not permitted within the 100' "no electioneering" zone.

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C. Substitute Board Members

Minutes of the County Commissioners Meeting regarding the 2004 Salary Study Commission were discussed. The Commission recommended the salary of the substitute board members be increased from \$50 to \$75 per day. The County Commissioners will make recommendation to the delegation.

D. 2005 Legislation

Memo from Donna Duncan, SBE, regarding 3 SBE Departmental Legislative Proposals that have been accepted by the Governor's Legislative Office for the 2005 Session.

E. Parallel Testing

Press Release received from SBE regarding parallel testing. Parallel Testing was conducted on Election Day. The results were 100% accuracy of the voting system.

F. Voter Complaint & Response

A voter e-mailed Gregory Snook, President, County Commissioners, complaining about the electronic voting equipment. Gregory Snook forwarded the complaint to Dorothy Kaetzel. Dorothy Kaetzel sent a response explaining the process of reviewing the ballot and the "Cast Ballot" button. She also enclosed the Voter Instruction Guide and a copy of the press release regarding the Parallel Testing.

G. Election Worker Complaint

Letter from an Election Worker at District 18-3 regarding issues on election day and some suggestions.

H. Attorney Telephone Conference – October 18, 2004

Minutes of the telephone conference with the LBE Attorneys was distributed.

I. Resignation Letter

Marianne Schneider, Democratic Member, is resigning effective January 31, 2005. The Board regretfully accepted her resignation.

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Reports:

A. Security Updates

Charles Mobley met with the Emergency Operation Center on November 1, 2004. There were no known threats at that time. Alternate polling sites were in place. Dorothy Kaetzel will send a thank you note to the 5 alternate sites.

B. Back-up Gems Server

The back-up Gems Server was moved to a secure location.

C. Canvass Progress

Write-ins will be canvassed on Wednesday, November 10, 2004. The extended deadline for overseas absentee ballots is November 12, 2004. The Board will meet at 10:00 AM to canvass those ballots.

Charles Mobley complimented the staff for doing a great job with the pre-election, election day, and post-election day work.

Old Business:

No Old Business

New Business:

A. Christmas Party

The annual Christmas Party will be held at the Fireside Restaurant on Wednesday, December 1, 2004 at 6:00 PM.

Executive Session

Motion made by Marianne Schneider to enter into executive session at 2:38 PM for discussion of personnel matters; John Barr seconded the motion and all were in favor. Carroll Earp was excused from the Executive Session. Regular session resumed at 3:00 PM.

Members Remarks:

The Board discussed the following items:

- The need to subdivide the following districts: Districts 7-0, 6-0, 13-0 and 2-0.
- New Statewide Voter Registration System. Training will be conducted in 2005. We may be getting more computers.
- More staff is needed
- Technical person is needed
- Communication problems on election day
- District 5-0 – Handicapped entrance was closed. Review for handicap accessibility.
- In Service Day at the Schools on November 1 & 2, 2004. The Board will write a letter to the Board of Education expressing our total dissatisfaction with Parent/Teacher Conferences being held on election day. We lost poll workers and received complaints about the lack of parking because of the conferences being held. The letter will be sent to the Elected School Board with a copy to Dr. Elizabeth Morgan and Jeffrey Harr.

Scheduling of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Washington County Board of Elections will be held December 14, at 2:00 PM at the Board Office.

Adjournment:

There being no further business to come before the Board at this time; Marianne Schneider made a motion to adjourn at 3:18 PM and John Barr seconded the motion. Unanimously approved.

Respectfully Submitted,


Charles L. Mobley, Jr., Board President 12/14/04
Date


Kaye E. Robucci, Election Deputy Dir. 11-17-04
Date