

PROCEEDINGS

WASHINGTON COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS February 8, 2000

Present: Richard L. Coss, President
Charles Mobley, Jr., Republican Member
Marianne Schneider, Democratic Member
Dorothy M. Waters, Republican Alternate
Dorothy M. Kaetzel, Election Director II
Sharon C. Mackereth, Democratic Election Registrar

Richard Coss called the meeting to order at 2:00 PM. Jim Sprecher, Democratic Alternate, Roger Schlossberg, Board Attorney, and Kaye E. Robucci, Election Deputy Director I, were absent.

MINUTES: Marianne Schneider made a motion and Dot Waters seconded that the minutes of January 11, 2000 meeting be approved as submitted. All were in favor.

CORRESPONDENCE: Memo from Kurt A. Horning, SBE regarding the Tactile Ballot Overlay for the visually impaired, informing us that use of the ballot overlay is being postpone. We do not need to offer this service in the March 2000 Primary.

The Board discussed several topics from the State Board of Elections minutes from December 8, 1999. -

The transition to the Local Election Management System (LEMS) is not widely accepted in the state. Four counties have refused to go on the system until after the November, 2000 elections. The new system is not what we expected. Many of the applications we need are not there.

Attention was called in reference to a proposal to be included in the annual salary review package of Dept. of Budget and Management (DBM) that will be presented to the legislature during the 2000 legislative session on election series classifications.

The Challenger and Watcher issue was brought up in the minutes with reference to the fact that several local boards agree that a candidate should not be a challenger and watcher. Washington County Election Board will continue to disallow candidates to be a challenger or a watcher.

The issue of employee immigration status was examined and we wonder why the State would hire someone who is not a citizen, when one has to be a citizen to register to vote.

OLD BUSINESS: The Policy for Public Communications on election day was reviewed and the board adopted the following policy for the purpose of implementing Regulation 07.03.02(C). An "Election Day Communication" does not include telephone calls or personal visits to the Election Office wherein information is requested and provided relating only to the hours of operation, location and directions to polling places and all other substantive matters shall be logged. Jim Mobley made the motion and Marianne seconded and the motion was carried.

A discussion followed on the registrant that was not a citizen. Roger Schlossberg, the Board Attorney, counseled that this should be sent to Stephen Montanarelli, State Prosecutor for investigation. It is clearly evident that Ubence Santos Villata did violate the Maryland Election Code 515 and 528. The Board agreed unanimously to send a letter already written by our attorney to Mr. Montanarelli. The Board made a motion to cancel the registration by reason of not being a citizen. The motion was carried.

A draft letter to Linda Lamone regarding the maintenance fee on the new registration system has been completed and the Board agreed that it should be restructured as a letter from our Board President.

The Absentee Ballot Tabulating Procedure was reviewed and Dorothy informed the Board that Donna Duncan, of SBE, approved the procedures as submitted. Jim Mobley made the motion to adopt the procedures as policy and Marianne second. The motion was carried.

Polling Place Accessibility surveys were reviewed and there are still eight of the 43 polling places to be surveyed. Norman Bassett has completed his assigned locations but he needs to complete the paper work. The following is an update on three districts -

District 20, Old Downsville School - Dorothy heard from Clyde Gaylor; he stated that the accessibility problem will be taken care of. A follow-up survey will need to be done. Richard and Dot were asked to do a follow-up check.

District 24, Horst Fencing - Norman Naylor talked with Dorothy and he is not pleased with the way Norman Bassett suggested repairing the threshold. The Board agreed Horst Fencing has to be used this time, as with Big Pool.

District 11-2, Potomac Valley Fire Hall - Dorothy received a call from Ronnie Gray and he agreed to take down all tables not needed for election day.

The Board reviewed the issue of Temporary Certificates and the first motion was made by Jim Mobley and second by Marianne to give the staff the authority to do Temporary Certificates on election day. The motion carried.

Dorothy questioned the Board about the time for the Public Test on February 23rd. The L & A Test is scheduled for 8:00AM and we would like the Public Test to be at 11:30AM. It will not take long to run the L & A Test, because ballot is small and we only have two styles.

The Board was informed of the schedule for visiting nursing homes for absentee voting by the residents. If any Board members would like to join us on those days it would be appreciated.

NEW BUSINESS: Dorothy is working on the Election Day Schedule. The Board will get a copy once completed.

The Polling Place visitation list was revised with each of the Board Members given a list of the Polling Places they are to visit on Election Day. Roger would like to visit some of the Polling Places, also. The Polling Place checklist was revised with the addition of the Hourly Turnout Record and change the word "offered" to "given", under Privacy Folders. On the General Election, Polling Place Checklist, the Write-in list should be added, as a check off item.

Jim will check on getting Boy Scouts for election night. Terry Brewer, who has helped us before on Saturday morning with supplies, has developed health problems and we are not sure he will be able to assist us this time. Jim will inquire. Parking might be a problem on election day, because of the construction down back. Dorothy will inquire about getting spaces out front, a few down back and possibly some in the parking deck. Dorothy will call Jason Malott and Mark Brugh, to see if they can help on election night.

Richard and Jim will pick up election material hopefully on Wednesday, February 16th, or Thursday, February 17th.

The Board reviewed Subtitle 07 Election Day Activities and Roger Schlossberg's comments.

Chapter 01 - no comment.

Chapter 02 - we do have a plan in existence for the delivery of voting units and other election day equipment and materials to the polling place.

Chapter 03 - regarding 03.02(B) obliging Board Members to be provided with direct means of communication to the Board Office on Election Day. In light of the practice of this office to utilize Substitute Members and Board Counsel, they should also be provided with such direct means of communication.

Chapter 04 - it is agreed by the present Board Members to use what has been offered by our Board Attorney as comment on this chapter. In regards to including Challengers and Watchers and the required conduct of the same while in the polls.

Chapter 05 - we have guidelines established in regards to Special Assistance at the polling place on election day.

Chapter 06 - it is agreed by the present Board Members to use what has been offered by our Board Attorney as comment on this chapter, with emphasis on the inserted parenthetical section at the beginning of the chapter.

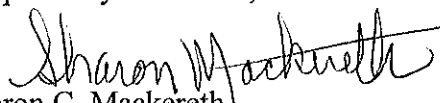
Chapter 07 - no comment.

Election Day Menu was discussed.

Next meeting March 14, 2000.

Marianne Schneider made a motion to adjourn at 4:35 PM; Jim Mobley seconded the motion and all were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,


Sharon C. Mackereth
Democratic Election Registrar