

PROCEEDINGS

BOARD OF ELECTION SUPERVISORS
FOR WASHINGTON COUNTY
MAY 13, 1997

Present: Richard L. Coss, President
Daris Phillips, Democrat Member
Charles L. Mobley, Jr. Republican Member
Roger Schlossberg, Democrat Alternate
Dorothy M. Waters, Republican Alternate
Mark Brugh, Attorney
Dorothy M. Kaetzel, Election Director II
Kaye E. Robucci, Election Deputy Director I

Richard Coss called the meeting to order at 2:02 p.m.

MINUTES: Daris motioned and Dot seconded that the minutes of the meeting held on April 8, 1997 be approved as submitted. All were in favor.

CORRESPONDENCE: The tracking charts as of the close of the Legislative Session on April 7, 1997 were distributed.

Memo from Gene Raynor, SABEL, regarding precinct boundaries was discussed. No new precincts or changes to existing precinct boundaries may be made from March 1, 1998 through November 5, 2002.

Suggested topics for the 1997 Biennial Meeting were sent to Donna Duncan. Those topics included: absentee ballot procedures, targeted confirmation mailings and military persons appearing to vote at the office on Election Day.

HB 1237 to increase the Washington County Board of Education to seven members was discussed. Dorothy sent a letter to Don Munson, Senator, asking that a provision be made in the bill to allow the top 3 vote receivers be elected for a 4 year term and the fourth and fifth candidates be elected for two years. This would allow for the staggered terms of 4 members and 3 members to begin.

Minutes of the SABEL Board Meeting held March 19, 1997 were distributed.

HR 961 was discussed. HR 961 is a result of a poll worker in California who worked one day and then filed for unemployment benefits and received them. Joe Torre, SABEL, is requesting our position on the issue. The Board is in support of HR 961.

Memo from Richard Douglas, County Attorney, regarding legislative requests for 1998 was distributed. This issue was tabled until the new Board takes office in June.

Information from the Commission to Revise the Election Code was distributed and discussed. Dorothy referred to the letter of April 29 from Robert Worcester, Maryland Business for Responsive Government, to Gene Raynor. Mr. Worcester interprets NVRA to indicate that any target mailings must be applied to the entire jurisdiction; thus many counties including Washington County are not in compliance. To date, no reply has been received from Gene Raynor.

OLD BUSINESS: Dorothy informed the Board that Rod Shoop, County Administrator, and Bob Graff, Facilities Administrator, visited the office on April 17. In FY98, the State plans on purchasing the Groh Building and District Court will relocate there. Renovations will then be done on the District Court Building and once completed the Election Board will have a ground floor office there. They indicated the time frame would be five years. The Board suggested that a letter be written to Rod Shoop reiterating what took place, and outlining our special needs such as loading dock access, storage space and accessible office. Jim suggested that we keep a "new office file" for all documentation to allow any new board members or staff members to keep updated on what has transpired.

Mark distributed copies of a letter to Don Munson and John Donoghue, requesting that legislative redistricting be implemented to allow those voters living in areas annexed by the City of Hagerstown to vote at the same polling place for all elections. Roger suggested that at the MAEO meeting in June, we ask other counties how they handle annexed areas. Mark will bring up the issue in the attorney's meeting. It was also suggested to inform the County Commissioners of the change. Mark will revise the footnote on page two to read "currently no voters in 26-1 are in the annexed area."

Mark distributed copies of letter to Stephen Montanarelli, State Prosecutor, regarding Juanita D. Rowley. Ms. Rowley registered to vote on September 23, 1996; we then received a conviction notice indicating that Ms. Rowley had been convicted of a felony on September 10, 1996. Furthermore, Ms. Rowley voted in the November 1996 General Election.

Dorothy and Kaye attended the Kids' Voting Meeting in Baltimore County. Discussed problems encountered during the general election.

Personnel training, Phase I, will be held May 28 from 9:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. at HJC. Dorothy and Kaye will attend. Phase II will be held June 13, from 9:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. at HJC. Kaye, Sharon and Sherrie will attend. Dorothy will attend that session at a later date. Dorothy informed the Board that they were welcome to attend the training sessions.

The staff will not be in the office on June 13 due to the training session and on June 16 - 18 due to MAEO. Jim made a motion to contact Audrey and Doris to work in the office on June 13, 16, 17 & 18, 1997. Daris seconded the motion and all were in favor.

All staff and board members will be attending MAEO.

NEW BUSINESS: Dorothy and Kaye asked the Board if they could combine several city precincts due to the small number of voters in these areas. The precincts would include:

- Combining districts 22-1, 22-2 and 22-3 to create district 22-0. The Army Reserve is large enough to accommodate the 2100 voters.
- Combining districts 17-2 & 17-3 to be called 17-2.
- Combining district 25-2 & 25-3 to be called 25-2.

The Board expressed the following concerns: confusion to the voters due to changing their districts and precincts, moving the voters in 22-1 to a new

polling place and the possibility of having precincts not in numerical sequence. The Board will consider the idea. The Board recommended notifying the Mayor and City Council as to the proposed changes and if they have any questions they may attend a future board meeting.

Discussed adding an additional alphabetical breakdown at districts 6, 7, 13, and 18-1 due to the large number of voters. This would give each district 4 binders. The Board was concerned with the room layout in several of the districts. Jim suggested contacting the chief judges to get their recommendations for the best layout. Richard suggested having signs posted outside the voting room directing the voters to the correct line. Roger made motion to add additional binders at districts 6, 7, 13 and 18-1; Daris seconded the motion, all were in favor.

Next meeting June 10, 1997.

The Board will meet on June 10 at 1:45 p.m. at the Clerk's office to be sworn in. Their organizational meeting will follow.

Mark apologized for not being available the last several months. He is very interested in continuing as attorney for the Board. At this time, Mark excused himself from the meeting.

Motion made by Roger and seconded by Daris to adjourn the meeting at 3:44 p.m. to confer in closed session.

Respectfully submitted,



Kaye E. Robucci
Election Deputy Director I