

MINUTES
WASHINGTON COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTION
December 14, 2004
35 W. Washington Street
Hagerstown, MD 21740
240-313-2050

Present:

Board

Charles Mobley, Jr., President
Marianne Schneider, Democratic Member
John F. Barr, Republican Member
Eileen Wiggins, Democratic Alternate

Staff

Kaye E. Robucci, Deputy Director I
Sharon C. Mackereth, Election Data Application Spec. II

Charles Mobley called the meeting to order at 2:08PM. Greg Bannon, Board Attorney, was not present. There was a quorum present.

Approval of Minutes of November 9, 2004

Charles Mobley asked if the Board had any corrections or modifications to the minutes of the November 9, 2004, Board Meeting. John Barr made a motion that the minutes be approved as submitted and Marianne Schneider seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Charles Mobley asked if the Board had any corrections or modifications to the minutes of the November 9, 2004, Closed Door Meeting. Without objection, minutes were approved as submitted.

Charles Mobley asked if the Board had any additions or corrections to the minutes of the several Board of Canvassers meetings:

Organizational Meeting, held on November 2, 2004 was approved as submitted.
Absentee Ballot Canvassing I, held on November 4, 2004 was approved as submitted.
Provisional Ballot Canvassing, held on November 8, 2004 was approved as submitted.
Write-in Canvassing, held on November 10, 2004 was approved as submitted.
Absentee Ballot Canvassing II, held on November 12, 2004 was approved as submitted.

Addition/Changes to the Agenda:

Kaye Robucci requested that e-mail to Linda Lamore, regarding vacancies on our Board and follow up letter be discussed under Correspondence.

Correspondence:

- A. Letter to Jeff Harr, Facilities Operations Manager for Washington County Board of Education, regarding activities at schools, used as polling places, on Election Day.

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- B. Memo from Joe Torre, Regulations Coordinator SBE, regarding regulations in COMAR Title 33, Subtitle 07, on Order and Decorum in polling places on Election Day, and Subtitle 12 Recounts.
- C. Memo from Ross Goldstein, Deputy Administrator, SBE, regarding two incidents reported on the Election Incident Reporting System (EIRS). Dorothy Kaetzel, Election Director responded with e-mail on December 7, 2004, requesting more information regarding these two incidents. Charles Mobley asked if there was any information on the Election Day Log of Christ Lutheran Church, District 22, regarding the second incident? We will do more investigation into the incident.
- D. Memo from Delegate Christopher Shank, regarding the relocation of his office.
- E. The Board perused two letters that were sent to the Party Central Committees, regarding two vacancies on the Election Board.
- F. The Board was presented with a copy of the letter sent to Marianne Schneider, Democratic Regular Board member, reluctantly accepting her resignation from the Board.
- G. Letter to Carroll Earp, regarding withdrawing his name for consideration as a Board Member, was discussed.
- H. E-mails between Linda Lamone, State Administrator, and Dorothy Kaetzel, Election Director, regarding our vacancies on the Election Board. A copy of the letter Dorothy Kaetzel sent to the Governor's Appointment Office was distributed.

Reports:

Write-in Canvass and Certification Report -

Charles Mobley reported on the final canvassing of the Presidential General Election. – The GEMS system did not provide the information we needed on Write-in votes, in a usable format. But, after a discussion with Nathan Robinson, Regional Manager, and Troy Chase, Diebold Technician – we were able to devise a layout that was acceptable. A recommendation will be sent to the State Board to review the process and report that is provided from GEMS. Charles Mobley will write the recommendation.

Old Business:

- A. The report on the Estimated Cost of the 2004 Primary Election was presented to the Board. Charles Mobley asked if there were any comments the Board members wanted to make. The members were amazed at the cost.

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- B. Hagerstown City Elections are - Primary, March 8, 2005 and General, May 17, 2005. Charles Mobley asked, who was on the City Election Board and who was the Chairperson? Kaye Robucci informed the Board that the City Election Board is – Jean Calhoun, Eve McGrory and Connie Martin. But, at this time we do not know who the Chairperson is.

The article that was in the Daily Mail, November 17, 2004, regarding the City's General Election to coincide with the national presidential election, was discussed. Only one city council member, Linn Hendershot, was in favor – the other council members were not interested in a change. Charles Mobley asked if the Board wanted to pursue the election date change. No decision was made. Currently, we do not have a technical support person in our office. Nathan Robinson, Regional Manager for Diebold, would be available, since his contract with Diebold has been extended.

New Business:

Charles Mobley received a phone call from Louis Close, Town Manager of Hancock, regarding the use of Diebold's Touch Screen Voting System for their General Election, January 31, 2005. The total cost with Diebold support and programming would be approximately \$3,800, but the town only budgets \$1,000 for their election.

Charles Mobley proposed talking to the County Commissioners regarding the leasing of the voting equipment to the municipalities. The Board was not in favor.

Executive Session:

Motion made by Marianne Schneider to enter into Executive Session at 2:40 PM, for discussion of personnel matters; Eileen Wiggins seconded the motion and all were in favor.

Regular session resumed at 2:45 PM.

Members Remarks:

Charles Mobley informed the Board about a situation that occurred in our office, regarding the City of Hagerstown Election.

Scheduling of Next Meeting:

The next meeting of the Washington County Board of Elections will be held Tuesday, January 11, 2005, at 2:00PM at the Board Office.

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Adjournment:

There being no further business to come before the Board at this time; Marianne Schneider made a motion to adjourn at 3:00 PM and John Barr seconded the motion. Unanimously approved.

Respectfully Submitted,


Charles L. Mobley, Jr., Board President 1/12/04
Date


Sharon Mackereth, Elect. Data App Spec. II 1/11/04
Date