

OUTLINE OF MEETING OF BOARDS OF ELECTION SUPERVISORS
HELD AT WASHINGTONIAN MOTEL ON JAN. 21 & 22, 1964

The meeting was called to order at 2 P.M. by Mr. Willard Morris, Chief Clerk of the Montgomery County Board of Election Supervisors.

There were approximately 45 people attending, representing 13 Counties, which covers 85% of the registered voters of the State of Maryland. Therefore, it was felt that with such a large representation of the State present, that this group was qualified to organize a permanent association and call it the Maryland Association of Election Officials.

Motion made, seconded, and carried unanimously that the group organize as a temporary Board and Mr. Morris act as temporary Chairman.

The first order of business brought before the group was the discussion of Senate Bill #584. This bill was introduced by Senator Wheatley of Prince George County in the 1963 session of Legislature. The bill was discussed by Sections and each County was given the opportunity of voicing their opinions. After very lengthy discussions from the various Boards, represented, the unanimous opinion was that it would be utterly impossible to prepare for an election in a shorter period of time than is set forth in our present Election Laws. Motion made, seconded, and carried unanimously that the group present go on record as opposing Senate Bill #584. Prince George County abstained from voting on this motion.

After much discussion on Section 41, motion made and carried that a Committee be appointed to rewrite section 41 and present it at the next mornings meeting.

Paragraph 47 was discussed and since this concerned only the smaller counties, who are not equipped at present to give out voters registrations lists, a committee headed by Mr. Young of Howard County, was to meet after Dinner with the smaller Counties that are affected by this section and discuss this Paragraph 47 and have their report ready for the morning session.

Moved, seconded and carried that a vote of thanks be given Mr. Morris and the others from Montgomery County for the planning and preparation for this meeting.

Moved, seconded and carried that a Committee be appointed to formulate a Permanent Group of Board of Election Supervisors.

Meeting adjourned at 5:45 P.M. and we were advised to return at 6:30 P.M. for social hour and Dinner.

Mr. Thomas B. Finan, Attorney General and Mr. Robert Sweeney, Ass't. Attorney General was present for the Dinner meeting. Mr. Finan spoke on the Election Laws and advised us that any legal information we desire will be furnished by his office at the request of our Attorney. He also said that if at anytime our County Government refused to pay our expenses to these meetings, that he would issue a letter to them concerning this.

Following the speaking by the Attorney General, various Committees held meetings. After this the group was invited by Mr. Finan to an informal reception.

Wednesday's morning meeting convened at 9:30 A.M. The first order of business pertained to the report of the different committees.

Section 47A - "List of Registered Voters".

Mr. Young of Howard County presented motion that at the discretion of the individual Election Boards that the price per name be from $\frac{1}{2}$ ¢ to $1\frac{1}{2}$ ¢ and that the request be made 20 days prior to a Primary and 30 days prior to a General Election as the law reads at present time.

Motion made that section 32A and 32 C and 41B be amended to read that Citation and Revision Day be held 16 weeks and 14 weeks respectively and a second revision day be held 3 weeks and 2 weeks for challenging new voters only. None of the Counties have revision day at the present time, but this motion was inserted because if this was ever enforced this amount of time would be required to perform same.

Motion made, seconded, and carried that Section 32C and 41B, pertaining to the personal serving of notices, be deleted from Article 33.

A question was presented to Mr. Sweeney, Ass't. Attorney General, if it would be possible to have a "change of address" notice inserted by the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles office each time a drivers license address in changed reminding them to change same at Election Board and we would do the same for them. Mr. Sweeney stated that this would have to become a law before this could be done.

Discussion regarding issuance of "voters certificates" followed. Some boards are now charging for these. This item of business will be on the agenda for more discussion at a further meeting and a recommendation for charging for voters certificates will be considered.

No money to be returned for withdrawing of candidate.

Some boards do not keep the midnight closing hour for filing and withdrawing.

We discussed adding a column entitled "Criminal Convictions" to our present forms. If the bill goes through some adjustment will have to be made on our present form as all the Boards now have a large supply of forms on hand.

The Assistant Attorney General defined the Election Board as an individual agency of the County and the County Commissioners must pay the legitimate expenses of the Board and the Board should be free from local political situations.

This Association will prepare amendments of salaries and number of employees allowed to each Board that is established by the Statutes of Maryland and this to go on agenda for next meeting. Mr. Sweeney will prepare the resolutions.

The minutes of this meeting will be reproduced and copies sent to Election Boards, at which time they will call a meeting of the Senator and Delegates and personally report to them the opinions of this association and request their support on same.

Senator Wheatley appeared before the group to explain his position on the bill. He stated that the bill was postponed last year and that they are willing to discuss same before introducing the bill again. He appreciated our position that we had taken against the bill and he said that different groups had requested that a bill of this nature be introduced and we should contact our local political representatives as to our stand on this bill.

A committee of seven members was appointed by the temporary chairman to meet at a date to be selected later, to draw up the by-laws, set dues and formulate plans for the permanent association. Mary Stahl is a member of this committee.

After lunch an informal discussion was held between the different Boards. Many problems were presented. Mr. Morris, Temporary Chairman, suggested that each Board send him a letter stating the various things they would like to know about other County Boards. From this he will make up a questionnaire to be mailed to each Board.

Meeting adjourned.