

BOARD OF ELECTIONS FOR NEW CASTLE COUNTY
Carvel State Office Building
820 N. French Street
Wilmington, Delaware 19801

MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING OF APRIL 6, 2010

Members Present: Mr. Austin Mr. Kuhrt
 Mr. Krzyzanowski Mr. Lanouette
 Mrs. Pase Mr. Steele
 Mr. Sterling

Staff Present: Mr. Albence, Director
 Mr. Sholl, Deputy Director [via phone]
 Mrs. Manlove, State Election Commissioner

1. Mr. Steele called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.
2. Mr. Kuhrt moved and Mrs. Pase seconded a motion to approve the minutes of the March 2, 2010, meeting as presented. The motion passed unanimously.
3. Mr. Sholl provided an update on the Department's financial status. Expenditures are on track and the Department continues to monitor energy costs. He also reported that the Department continues to make efforts to reduce expenditures on energy and to monitor energy costs. Mr. Sholl also reported a 40% savings on mailing of School Board election appointment letters by e-mailing appointment letters (vs. sending via U.S. Mail).
4. Mr. Albence reported that the Voter Registration Unit is current on all work at this time, He also informed the Board of recent updates on the number of registered voters in New Castle County by month, as detailed below:
 - 383,930 as of April 1, 2010
 - 383,777 as of March 1, 2010
 - 380,877 as of November 1, 2008 (comparison purposes)

Mr. Sholl also reviewed a chart detailing voter registration transactions by type over time. Since the implementation of the e-signature program, the Department continues to note a significant increase in the volume of transactions processed.

5. Mr. Sholl provided an update on the ballot status of minor parties in the state, based on current registration totals and the provisions of recently enacted legislation changing the threshold for minority ballot status. As of April 1, 2010, the Independent Party of Delaware and the Libertarian Party meet the ballot status threshold (612 registered voters).
6. Mr. Albence reported that the Department implemented auto-districting component of the eSig program on March 4, 2010. He reported that the system is working well and has improved an already excellent record on accuracy in records processing. He also reported that the next phase of the eSig program (automating the processing of paper

applications at mandated NVRA agencies) is under development and that testing on this tool will begin on April 30, 2010.

7. Mr. Albence informed the Board of the following upcoming elections:
 - April 6: City of Delaware City
 - April 15: William Penn High School (Sr. class officers)
 - April 21: Cedar Lane Elementary School (Principal for a Day)
 - April 22: William Penn High School (Student Government)
 - April 29: St. Ann School (Student Government)
 - April 30: Howard Vo-Tech (Class Officers)
 - May 1: Town of Townsend
 - May 11: School Board
 - May 25: Christina SD Referendum
8. Mr. Sholl reported that the Department's website activity remains at expected non-election season usage levels.
9. Mr. Sholl informed the board that implementation of the "plain language" initiative to ensure maximum readability and comprehension of material on the agency's site and in agency manuals is ongoing, and demonstrated a sample of a page updated using "plain language" parameters.
10. Mr. Albence reported that Department (and statewide) staff will attend a GEMS (absentee system) training in Annapolis, MD, from April 19-23. The training is being offered by Election Systems & Software (ES&S), vendor for the absentee system.
11. Mr. Sholl reported that the Department has completed the final review of data for the U.S. Census Bureau needed prior to the official launch of the 2010 Census formally begins.
12. Mr. Albence updated the Board on upgrades to the GEMS (absentee) operating system. The system server was upgraded to Windows Server 2003, and an updated version of the GEMS software was installed. The Department is still awaiting a solution to the printer problem in the GEMS system, which remains unresolved.
13. Mr. Sholl provided the following updates regarding proposed Federal legislation:
 - The Omnibus Appropriations Bill has been approved, which will provide some share of federal funding to the state. The total appropriated is \$70 million, and Delaware's share will likely be in the usual range of ½ of 1% of the total.
 - Other bills under consideration in Congress would mandate "no excuse" absentee voting and to establish additional/different policies regarding voter registration. These bills are in various stages of consideration at this time.

14. Mr. Albence reported the following legislation passed by the General Assembly:
 - HB 236: Bill addressing issues related to Special Elections.
 - SB 154: Constitutional Amendment (voting age, absentee voting, etc)
 - SB 225: MOVE implementation
 - Other potential legislation under consideration:
 - “No excuse” absentee voting
 - Voter Registration “Modernization”
 - Mandate for on-line registration

15. Mr. Sholl updated the Board on the Department’s a recent outreach activity: a discussion he led on the election process at the March 30th meeting of the Wilmington Republican Women group.

16. Commissioner Manlove reported the following updates from the Office of the State Election Commissioner (SEC):
 - The SEC is covering the cost of the training on the updated version of the GEMS (absentee) software at the ES&S training facility in Annapolis, MD (week of April 19).
 - She will be speaking to the National Conference of State Legislatures in Washington, DC, regarding the e-signature program.
 - HB 244 (affecting school elections and election notices) and HB 245 (a general Title 15 “cleanup” bill) have been signed into law by Governor Markell.
 - The next phase of the eSig program will be implemented shortly. This will involve scanning in of paper voter registration forms and linkage of an image of the scanned paper form with the electronic record of the voter.
 - Discussions continue regarding the software to be used for the redistricting process.
 - The Pew Foundation has asked Delaware to be a pilot state for implementation of the initial phase of the Voter Modernization System. This is still under consideration.

17. Old Business: None

18. New Business:
 - Next meeting: May 13, 2010
 - Voting Machine Certification for School Board Election: May 4, 10AM
 - Voting Machine Certification for Christina Referendum: May 18, 10 AM

19. Board Removals & Birth Date Corrections:
 - Mr. Sterling moved and Mr. Lanouette seconded the motion to:
 - remove 52 names from the voter registration rolls due to a move out of state
 - remove 3 name from the voter registration rolls through the address verification process
 - Make 5 corrections to birth years noted in voter registration records.

The motion passed unanimously.

Minutes, Board Meeting

April 6, 2010

Page 4

20. Mr. Sterling moved the meeting be adjourned. Mr. Kuhrt seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
James A. Sterling, III
Secretary

Next Meeting: Thursday May 13, 2010