

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

MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING OF JULY 6, 2010

Members Present: Mr. Brady Mr. Krzyzanowski
 Mr. Kuhrt Mr. Lanouette
 Mrs. Pase Mr. Sterling
 Mrs. Whittington

Staff Present: Mr. Albence, Director
 Mr. Sholl, Deputy Director
 Mrs. Manlove, State Election Commissioner

1. Mr. Kuhrt moved and Mr. Lanouette seconded the motion to appoint Mr. Sterling as Acting Chair. Motion passed unanimously. Mrs. Pase moved and Mr. Sterling seconded the motion to appoint Mr. Brady as Acting Secretary. The motion passed unanimously. Mr. Sterling called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.
2. Mr. Krzyzanowski moved and Mr. Pase seconded a motion to approve the minutes of the June 1, 2010 meeting. 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. As we approached the end close of FY2010, expenditures on energy total (approximately) \$10,922 less than expenditures in FY2009.
4. Mr. Sholl provided an update on the Department's FY2011 budget. The base budget has been reduced by 2.48%. This reduction does not affect funds appropriated for School Elections or for Primary/General Elections.
5. 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:
 - 386,063 as of July 1, 2010
 - 385,356 as of June 1, 2010
 - 380,877 as of November 1, 2008 (comparison purposes)
6. Mr. Albence provided an update on the ballot status of minor parties in the state, based on current registration totals. As of July 1, 2010, the Green Party, the Independent Party of Delaware, the Libertarian Party, and the Working Families Party meet the ballot status threshold of 305 registered voters.

7. Mr. Albence informed the Board of the following upcoming elections:
 - September 14: Primary Election
 - September 22: University of Delaware Freshman Class Officers
 - November 2: General Election
8. Mr. Sholl reported that the Department's website activity is beginning to increase in advance of the fall election season. He also noted more page views per site visit in the past few weeks.
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 is continuing, with a current focus on pages for the Primary and General Elections.
10. Mr. Albence reported that he will be attending a meeting in Lake Tahoe, NV, June 28-30 focusing on voter registration modernization. This event is sponsored by the Pew Center for the States, and that organization is covering all travel costs.
11. Mr. Albence reported that a problem persists with the absentee system server. The Department, in conjunction with the State Election Commissioner, is determining the best path forward for optimal system support, given the transitions now underway with our absentee vendor partner (ES&S).
12. Mr. Sholl reported that the State will convert from the DFMS financials system to the First State Financials (FSF) system on July 19th. The Department has purchased an additional scanner to facilitate Robin's records retention in conjunction with the new accounting system.
13. Mr. Sholl provided the following updates regarding proposed Federal legislation:
 - HR1719: A voter registration "modernization" bill, which is likely to pass, could mandate online voter registration, affect voter registration deadlines, and impose additional requirements.
 - Bills under consideration in Congress could mandate "no excuse" absentee voting and could establish additional/different policies regarding voter registration.
14. Mr. Sholl reported the following legislation in the General Assembly:
 - HB 236: Bill addressing issues related to Special Elections [PASSED]
 - HB381: Permits registration at age 16 (but maintains current voter eligibility provisions) [PASSED]
 - HB 425: Postpones raising threshold for ballot access [PASSED]
 - SB 285: Permits Architectural Accessibility Board to review polling places if asked (and if Board has sufficient resources to do so) [PASSED]
 - SB 154: Constitutional Amendment (voting age, absentee voting, etc) [NOT PASSED]

15. Mr. Sholl reported the following preparation activities for the 2010 election season:
 - The State is partnering with the Federal Voting Assistance Program on a Ballot Marking Wizard program that will facilitate voting for UOCAVA voters. The vendor servicing the State of Delaware is Vexcel (the federal government contracting subsidiary of Microsoft). Vexcel is partnering with Democracy Live to provide the needed software.
 - The Department has made initial contact with UOCAVA voters, and is updating UOCAVA voter records as needed.
 - The Department has successfully built the General Election in the Election Management System.

16. Mr. Sholl reported that the Department will hold a voter registration event at JPMorgan Chase Bank on July 14th (Wilmington HQ) and 15th (Newark facility).

17. Commissioner Manlove reported the following updates from the Office of the State Election Commissioner (SEC):
 - The state's voting machine support vendor (ElecTec) has announced a staffing change, and this has raised some concerns. Statewide elections staff will meet with the owner of the company on July 15th to determine the best path forward.
 - The absentee voting system vendor (ES&S) has experienced a significant turnover in staffing. The statewide elections community is determining the best path forward—which may likely include a transition to another vendor to more effectively support our operations.
 - The Commissioner will be speaking at the National Association of State Elections Directors (NASSED) regarding campaign finance, and at the AAMVA (American Association of Motor Vehicle Administrators) regarding the partnership in Delaware between the elections community and the Delaware Department of Voter Vehicles.
 - The U.S. Department of Justice is considering the eSig program as a national model of government streamlining, and is in consultation with the Commissioner on this.
 - The SEC hosted affinity gatherings of election staff from across the state who work on similar types of elections-related activities and tasks. A significant amount of streamlining has been realized as a result of these meetings.
 - The office is preparing to mail polling place cards to all registered voters in the state in advance of the fall elections. Publicity (e.g., newspaper advertisements) will accompany this effort.
 - Ed Freel of the University of Delaware is working on a project to increase college student participation as Election Officers.
 - Work continues on revising the State HAVA Plan. Approximately \$1 million in additional funding is expected to augment HAVA funds already awarded the state.

18. Old Business: None

19. New Business:
- Mrs. Whittington moved and Mr. Brady seconded a motion to approve the proposed additional polling place changes for the 2010 Primary and General Elections, The motion passed unanimously.
 - Next meeting: August 3, 2010
20. Board Removals & Birth Date Corrections:
- Mrs. Pase moved and Mrs. Whittington seconded the motion to:
 - Remove 70 names from the voter registration rolls due to a move out of state
 - Remove 12 names from the voter registration rolls through the address verification process
 - Remove 1 name from the voter registration rolls based on a personal request.
 - Make 9 corrections to birth years noted in voter registration records.The motion passed unanimously.
21. Mr. Lanouette moved the meeting be adjourned. Mr. Brady seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Brady
Acting Secretary

Next Meeting: Tuesday, August 3, 2010