

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

MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING OF JANUARY 10, 2012

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

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

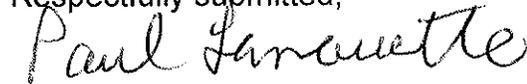
1. Mr. Brady called the meeting to order at 7 p.m.
2. Mr. Sterling moved and Mrs. Pase seconded the motion to approve the minutes of the December 6, 2011, meeting. The motion passed unanimously.
3. Mr. Sholl provided an update on the Department's financial status. Expenditures for the current fiscal year are on track. The Department is closely monitoring energy consumption.
4. Mr. Sholl reported that the State Election Commissioner is looking into extending e-Sig to DHSS field workers and to the Department of Labor.
5. Mr. Sholl reported that the Voter Registration Unit is current on all work and informed the Board on the number of registered voters in New Castle County
 - Jan 1, 2012: 373,427
 - Dec 1, 2011: 373,115
 - Nov 1, 2010: 389,657
6. Mr. Albence informed the Board of the following 2012 elections:
 - Feb 7: Correctional Officers Assoc. of DE Officers Election
 - Feb 28: Red Clay School District – Bond referendum
 - Mar 5: Middletown
 - Mar 28: Brandywine School District – Operating referendum
 - Apr 3: Delaware City
 - Apr 24: Presidential Primary
 - May 8: School Board
 - Sep 11: Primary
 - Nov 6: General Election

7. Mr. Sholl reported that activity on the Department's Web Site is consistent with expectations. The 2012 election calendar has been posted on the site.
8. Mr. Albence informed the board of upcoming professional development opportunities for department staff, including:
 - Jan 11-12: Training on new telephones
 - Jan 17-20: Training on new high speed absentee ballot scanners
9. Mr. Sholl informed the board that he plans to attend a meeting for the Overseas Vote Foundation Summit in Washington, DC, on January 27.
10. Mr. Sholl provided an update on Department work on redistricting following the 2010 Census:
 - Review and modification of proposed Election Districts is underway. As part of this process, it was discovered that 26 properties that straddle the City of Wilmington boundary may be mis-districted.
 - The Department is working with the General Assembly on clean-up bills to address some outstanding redistricting issues.
 - Maps (electronic format on CDs) were provided to designated recipients.
 - The School Board Redistricting Plan was approved by the State Board of Education in December 2011.
11. Mr. Albence reported that new high-speed absentee ballot scanners have been ordered, and that the Department performed successful acceptance testing on the units on December 20, 2011. He also reported that the replacement ballot printer has been tested successfully. New tables will be ordered for the new absentee equipment.
12. Mr. Albence provided an update on the Department's new warehouse. He reported that some final finish work must be completed, that the internet connection is now in place, and that the phone system installation is imminent. In addition, he reported that plans for the training room are moving forward. A general contractor has been recommended, and furniture has been ordered. Due to the delay in the project timeline, the Department will need to seek alternate space for Election Officer training for the Presidential Primary.
13. Mr. Sholl provided the following updates regarding proposed Federal legislation:
 - HR 3463: Bill eliminating the Election Assistance Commission
 - Bill passed House, but is expected to fail in Senate.

14. Mr. Sholl reported the legislation in the General Assembly regarding the following topics:
 - In January, the Senate will consider the a bill amending Title 15, which includes updates regarding list maintenance, a mandate for facilities receiving State funds to be available as polling places, and authorization to extend the option for electronic transmittal and return of absentee ballots to voters with disabilities.
 - A Title 15 “cleanup bill” will be introduced in January. This bill modifies some dates related to the Presidential Primary, clarifies voter assistance, permits scanning of absentee ballots starting the Friday prior to an election, revises the formula used to calculate the ratio of voting machines required per registered voters, and eliminates outdated language in the Code.
 - A constitutional amendment bill, introduced in June will also be considered.
15. Mr. Albence reported that materials to be archived are being prepared for delivery to the State Archives.
16. Mr. Sholl updated the Board on the in-house UOCAVA solution (*VoteDelaware*) was launched on December 7, 2011. Some additional updates are being discussed.
17. Mr. Sholl updated the Board on the voting machine moving contract: The current schedule calls for a bid opening on January 17, and the contract should be awarded by the end of January.
18. Mr. Albence provided a recap of the Electronic Records Information Center (ERIC) program in which the State will participate. The program is expected to launch in the next 30-60 days.
19. Commissioner Manlove reported the following updates from the Office of the State Election Commissioner (SEC):
 - A demonstration of the e-Sig program was carried out at the Department of Labor, and conversations continue regarding how the program may be implemented at the Department.
 - A total of 11 elections staff will be traveling to Dallas, TX, January 17-20 for training on the new absentee voting equipment at the Dominion Voting training facility.
 - The in-house UOCAVA solution is working well and potential updates are being considered.
 - Two school districts statewide (Christina and Seaford) will have in-service days on the date of the Presidential Primary. Efforts continue to request that all districts offer an in-service day statewide.

- The General Assembly may be considering legislation to permit “no excuse” absentee voting. If enacted, this would dramatically impact Elections operations statewide. It could not be implemented until the Constitution is amended.
 - The Commissioner, Mr. Albence, and Mr. Sholl attended the Joint Election Officials Liaison Committee meeting in Washington, DC on January 5-6. Much of the discussion at the meeting concerned the potential elimination of the Election Assistance Commission and problems associated with the voting machine certification program.
 - A substantial reworking of the State Election Commissioner’s campaign finance site is underway. The revised site will be searchable and more “user-friendly”.
20. Old Business: None
21. New Business:
- Next regularly scheduled meeting: **Tuesday, February 7, 2012**
22. Board Removals & Birth Date Corrections:
- Mr. Kuhrt moved and Mrs. Pase seconded the motion to:
 - Remove 59 names from the voter registration rolls due to a move out of state.
 - Remove 57 names from the voter registration rolls through the address verification process.
 - Remove 1 name from the voter registration rolls based on a voluntary request.
 - Make 3 corrections to birth years noted in voter registration records.Motion passed unanimously.
23. Mr. Sterling moved and Mr. Kuhrt seconded a motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,



Paul Lanouette
Secretary