

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

MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING OF MAY 10, 2012

Members Present: Mr. Brady Mr. Kuhrt
 Mr. Lanouette Mrs. Pase
 Mr. Pasquale Mr. Sterling

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

1. Mr. Brady called the meeting to order at 7:00p.m.
2. Mr. Sterling moved and Mr. Pasquale seconded the motion to approve the minutes of the April 26, 2012, meeting with one correction. The motion passed unanimously.
3. Mr. Sholl provided a recap of the School Board Elections in Appoquinimink, Christina, and Red Clay Consolidated School Districts, held on May 8, 2012. The election went very smoothly overall with no major issues to report. He recommended that the Board certify the election results. Mr. Sterling moved and Mr. Pasquale seconded the motion to certify the results of referendum. Motion passed unanimously.
4. 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 utility costs for the warehouse, as well as school election costs.
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
 - May 1, 2012: 376,719
 - Apr 1, 2012: 376,440
 - Nov 1, 2010: 389,657
6. Mr. Sholl informed the Board of the following 2012 elections:
 - May 17 A.I. DuPont HS-Student Government & Prom Royalty
 - May 17 St. Ann School-Student Government
 - May 29 William Penn HS-Student Government
 - June 6 Our Lady of Fatima School-Student Government
 - Sep 11: Primary
 - Nov 6: General Election

7. Mr. Sholl reported that activity on the Department's Web Site is consistent with expectations. He noted an increase in website traffic volume in April and early May, which could be attributed to the Presidential Primary and School Board elections.
8. Mr. Sholl reported the following updates on the absentee voting system:
 - The new high speed scanners for absentee ballots performed sat during the recent Presidential Primary election
 - A new envelope printer has been received. It will be installed and staff will be trained on the unit on Monday, May 14th.
9. Mr. Sholl provided an update on Department work on redistricting following the 2010 Census/Redistricting:
 - The Department will have the new House & Senate maps recorded and provide copies as required by the Delaware Code
 - The Department is preparing PDF versions of maps, which permits printing maps without accessing GIS program.
 - One comment was received regarding proposed polling places.
 - Districting book is ready for proofing/review.
 - The Department will send required data files to the State Election Commissioner on or before May 15th.
10. Mr. Albence provided an update on the Department's new warehouse. Construction of the training room is proceeding well, with an estimated completion date of early June. Training for the fall elections will take place in the new training room.
11. Mr. Albence 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.
12. Mr. Albence reported the legislation in the General Assembly regarding the following topics:
 - A bill amending Title 15 passed the House in June 2011 and is waiting to be considered by the Senate.
 - A Title 15 "cleanup bill" is pending. 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 obsolete language in the Code.
 - A constitutional amendment bill, introduced in June 2011, is also being considered during this session (action pending.)
13. Mr. Albence updated the Board on recent outreach activities by the Department.

14. Commissioner Manlove reported the following updates from the Office of the State Election Commissioner (SEC):
 - The SEC will coordinate with the county offices the process for changing over to the new election districts following reapportionment. This will take place in the next few weeks.
 - The SEC will be administering a more stringent campaign finance law, based on bills that recently passed the General Assembly.
 - The SEC worked through issues raised regarding mailings circulated during the recent school board elections. The issue has been addressed via an amendment to the more restrictive campaign finance law. (mentioned above)
 - Rep. Dennis E. Williams has introduced a “no-excuse” absentee voting bill. The Commissioner is gathering financial details regarding the expected cost for such a change in procedure.
 - The ERIC project is about to be launched. Delaware could be selected as one of the initial states to participate in the pilot program.

15. Old Business: None

16. New Business:
 - Mr. Pasquale moved and Mr. Sterling seconded the motion to approve the list of proposed Election Districts and Polling Places, with the provision that the Department may make minor adjustments as needed, based on facilities availability.
 - Next meeting: **Tuesday, June 5, 2012**

17. Board Removals & Birth Date Corrections:
 - Mr. Sterling moved and Mr. Pasquale seconded the motion to:
 - Remove 118 names from the voter registration rolls due to a move out of state.
 - Remove 111 names from the voter registration rolls through the address verification process.
 - Make 6 corrections to birth years noted in voter registration records.Motion passed unanimously.

18. Mrs. Pase moved and Mr. Pasquale seconded a motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul Lanouette
Secretary