



Pulaski County Election Commission
Meeting Minutes
July 13, 2016
5:00 p.m.

Members Present

Leonard A. Boyle, Sr.
Pat Hays
Kevin Gorman

Staff Present

Bryan Poe
Shawn Camp
Tonya Washington

Visitors Present: Cynthia Howell, AR Democrat Gazette; Tom Massa, Director, Disability Rights of Arkansas

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Pat Hays. A quorum was determined; all commissioners present; Chairman Hays via teleconference.

Approval of Meeting Minutes, May 24, 2016

Commissioner Boyle moved to accept minutes with corrections; seconded by Commissioner Gorman. Motion passed by voice vote.

Business

Annual School Election, September 20, 2016 - Review of Candidate Political Practices Pledges

The Annual School Election will consist of the Little Rock School District Millage and the North Little Rock School District Zones 1 & 4.

North Little Rock School District consists of the following filings:

Zone 1 - Dorothy Williams - unopposed

Zone 4 - Taneisha Richardson-Wiley - unopposed

Both school districts will draw up resolutions requesting that the elections be conducted by absentee and early voting only.

Commissioner Boyle moved to approve the political practices pledges as submitted; seconded by Commissioner Gorman. Motion passed by voice vote.

Mr. Poe noted that the Pulaski County Special School District election will be held in conjunction with the November General Election and Jacksonville North Pulaski School District election was held early this year.

Other Business

State Board of Election Commissioners (SBEC) - Complaint - Resolution

To resolve the recent complaint filed with the SBEC, the county board will do the following:

The County Attorney will write a Memorandum of Understanding with Saline, Lonoke and Faulkner Counties (all sharing school districts with Pulaski County) outlining expectations, deadlines and explaining the duties of each county, then signing off with each election commission and county clerk in these counties.

In relation to the complaint, Commissioner Boyle asked **if** our office had the list of voters who were affected in the last election so that they can be cross referenced when poll books are processed for future elections ensuring that all information is correct prior to voting. Mr. Poe noted that there is now a better understanding of who those eligible voters are.

Commissioner Gorman and Commissioner Boyle stated that, in the future, the board should ask for guidance from the SBEC, in this situation, so that the board will not face future complaints.

Meeting Schedule:

Monday, Jul 25, 2016 at 5:00 p.m. - Approve School Election Ballots

Friday, August 26, 2016 - 5:00 p.m. - Ballot Position Drawing - November General Election

- Certify Logic and Accuracy Testing, Appoint Election Officials - Annual School Election

Monday, September 1, 2016 - 5:00 p.m. - Ballot Position Drawing - PCSSD

North Little Rock School District Board will meet on July 21, 2016 to approve ballot information.

The Arkansas County Election Commissioners Association (ACECA) fall meeting will take place Thursday, August 11, 2016 at the Holiday Inn - Airport.

Heather McKim has been selected as the Deputy Director of the SBEC. Tim Humphries, chief counsel, will be retiring in October, 2016.

Tom Massa, Director, Disability Rights of Arkansas, visited to talk about ongoing projects with his agency. He is in the process of visiting each county in Arkansas to assess polling locations for proper accessibility and if the need is there, to see if additional funding is available under the Help America Vote Act (HAVA) to allow for small grants to assist in modifying those locations for accessibility. There will be an effort to reach out to counties and to talk about the interaction of poll workers and voters with disabilities by educating poll workers to have awareness and to encourage partnerships with their voters.

Commissioner Boyle stated that the week of July 11-15, 2016 has been designated American Disability Voter Registration Week. He noted an event today at Pathfinder in Jacksonville and an interest was shown in poll worker recruitment for workers with disabilities. He asked that Bryan Poe and/or Shawn Camp assist with setting up recruitment efforts and to lay out the duties, responsibilities and expectations so that the recruitment can be a success.

Mr. Poe noted that the Miller County Clerk is rallying other county commissions in the state to contact their legislators and urge them to consider making funding available in the next legislative session to purchase new voting equipment.

Shawn Camp, Pam Walker and Amanda Dickens recently observed a special election held in Garland County to observe the use of the new voting equipment selected from the state's voting equipment vendor, Election Systems & Software (ES&S). Pam and Amanda observed the use of voting equipment during early voting and Shawn observed on Election Day during the closing process. He noted that the entire process worked well and the equipment appeared to work well and was easily managed. The vote centers worked well, although they may have been overstaffed due to it being a first-time operation. The closing process time was minimal and election tapes were processed and obtained with ease.

With an integrated system such as the new voting equipment, voting activity at all vote centers can be observed as the election is occurring. This is helpful in determining the immediate needs of voting locations, such as, deploying additional voting equipment to heavy voter turnout locations, if necessary.

Commissioner Boyle requested that a copy of the letter previously sent to Arkansas Rehabilitation Services be sent to other providers serving people with disabilities. This letter, as the previous letter, will be requesting to recruit poll workers. The only changes to the letter would be the date and the agency intended to receive the letter. The body of the letter will remain the same.

Mr. Poe noted that there had been a site visit conducted at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock regarding a proposed early voting site. There have been three (3) potential sites named as possible sites. The enthusiasm was great in the beginning. However, as the request went higher up the chain, there seemed to become less interest. The door is not closed but there will need to be more discussion. Commissioner Boyle stated that he will be available to assist in this effort.

Meeting adjourned.