



Pulaski County Election Commission
Meeting Minutes
March 21, 2014
12:00 p.m.

Members Present

Leonard A. Boyle, Sr.
Chris Burks
Alex Reed

Staff Present

Bryan Poe
Shawn Camp
Tonya Washington
Amanda Dickens
Pam Walker
Jodie Dildy

Visitors Present: Barry Haas, Pulaski County Voter, Emily Walkenhorst, AR Democrat Gazette; Holly Dickson, Julie Fisher, ACLU; Christian Adcock, Disability Rights Center; David Berman, Jason Kennedy, County Clerk's office; Chanti Madkins, Pulaski County Election Commission Intern

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Leonard A. Boyle, Sr. A quorum was determined; Commissioner Burks, Chairman Boyle present.

Approval of Meeting Minutes, March 13, 2014

Motion to table meeting minutes until next scheduled meeting.

Pulaski Tech Millage Election, March 11, 2014

Provisional Ballot Hearing

There were twenty-four (24) provisional ballot voters. The results were as follows:

Nine (9) - Yes
Thirteen (13) - No
Two (2) - Unauthorized

Barry Haas, Little Rock resident since 1967 and Air Force veteran, chose not to present voter ID on March 11, 2014 in protest of Act 595 of 2013. Mr. Haas testified against the bill for the Voter ID legislation in 2011 and again in 2013 before the State House and Senate committees. In his opinion, this act is intended to disenfranchise Arkansas voters. As a veteran and Arkansas voter, he takes the right to voter very highly. He stated that the proponents of the bill stated that the intent of this legislation was to prevent "voter fraud impersonation". The instances of voter fraud impersonation are zero. The proponents of the bill could not site a single remedy of how this would prevent a voter from voting fraudulently by impersonating

someone else. In regards to “free voter ID”, Mr. Haas checked with the Division of Motor Vehicles to see how many driver’s licenses are issued in the state. He then checked with the Secretary of State to see how many registered voters there are statewide. The difference in these two figures is roughly 90,000. He noted there are roughly 90,000 registered voters who do not have driver’s licenses, which is the most common form of identification. Generally speaking, the majority of those voters are African American, low income, elderly, college students and tend to vote a certain way. He stated that this bill is an attempt to disenfranchise a certain percentage of those 90,000 Arkansans who are registered to voter. Mr. Haas chose not to present voter ID on March 11th to protest what he feels is unconstitutional voter restriction, and at the same time, being representative of those 90,000 voters who won’t realize that when they go to vote in May, they will find out their vote is not going to count. Because he did not present a photo ID to prove who he is when he’s been voting in this county for 47 years, he feels his rights have been violated and feels very resentful. He feels ways to encourage voters to continue voting, not discourage them, should be the goal of the commission.

The board thanked Mr. Haas for his impassioned comments and to thank him for his military service to the country as well as to the election commission.

Commissioner Burks asked Mr. Haas if he had been notified at the polls after casting his ballot that he had the opportunity to present his identification to the commission. Mr. Haas stated that he had been properly notified by the election officials at his poll on Election Day. He also noted that he is a former 12-year poll worker in Pulaski County at Parkway Place Baptist Church so he is very familiar with the voting process. Commissioner Burks encouraged Mr. Haas to take further action on the Voter ID law.

Hollie Dickson, Legal Counsel, ACLU of Arkansas, noted that she obtained a list of absentee voters whose votes did not count and noted that most of those voters were older citizens. Commissioner Boyle stated that the commission had not control over the process rather the commission had to follow the law as it is written.

Certification of Election Results

Motion to certify election results made by Chairman Boyle. It was moved by Commissioner Burks and seconded by Commissioner Reed. All in favor; motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

Chairman Boyle motioned to certify the disposition of Provisional Ballots. It was moved by Commissioner Burks and seconded by Commissioner Burks. All in favor; motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

Preferential Primary, May 20, 2014

Designation of Polling Sites/Early Voting Locations

Precinct 23 - Shepard of the Hills Lutheran Church will be available for the May Primary. This location had been temporarily located at Precinct 25 - Indian Hills Church.

Precinct 96 - St. Mark's Episcopal Church has completed construction and is available to host elections. It was temporarily located at Precinct 94 - First Church of the Nazarene.

It was moved by Commissioner Reed to approved Shepard of the Hills Lutheran Church as the permanent location of Precinct 23; seconded by Commissioner Burks. All in favor; motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

Certification of Ballot Styles

Ballot styles being recertified due to court ordered removal of Valerie Bailey from judicial race. Judge Tim Fox's name will be moved to the unopposed box on the ballot. Precinct 23 ballots will read Shepard of the Hills on the heading. The nonpartisan ballots read "nonpartisan general" instead of "nonpartisan judicial general" as reflected in the law.

Motion to certify ballot styles as presented made by Chairman Boyle. It was moved by Commissioner Reed and seconded by Commissioner Burks. All in favor; motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

Notice of Election

Changes since last General election are as follows:

New polling locations - Precinct 23 - Shepard of the Hills (Previously Crestwood Elem School)
Return of Precinct 96 - St Mark's Episcopal Church (Temporarily located at First Church of the Nazarene)

Name change at Precinct 51 - Lakewood Middle School (Previously NLR High East Campus)
Precinct 77 - Immanuel Baptist Church (Previously The Church at Rock Creek)
Precinct 78 - WW Williams NW Patrol Division (Previously The Church at Rock Creek)
Precinct 100 - St Luke UMC (Previously Western Hills UMC)
Precinct 101 - Heart's Journey Church (Previously Western Hills UMC)

Date correction on the date of the election was made on the notice.

Seven offsite early voting locations will be available for the May Primary Election. McMath Branch Library will not be available due to ongoing construction.

Motion to certify the Notice of Election made by Chairman Boyle. It was moved by Commissioner Burks; seconded by Commissioner Reed. Motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

Other Business

Christian Adcock, Advocate for The Disability Rights Center, noted that the center has developed a poll workers guide that assists voters with disabilities. He has the electronic version available. The hardcopy version will be available for voters in about two weeks.

Commissioner Burks asked Mr. Adcock what his thoughts were about Act 595 of 2013 and if he felt this law would disproportionately impact the people his agency advocates for. Mr. Adcock stated that he feels there is potential for huge problems.

Mr. Poe noted that there has been a FOIA request for voter statements by the Sitter Law Firm.

Barry Haas encouraged the commission to redraw precinct lines of polling locations that are overloaded with registered voters. Mr. Poe noted that the commission is aware of recent changes but time constraints and the responsibilities of planning and conducting recent elections have deterring the staff from searching for replacement locations of recently lost facilities. However, for those locations that have been combined with other locations, the staffing has increased to help accommodate the load.

Commissioner Burks encouraged Mr. Haas, along with the commission, to look into the possibility of voter centers where regardless of where you vote within a precinct, voters can go and vote on Election Day. Electronic poll books will help to implement this type of system. He noted that he has grave concern with a rule being promulgated by the secretary of state's office that limited the possibility of implementing vote centers specifically in Pulaski County defining an internet connection only as T4, land or wireless onsite as opposed to another type of wireless connection. We have so many locations, but to have a landline, a dedicated wireless network at that location would be practically impossible. Whereas in a small county where there's four or six vote centers would be something that you could do. This is something that disproportionately impacts Pulaski County. The Election Commission has voiced this to the secretary of state's office. It would be easier to secure four vote centers than 125 polling site. Commissioner Burks encouraged Mr. Haas and anyone else to voice this concern to the secretary of state's office.

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, April 17, 2014 at 12:00 a.m. to certify Logic and Accuracy Testing for the May Primary and to certify election officials. Testing is scheduled for April 7-16, 2014 or until completed.

Meeting adjourned.