

**OAEO  
Legislative Committee Meeting  
January 16, 2020**

Tim Ward, chair called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.  
Newly appointed secretary Deb Sneddon conducted a roll call vote. A quorum was present.

Tim Ward presented the minutes from the last meeting for additions or corrections. Hearing none, Carla Patton made a motion to approve the minutes and Kirsten Ross seconded the motion. A vote was called; All were in favor, motion passed.

Aaron presented the following Bills for review and updates:

**HB 49 County ID** Allows Concealed Carry license to be used as identification for voting purposes. The sponsors of the bill have amended the bill to include any form of county identification that otherwise meets requirements for voting. The bill was voted unanimously out of house committee and is waiting to go to the floor for a vote before moving on to the senate.

**HB 76 Ballot Language Uniformity** Changes the wording in levies on the ballot from \$100 of valuation to \$100,000 of valuation This Bill has had three hearings in the Senate and appears to be moving along. The committee has voted to stay neutral on this bill.

**SB 107 Campaign Finance for Local Candidates** which enables local candidates to file electronically has been passed and will become effective on January 1, 2021. Chris Oliveti spoke to the implementation process and that testing will begin soon. An ad hoc group will be formed in the next few months to test the system.

**SB 191 Online Absentee Request** The substitute draft language of the bill was sent out to our committee this week. Aaron apologized if anyone did not receive it. On January 28, there will be a hearing with proponent testimony and Aaron asked for the committee to review the changes and offer feedback. We will need to quickly meet, discuss, and get our comments in order. The legislative committee and the trustees have endorsed the concept of this bill.

**SB 194 BVME** This bill codifies that the name Board of Voter Machine Examiners be changed to the **Board of Voting Systems Examiners**. If anyone has questions about the BVME and what they do, Tony Perlatti is on the board and he will answer any questions. The bill also changes the date that protest of candidate's petitions is required to be acted upon to 68 days prior to the election. The change is necessary for the Supreme Court to timely resolve any appeal of the board's decisions in order for BOE's to print ballots and meet the UOCAVA deadline.

Joyce asked about why the language on the ability to send unsolicited applications electronically for subsequent elections was not included in **SB 191 Online Absentee Request**. Chris Oliveti noted that Secretary LaRose supports this bill and anything that gets the absentee process done for us and the voters and either through SB191 or through discussion and comments, we could figure out how to get it done.

Tim brought up concerns about fraudulent applications being submitted by parents of college students and then it causes havoc when the student registers at college, in another county. He also stated his thoughts that ballots should not be mailed to a P.O. Box. A pin system that is currently being used for UOCAVA voters (CBTS) was mentioned as a solution to replace signature verification. Concerns were stated about out of state students that don't go home for Election Day who may also be presented with barriers. It is a lot harder to get people to vote

than to get them to vote more than once. There were concerns about the uniformity across counties.

LaVera Scott mentioned that the state only mailing applications in even years causes confusion for voters. The dynamic of the difference in requesting an application and receiving a ballot was brought up. The ability to only send ballots to a post office box would also have an effect on voters in rural areas that only receive mail at a box and snow birds who travel south for the winter as well as college students. Changes to registration addresses in the time between when applications are received and processed and the date they are permitted to be mailed to the voter also presents concern, if the voter has moved. Although this situation is not prevalent, it does happen.

The BOE would be able to notify the voter quicker (electronically) of the issues that they may encounter with timing of receiving the ballot and the short time they have to mail the ballot back or bring it to the election office. Changing the deadline to request a ballot by mail or electronically was discussed and although it seems like disenfranchising, it is actually franchising voters. Aaron added that changes to deadlines would be an uphill battle. The possibility of being able to accept ballots postmarked on Election Day was discussed, even if it means that ballots were able to be cast after polls were closed. The voter would have already requested the ballot. The changing of the deadlines by the USPS were discussed as well as the hours and machines that are available to get a ballot postmarked. Aaron was asked to revisit the topic with the legislators.

Merle Madrid and Chris Oliveti were introduced and addressed the committee about **Senate Bill 186 the Verified Voter Registration** proposal which has bipartisan support and has undergone many rewrites. They want us to know that they and the SOS are open to listening and to be accessible for service to us. SB 186 is a very simple concept that aims to make it easier for voters and easier for BOE's with new technology that only allows a voter to put in verified, complete information. The goal is to get the information in front of the voters and have them with opt in or opt out at that time. After five months, a first hearing will be happening soon. There are many integral parts, lots of opinions and the voice of OAEO matters to the SOS. If it does not improve the issues with the bad data and the incomplete data, then this will not work. They are not trying to rush it in and have issues that were mentioned earlier in the day from when West Virginia and California implemented a similar system. The transactions would only apply to driver's license transactions. The technical parts of this will not be quick. Chris said that he thought that one way or another, change will be coming; whether through this bill, another bill or a constitutional amendment. He asked us to stay at the table with this bill and that he thought that the other options (Automatic Registration, Same day registration and Pre-Registration) are fraught with problems. He again reiterated that the door is always open for dialogue. The BMV may have an additional screen or a kiosk to implement the process. How to incentivize the Deputy Registrars to implement the new procedure was discussed as was the security of the BMV system. The BOE would still have autonomy and authority of the data and the BMV would only be able to see the data. The BMV data sits behind the firewall structure of the state. Being able to secure their system even though the BVM is not critical infrastructure could be accomplished with the additional \$16 million in HAVA grants recently included in the federal budget. Those funds could be used, he said, but he wants us to tell him what it is we need in order to get the securest elections. Training the deputy registrars would be a vital component in understanding the roles and duties. He also announced that a new member will be joining their team who will have a master's degree in quantum computing and data analytics to ensure the

quality of the data and how it functions. The bill should address some minimum requirements for security compliance. It was pointed out that all signatures will be checked and verified, which may triple the work on the front end but would save more time on the back end (supplemental process) and may possibly mitigate any equal protection accusations. Questions about giving credit for non-genuine signatures were discussed with no immediate answers. The question of including a party declaration at the time of registering in the bill was questioned and from the response it appeared that the committee was in favor of removing that language from the bill. Not being political, he encouraged us to support Senate Bill 186 and to not be afraid of technology that would make our lives easier. The ability to change your address in between trips to the BMV was included in the discussion.

People who want to Avoid E-check regulations by going to a different county BMV will be addressed in separate bill. He then asked about discussion on any other bills that are pending. Getting the word "senior" out of language in the Youth at the Booth language would be an advantage for us to recruit more workers.

Tonya mentioned how her daughter and other OSU students who wanted to vote at home and remain registered in Defiance County could not work the polls in Franklin County and how that is an issue that we may be able to address. He said that his office will work on a solution to that issue.

He also mentioned that corporations have different rules about giving workers time off to work at the polls and they can receive a tax break for paying the workers. The corporations want to make it optional for counties to pay. Some National Honor students have also requested not to be paid in order to meet the service requirements of the program. Before he finished his presentation, he again urged us to work together on SB 186.

Aaron presented other Bills for review:

**HB 398 Making Election Day a Holiday** Discussion was centered on school janitors and other staff members that would be required to open the doors and if double time would be paid for them and others. Having the school closed would open opportunities for the teachers to be poll workers and would free up the facilities. Some janitors have to work even on days the schools are closed.

**HB429 Addressing the Confidentiality Program (Safe at Home)** Chris Oliveti who wrote the bill, explained that the bill expands the program to other agencies and would have no impact on the BOE.

**HB 460 Party Designation for Judges** (just introduced) allows judges to run with a party affiliation on the general election ballot. Although Judges may like it and it would save a lot of questions, some members of the committee thought it was a personal issue and not for the association to decide. It would also cause confusion if one candidate would want it listed and the next would not. It was agreed that the committee decline to take a position.

Rob wanted to address the committee about possible legislation that would support allowing multi early voting locations. He and his counterpart on the board have found bipartisan support with legislators who care deeply about the issue. Perhaps we could form a committee to work through these issues to support a bill on a future date. If you are interested in working out the details, whether you are for or against the idea, please let him know.

When asked if there was anything else to come before the committee, it was noted that during the Board member break out session earlier today it was thought to be reasonable to ask for the

legislators to set the salary of Board Directors and Deputy Directors, similar to county auditors and recorders. It was mentioned that one year ago this was not the same job and there was lively discussion on our value and a wage perhaps being set in statue. Every elected official salary is set in statue. Elected officials are also only required to work one day a month. Many directors are underpaid for the job of lawyer, computer programmer, etc. Currently replacing a director would prove to be a challenge and in order to get a qualified candidate, the board would have to recruit from other counties. Directors and Deputies are also being told not to work overtime and having their budgets cuts drastically. It was thought that the Secretary of State or a representative from his office could go to the County Commissioner's Association to do a presentation and explain the differences in the job and the duties. There are no protections for Directors and Deputies. In past years, before the budget was turned over to the commissioners the board was in charge of their own budget and were able to grant salary increases. The rate of attrition was stated as well as the fact that the commissioners are no longer being hit by the cuts to the local government funding catastrophe that has been happening in the last few years. There were also success stories of working together with the board and the commissioners along with support from regional liaisons.

After a unanimous motion and a second, Tim declared the meeting to be adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,  
Deb Sneddon, Secretary

Motion \_\_\_\_\_  
Second \_\_\_\_\_  
Approved on \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_