

OAEO

Legislative Committee Meeting Minutes

May 21, 2021

Co-Chair LaVera Scott opened the meeting by suggesting we follow the summary analysis provided prior to the meeting and go over each item included in the bill.

Aaron Ockerman gave a brief overview of the items that the trustees had already acted on. **Curbside voting** just needs some clarification on the language, **absent voting by mail**; already established at 7 days, **online absentee request system, ID requirements** (one or two forms) we had agreed that either was ok, if that is what it took the bill through **Drop boxes**: it has already been established that we want one per county with an option to have more with a vote of the board, Aaron informed the committee that here has been discussion in testimony of a time frame on when the drop box could be utilized and also having a bipartisan team to collect the ballots. He also noted that we will need to discuss where to **re-allocate the hours from Monday** voting. In 2018 it was agreed by the committee to support allocating those hours over the previous two weekends of early voting. Aaron thought we might want to revisit that decision. On codifying the EAP, a decision has already been made to support that as well as 17 yr old workers and the requirement for L&A testing parameters.

Aaron turned the meeting over to Co-chair Terry Burton who went over some housekeeping items on the process, keeping in mind the meeting time limit of 2 hours.

LaVera Scott reminded the trustees and others on the call that these items discussed today would be coming to them for a vote.

Automated Voter Registration LaVera reminded everyone about the concerns of the integrity of the data received from the BMV. It does not appear that this is going to be improved at this time, with this bill. It is desired that we have legislative insurance on the data not creating additional duplicates, and unnecessary confirmation cards.

We would like to see this cleaned up in law. Aaron asked if there was interest creating a workgroup to present our ideas. Carla Patton brought up the Inflation of the voter rolls (results) and the increased purging (inactivity) of voters who are not clear on what it is they are signing up for.

Sarah Greathouse brought up the concern on the confirmation cards having prepaid postage and what if the voter does not send it back. The language is ambiguous.

Hearing no objection **Aaron will work with Carla on the language on an opt in system.** Other items brought up in the discussion: As it stands right now it will create unnecessary sending of notices. A lot of counties do not have money in the budget. Amount of information on the card is confusing may need a different format. A form could also be generated at the BVV, but current law states the BOE must send the notice.

Voter Roll Maintenance is already in EOM, this will codify the procedure. No suggested changes.

Voter Identification Terry asked for feedback on being able to offer electronic forms as valid ID. Bill Rich had questions on the Utility Bill amount being owed and hoped that it would include a zero balance. He will send Aaron his ideas to clarify the language. After a few positive comments (more options for voters, in 2021 there is more online activity, access to printers and stamps) it was decided this was something we would support with Bill's suggested changes.

Curbside Voting LaVera suggested coming up with a different name, stating that curbside voting has become more like convenience voting. Carla Patton agreed that the name needs to be changed. It was agreed that this should happen in code, but we should also work with organizations advocating for the disabled population. Beth Goldenfield brought up that it is not just for the disabled voter but also for voters who may be ill. It is in everyone's best interest that those with communicable disease do not come inside to vote. Aaron will reach out to his contacts for some ideas and will get back to us with some suggestions.

Absentee Voting by Mail Timeline It has been established that we support the 7-day limitation. Carla Patton brought up the impact this will have on the current hospital voting period (noon on Saturday) and Aaron added the same concerns for incarcerated individuals. The UOCAVA voters' deadline could remain the same as we can transmit those ballots electronically, but it may bring up some equal protection issues. It was agreed to keep the current deadlines and protections in place for hospitalized and incarcerated voters. Other items of concern: Changes to envelope can stop anytime, this may need to increase in size of the envelope and what if an application is submitted and then a voter is released but does not receive their ballot.

Preferential Type of Identification It was not clear if this requirement pertained to in person voting, voting by mail or both. There was discussion in testimony yesterday that the legislature would provide an Identification card for those who do not have a Driver's License. It is not currently in the bill, but it will be added, Beth Goldenfield brought up the logistics of someone who is unable to get transportation for either form of ID. It was brought up those designated agencies could have a camera and submit a photograph. We do not have a state ID on every voter and if someone sends one in, do we reject it because it is not on file, and if they don't have the preferred ID, it is rejected or do we just move to the next type of ID. The language or intent is not clear. There is no mechanism for enforcement. It was assumed that this would give the Secretary more information to identify illegal voters. But if this were the case, they should be able to identify these non-citizens before they ever get registered and prevent them from being on the rolls and potentially being able to cast a ballot. LaVera clarified that the current language in the bill is just to change the requirement on the envelope therefore this only would pertain to mail voters. Being inconsequential, it was decided not to spend a lot of time on this matter.

Drop Boxes LaVera reminded everyone on the call of our current stance on drop boxes being that each county would be permitted to have one drop box (minimum) and additional drop boxes could be added with a vote of the local board. Bill Rich added that we should not be limited to only having drop boxes at the board of elections office. Beth Goldenfield stated that they should not be limited in the time (10 days) they are able to be used, the boxes have been used by voters to submit voter registrations and other election materials year-round. Sherry Polland stated that they have had a drop box in Hamilton County since 2008. The box has two cameras on it, and two bipartisan keys are required to open it. Brain Mead reminded us that the sponsor

is definitely against having any drop boxes and this will be a nonstarter with him. He suggested proposing having multiple vote centers and having drop boxes allowed on county property. Karla Herron agreed with Brain and stated she thought this was a “want” and not a “need” to have multiple drop boxes off site. Bill Rich pointed out that in Summit County it is a need, and we could offer a suggestion on multiple voter centers, but he was not optimistic that it would pass. The ten-day limit is an operational nightmare for Boards large and small. Sherry added that the sponsors will most likely not be in favor of multiple vote centers or additional drop boxes and offered a solution of having bipartisan teams and a law enforcement officer present to collect ballots during high volume periods. This would allow for disbursement of the traffic to different options for voters. It was brought up that this would not be helpful for all counties. Also, we would be doing a disservice to our association to not take a position and at least ask for what we think is beneficial. Eric Corbin suggested that an analytical approach could be backed up with data. and be helpful. As a point of information Terry Burton added the sponsor had received wrong information from the Secretary of State on how many counties had drop boxes. Putting a sign on the box or blocking it off would not be functional. Dave Karmol added his thoughts that the boxes needed to be available the entire year and at least one box would be beneficial to every county, no matter the size of the county. It was agreed that this be our starting point (keeping our current position) and that we inform the legislators of the security and the ADA requirements of the drop boxes.

Ballot not in ID envelope The current language is unclear and needs to be codified. We have a current practice of being able to have bi partisan teams insert the ballot into the envelope. There was an agreement to have a procedure spelled out in code to make these ballots curable with a bipartisan team.

Reallocation of the 6 hours Aaron suggested reallocating those hours to the previous two weeks instead of allocating those hours over the last weekend. Carla Patton suggested spreading the hours out over the weekdays and adding one hour on Saturday. We would like to have hours that are not confusing to voters or staff. It was discussed whether adding hours on the start of the day or the end of the day or adding more hours to make it consistent. Hearing no objection to it was decided to support the reallocation to each weekday (8am-8pm) and having an additional hour on Saturday (8am-5pm).

Codifying the EAP No one has any issue with codifying the EAP and, Logic and Accuracy testing or allowing 17-year-old juniors to work as election officials. There was an issue with the wording of the bill that has to do with “using” election equipment. The word “acquire”, perhaps is a better option.

Additional items to have discussion with the trustees

Multiple early voting locations, Ballot Printing Contracts, Cure Period for Absentee votes, we have already voted in favor of these items. Aaron questioned if there were any changes to our position. In addition, Dave Karmol shared his record retention concerns of being able to digitize records for retention. We would like to see a policy that enables efficiency and cost effectiveness since the technology allows us to save digital images of the ballots. Brian Sleeth will investigate the federal prohibition that only allows for micro fish. LaVera pointed out the Federal guidelines as well and if there was pending legal action. Kara Herron has concerns about maintaining the historical value of the documents. In response, it could be posed as an option. There was some objection to approaching the legislators too quickly. It was decided to educate the legislators about how we are not destroying the records and how the technology

has changed since the last time we visited this item. Dave, Carla, and Karla will look at this and come up with something that we can agree on.

Mark Munroe made a motion to support the bill with our agreed upon recommendations. Brian Mead seconded the motion. Further discussion was held, and Bill Rich stated his objections. He thought there were provisions in the bill we should be in opposition to, and it was ok to take a neutral position. Beth Goldenfield and Diane Duhlebohn agreed. Aaron reminded to committee that the trustees require 13 affirmative votes, a higher level of commitment than a majority. Lavera Scott called the question. The roll call vote was as follows: Breckel Yes, Corbin Yes, Duhlebohn No, Gibson Yes, Goldenfield No, Krisel No, Rich No, Scott No, Sleeth No, Sneddon No.

Burton Yes, Freytag Yes, Kunkler Yes, Gilders Yes, Hanley Yes, Hardman Yes, Herron Yes, LaRoche Yes, Munroe Yes, Nowaczyk Yes, Patton Yes, Ross Yes, Wichman Yes, Snider Yes, Matthews Yes. Motion Passed 18-7

Aaron announced the retirement of long-term member Sally Krisel and thanked her for being a member of the committee.

Mark Munroe made a motion to adjourn seconded by Carla Patton. There were no objections, and the meeting was ended.

Respectfully submitted Deb Sneddon, Secretary

Approved on _____