

OAEO Legislative Meeting Minutes
March 10, 2023
Via Zoom
2:00 pm

LaVera Scott and Jeff Rezabek Co-chairs called the meeting to order at 2:04 pm.

Present were Shane Breckel, Eric Corbin, Diana Dulebohn, Bethe A Goldenfield, Regine Johnson, Joyce Kale-Pesta, Dee Keister-Smith, Ben Kline, Mollie Landefeld, Alex Linser, Ross McDonald, Brett Riffle, LaVera Scott, Brian Sleeth, Deb Sneddon, Alisha Beeler, Cecilia Blevins, Laura Bruns, Chelsea Cline, Bill Freytag, Jane Hanley, Charlie Hardman, Karla Herron, David Koehl, Nicole Mickley, AJ Nowaczyk, Carla Patton, Jeff Rezabek, Kirsten Ross, Jamie Snider, Tonya Wichman and Nicole Unzicker.

Absent from the call were Luke Burton, Randy Crites, Gail Garbrant, Marlee Gibson, Carol Perry, Ron Knight, Jeff Matthews, and Stephanie Penrose.

Jeff Rezabek moved the approval of January 13th minutes. Bethe A Goldenfield seconded the motion. There were no questions, and the motion was passed.

There was no old business.

Aaron and Amanda Grandjean introduced Stephan Shehy, Director of Legislative Affairs, Shawn Stevens, Director of Intergovernmental Affairs, to the group.

Amanda stated that SB 71 (DATA act) is not a change to the current bottom-up system and is not an unfunded mandate. What it is planned to do is ultimately decrease the number of absentee surveys and reduce the number of public records requests. It would make the data transparent and alleviate some unnecessary conspiracy theories. She added that we do have an inflated voter history and clarified that only ballots cast and counted should receive history. The system would be able to compare apples to apples by having all counties and vendors using the same language and definitions that would be able to be analyzed by the public. There would be a daily snapshot of data that can be used to reconcile and can catch glaring errors such as the Miami County issue in 2018. The bill would also align areas in law where election records have a 60-day retention period and a 81 day time period when the official results can be amended. She thanked the members of the work group and vendors who worked through the language of the bill that addresses changes to some of the commonsense legacy items from the beginning of Frank LaRose's term that were not able to be accomplished due to covid, redistricting, and a presidential election. Amanda added that since Louisiana is already copying the legislation, she hopes this can be the start of a nationwide model to improve the analytics of election data.

Stephen gave an update on the status of the bill. As we were on the call the next hearing is scheduled for proponent testimony on the 14th at 3 pm, Stephen stated that they would greatly appreciate written or oral testimony in support of the bill from OAEO to move it over the finish line. Aaron replied that the trustees will have to meet and vote, and he doesn't know that there will be time to accomplish this by the 14th, but he will

try. Amanda offered to work on the logistics to make it happen and to help with the testimony to expedite things. Aaron stated he will get back with them after some internal conversations.

Greg Fedak stated the legislature is intending to set voting hours. He believes we are at a point where we can start with a clean slate. He stated that they will be working on a massive overhaul on the EOM and he wants input from all of the counties. It was agreed that a survey will be sent to boards to gather input for the dates and hours. They want to keep it grouped similar to how it is now. Discussion followed on consistency and avoiding confusion for voters and staff.

Aaron thanked the members of the SOS for being on the call and asked for feedback on SB 71. There were comments on the increased workload of looking at postmark dates and a question on what will be additional to what we are already sending. Sherry replied that the data from the surveys would be live, providing additional transparencies. The uniform definitions and the availability of the data on the SOS website. Terry Burton added that the absentee data would be pretty much live. Concerns were expressed over the value of the data and what happens when coding errors are corrected the next day. There was some uneasiness of the bill actually calming election deniers and the danger of assuring a 100% match. The question of setting ourselves up for failure and more scrutiny was discussed. As one member mentioned, they thought they would be discussing the date of the next meeting and before they knew it, legislation was being introduced and another mentioned that no one has ever requested voter registration data. Aaron thought there could be some messaging concerns addressed as well as some logistic concern on the 4 pm deadline. The final consensus was that more time is needed before supporting or opposing. If any has requested changes to the language, please email Jeff or LaVera.

HB 21 (May primary) centered on consistency for voters and concerns over losing workers in March. Jane Hanley moved that we support the move to May. Alex Linser seconded the motion. A voice vote confirmed the committee was all in favor, with the exception of one no vote.

HB 40 (permanent absentee request) Lavera wanted to clarify that this is for an absentee request, not the actual ballot. There were concerns over the placement of the check box on the identification envelope that was sent out earlier this year. Sherry clarified that she had talked with the SOS to get it removed after numerous calls from trustees, but the SOS is planning on bringing it back before the November election. Discussion centered on voter confusion, receiving multiple applications, opting in for one election or all elections in the calendar year and the optimal placement of the checkbox before Carla Patton moved that we support HB 40 with a recommendation that places the check box only on the absentee application request form and only applies to the elections in the current year. Jane Hanley seconded the motion. A voice vote confirmed the committee was all in favor, with the exception of one no vote.

HB 33, budget Aaron updated everyone on the call that they are actively seeking two amendments in the budget bill. One on public records requests and the drop box recordings. They have had several conversations with the CCAO. While we understand it will be difficult to do anything politically about the requirement to stream or post video of the drop box to a website, however we would be willing because it is a bad precedent to set to get rid of the requirement. Jeff added that certain individuals will try to jam us up on the requests and the requirements for storage, he felt like they did not hear his concerns.

Aaron added that they will be making reimbursement available for counties who **lease state certified E-poll books**.

There have been responses from over 70 counties on the **Salary Survey** and they are starting to compare the data for use in our conversations with county commissioners.

LaVera and Jeff thanked the members and reminded everyone that they appreciate the calls and the conversations from everyone expressing their concerns.

Jeff thanked Aaron for all his efforts and added that they are working on Title 35 clean up and will have recommendations to review in the next few weeks. Aaron added that we should be ready to act promptly on any changes.

AJ Nowaczyk moved to adjourn the meeting and Mollie Landefeld seconded the motion before the call was ended.

Respectfully,

Deb Sneddon
Secretary

Approved on _____, _____