

Help American Vote Act
State Planning Committee
Minutes July 9, 2003

Chairman and facilitator of the Committee, Dr. James Weatherby, called the meeting to order. Committee members or their representatives in attendance were Tim Hurst, Barbara Roberts, Sharon Widner, David Navarro, Dan English, Noel Hales, Jim Hansen, Emil Dryzayich, Eleanor Chehey, Tony Poinelli, Kelly Buckland and Representative Wendy Jaquet. Members absent were Brian Kane, John Sandy, Rose Gehring, Dave Gipson, and Representative Bill Deal. Secretary of State Ben Ysursa, Rex Sermon a member of the Technical Subcommittee, Jade Riley, Director, Idaho State Democratic Party, Chris Rich, Ada County Clerk Chief Deputy, Penny Ysursa staff person from the Secretary of State's office, Maggie Mahoney with the Association of Counties, and Peter Wolheim, reporter from the Boise Weekly were in attendance.

Chairman Weatherby welcomed those in attendance and proceeded with the first item on the agenda requesting Tim Hurst to report on the progress of the voter registration Technical Committee. Mr. Hurst informed the full committee about the RFP process the Technical Committee, the Secretary of State's office, and Glenn Newkirk, a paid consultant from Infosentry, have been working on. Mr. Hurst stated that copies were available of the draft RFP and welcomed the members to take a copy and offer comments. Mr. Hurst responded to questions concerning the proposed statewide voter registration file. Mr. Ysursa noted that although, the Secretary of State is exempt from the RFP process, entering into a contract of this magnitude required careful scrutiny, therefore the Secretary of State's office chose to go through the RFP process in selecting a vendor.

Chairman Weatherby asked Mr. Hurst to address the second item on the agenda, the Health and Human Services Disability Access Grant Process. Mr. Hurst told the Committee that although the Help America Vote Act stated that the counties could make application for the grants the appropriations bill stated that the States must make application for the grant money. Mr. Hurst informed the Committee that the grant has been applied for and expects to receive the minimum amount (\$100,000) given states. Counties have surveyed their precincts for accessibility compliance and are submitting requests, to the Secretary of State's office, for grant money to make needed changes to polling places. Mr. Hurst informed the Committee that the Secretary of State's office and members from the State Planning Committee would make the determination on the distribution to counties. Jim Hansen inquired about the availability of HAVA funds for municipal elections. Mr. Hurst noted that although HAVA dealt with federal elections that municipal elections would also benefit since they often utilized the same polling places and voting equipment.

Kelly Buckland reported on the protection and advocacy funds received from Health and Human Services to allow the disabled community to monitor polling place accessibility. This money is separate from the grant money provided to the Secretary of

State. Mr. Buckland has suggested using the funds to hire individuals to assist the counties in evaluating polling places for accessibility.

Discussion was held on DREs and security of the touch screen system. Others expressed confidence in the testing of DREs by the independent testing authority sanctioned by the National Association of Election Directors which certifies the system has met the Federal Election Commission standards. Only DREs having met this criteria shall be certified for use in Idaho. Chris Rich from Ada County suggested that security questions and several HAVA requirements could be met by having all mail elections.

Dr. Weatherby directed the members to the copy of the revised draft of the State Plan and noted that the comments received on the initial draft Plan had been incorporated. He asked the Committee members to follow through while he noted where the revisions had been made. He pointed out the three new Appendixes; Voting Systems in Idaho, House Bill 162 and Rules Governing Complaint Process. Mr. Rich expressed concern with number 8 of the plan "How the State will adopt performance goals and measures". Discussion was held with no changes. Dr. Weatherby stated that the final Plan could not be submitted until the Election Assistance Commission is in place. Idaho's State Plan will then be submitted to the Commission for publication in the Federal Register.

Secretary Ysursa gave an update on the HAVA funding. The \$5 million, Title 1 money, requiring no match has been received and Idaho expects to receive \$4.1 million of the requirements money before the end of the calendar year. To receive requirements money the State must provide matching funds. Secretary Ysursa stated that Tony Poinelli from the Association of Counties would be sending a letter to the counties explaining the proposed county match grant program to the counties. Mr. Ysursa noted that not all counties would be able to participate in the match this year but there this would be an on going opportunity. With moneys received from the counties and with the state's contribution, Mr. Ysursa felt that the required matching funds would be available to receive all federal money made available.

Kelly Buckland inquired about the process to change the Plan once published in the Federal Register. Mr. Hurst stated that the Planning Committee could make changes at any time. If the changes altered the Plan substantially, it would need to be submitted to the Election Administration Commission who would then have it again published in the Federal Register.

With no further business, Chairman Weatherby, requested that a motion be made on the revised State Plan. Barbara Roberts stated that she would like to make grammatical changes and moved to adopt the revised HAVA State Plan with these changes. Tony Poinelli seconded the motion. Vote Unanimous.

Chairman Weatherby adjourned the meeting noting the next meeting would be at the discretion of the chair.