

Help American Vote Act
State Planning Committee
Minutes February 5, 2004

Chairman and facilitator of the Committee, Dr. James Weatherby, called the meeting to order. Committee members or their representatives in attendance were Tim Hurst, Rex Sermon representing Barbara Roberts, Sharon Widner, David Navarro, Dan English, Noel Hales, Jim Hansen, Emil Dryzayich, Eleanor Chehey, Tony Poinelli, Rose Gehring, Larry Gahn, Dave Gipson and Brian Kane. Members absent were Kelly Buckland, John Sandy, Representative Wendy Jaquet and Representative Bill Deal. Secretary of State Ben Ysursa, Maria Weeg, Director, Idaho State Democratic Party, Chris Rich, Ada County Clerk Chief Deputy, Penny Ysursa staff person from the Secretary of State's office, Robin Christensen, Clearwater County Clerk, Nolan Boyle, Teton County Clerk, Helen Edwards, Gooding County Clerk, Maria Mabbutt with Latino Get Out The Vote and Eleanor Little, Shoshone-Paiute Tribes were in attendance.

Copies of the State Plan with proposed changes, information on the Direct Recording Electronic voting systems and Voter Outreach Materials were distributed.

Chairman Weatherby welcomed those in attendance and asked that Tim Hurst address the items on the agenda. Mr. Hurst noted that the State has certified a waiver to January 1, 2006 for implementation of the statewide voter registration system. Tim Hurst told the Committee that after technical and statutory review a consultant, Glenn Newkirk wrote the RFP for a statewide voter registration system. Two RFPs were issued with five vendors submitting proposals on the second and final request. The RFP required responses to technical requirements, a demonstration by the top three technical respondents and a cost proposal. A \$3.4 million contract was awarded to Convassys Corporation. Mr. Hurst stated that the vendor would be meeting with counties beginning in March of 2004 with the system to be implemented in fourteen months meeting the January 1, 2006 deadline.

Brian Kane voiced concern that the dates of the statewide voter registration system implementation were not consistent within the plan. Secretary Ysursa stated that the plan should reflect that the system would be implemented by January 1, 2006.

Tim referred to the Disability Etiquette brochure and played the video produced to accompany the brochure. He explained the brochure and video were for the purpose of heightening the awareness for election workers to persons with disabilities and the elderly. Mr. Hurst also exhibited other HAVA compliant forms to be included in county election supplies. He informed the Committee of the voter education and out reach programs implemented to date. Election officials from the Secretary of State's office or county election officials are attending citizen naturalization ceremonies where voter registration applications and voter information are distributed and a birthday card/registration application is being sent to individuals turning eighteen.

Jim Hansen suggested that the brochure "Idaho Votes – Every Vote Counts" published and distributed by the Secretary of State be translated into Spanish. Mr. Hurst indicated that a similar brochure would be printed for the 2004 and once again would be provided in Spanish as it was for the 2002 elections.

Mr. Hurst informed the Committee the Rules for the grievance process were adopted by the legislature on January 21, 2004 and the complaint form to file a grievance was available on the Secretary of State's website.

Chairman Weatherby asked Mr. Hurst to update the Committee on the HAVA funding. Tim stated that Idaho received five million dollars in Title 1 money and the counties have deposited \$163,000 matching funds for voting equipment into the Democracy Fund. With interest, HAVA monies in 2002 totaled \$5.8 million. Mr. Hurst noted that the statewide voter registration system would be approximately three and one-half million. He explained that Idaho would be receiving additional money but would not be disbursed until the Election Assistance Commission published State Plans in the Federal Register. Unfortunately the Commission has not received the funding for this requirement but funding is expected to be forthcoming.

Beginning the review of the changes proposed to the State Plan, Mr. Hurst explained the majority of the changes were to reflect the implementation of recommendations made by the Committee in the original plan. Lengthy discussion followed Maria Mabbutt's comments on the plan's proposed initiatives on Voter Education, Election Official Education and Training and Poll Worker Training. Several amendments were introduced to enhance the sensitivity to cultural and language sensitivity.

Jim Hansen made the motion to adopt Maria Mabbutt's recommended changes to the proposed activities outlined in the State Plan for Voter Education, Election Official Education and Training and Poll Worker Training.

Larry Gahn seconded the motion.

Motion carried unanimously.

Discussion on Voting System Guidelines and Processes focused on the proposed legislation to allow for an all mail ballot precinct and the Health and Human Services \$100,000 grant. With the grant the Secretary of State is to provide assistance to the counties in making polling places accessible to the disabled and to develop disability access training and education materials. Mr. Hurst stated that counties applied for over \$240,000.00 with \$95,892.00 awarded. Remaining funds from the H&HS grant, supplemented with Title 1 funds, were also used for the Disability Etiquette brochure and video.

Mr. Hurst explained that proposed use of Title 1 Payments had been amended to reflect the actual cost of the statewide voter registration system and projected on-going support of the system. He explained, if fully funded, Idaho would receive an additional \$15 million of Title 2 requirements money. This Title 2 money would be deposited into the Democracy Fund to provide for a DRE in every polling place and to be made available, through a grant program to counties who wanted to upgrade their voting systems.

Completing the review of the State Plan with proposed changes, Chairman Weatherby asked for any additional comments.

Tony Poinelli moved to accept the Plan with changes.

Jim Hansen seconded the motion.

Vote unanimous.

Chairman Weatherby led the Committee in discussion on proposed HAVA related legislation.

Jim Hansen moved to delete the requirement in H.B. 562 to be a US citizen to be a student poll worker.

No second to the motion.

Having no further business Chairman Weatherby adjourned the meeting.

