

**Help America Vote Act  
Idaho State Planning Committee  
Minutes, September 24, 2010**

The meeting was called to order by Jim Mairs. Those in attendance were:

Jim Mairs, HAVA Coordinator, Secretary of State Office  
Tim Hurst, Chief Deputy, Secretary of State  
Lisa Mason, Secretary, Secretary of State  
Brian Kane, Deputy Attorney General  
Chris Rich, Chief Deputy Ada County  
Elenore Chehey, League of Women Voters  
Ken Roberts, House Republicans  
Sherry Ward, Adams County Clerk  
Tiffany Southwick, ADA Task Force

The minutes for February 4, 2010 meeting were approved.

Sherry Ward, Adams County Clerk, has joined the committee. Tiffany Southwick with the ADA Task Force is filling in for Bobby Ball for this meeting.

**Review of HHS Grants**

HHS Grants are grants to available to counties to improve access to polling places. To date, \$146,540 has been spent on improving polling place accessibility. This year 5 counties have been reimbursed \$19,889 to buy accessible voting booths, ramps, signs and to pave accessible parking areas.

**The Democracy Fund**

The Democracy Fund is grant money for counties to update their voting systems. So far \$2.9 million has been spent. A large portion of that (\$1.1 million) went to Ada County. There is still \$4 million available. It is anticipated that it will be used up within the next 4-5 years because of the high cost of maintaining the statewide voter registration system. The annual fee for support for the registrations system is approximately \$425,000. When those funds are no longer available, the Secretary of State will most likely be asking the legislature for funding to pay for the continued support of the system.

**Federal and State Legislation**

**MOVE Act Compliance** - Idaho is happy to report that they have met the 45 day requirement of the MOVE Act (Military Overseas Voting Empowerment) to have all absentee ballots that were requested by September 17 mailed by the end of the business day. Idaho is also participating in a pilot program with the federal government to test an electronic ballot delivery system. With this system, the ballot can be sent electronically to voters overseas, but must be mailed back. The intention of the program is to get the

appropriate ballot to a military or overseas voter quickly so that they can print the ballot, mark their choices and return the ballot by mail in time to be counted by 8PM on Election Day.

**ID Requirement** - The new law requiring voters to show ID or sign a personal identification affidavit is now in place. There have been no major complaints so far and we don't anticipate it being a big problem. Idaho's requirement was patterned after South Dakota's ID requirement. In the first year it was in place in South Dakota, 15% of voters signed the affidavit. Now, after five years, less than 2% are signing the affidavit. The advantage of signing the affidavit is that it is a catch all for those that didn't get the word or may have forgotten to bring their ID to the polls.

### **Preparation for the General Election Tuesday, November 2<sup>nd</sup>**

A statewide media campaign has been developed for the November election. Billboards, radio, television as well as grass roots voter education through the state library system, partnerships with state agencies and the Project Vote outreach program will feature the "Bring your ID and Vote" message. The campaign will also remind voters that all ballots and polling places in Idaho are accessible and that they can find official information on [idahovotes.gov](http://idahovotes.gov).

### **Other Business**

Election consolidation will take affect in January of 2012. We are writing a new Election Consolidation Manual and will be putting on trainings for clerks and election workers in January or February. To date, \$76,736 has been spent. Most of the funds are being used for software and GIS systems.