

**Help America Vote Act
Idaho State Planning Committee
Minutes, September 26, 2013**

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

Gayle Batt, House Republicans
Chris Rich, Ada County Clerk
Kristina Glascock, Twin Falls County Clerk (telephone)
Abbie Mace, Fremont County Clerk (telephone)
Patty Weeks, Nez Perce County Clerk
Elinor Chehey, League of Women Voters
Tim Hurst, Chief Deputy Secretary of State
Jim Mairs, HAVA Coordinator, Secretary of State Office
Lisa Mason, Administrative Assistant, Secretary of State Office

The minutes for April 12, 2013 meeting were approved.

Certification of Voting Systems 2013

The office of the Secretary of State certified the ES&S Unity 3400 voting system on March after review of the system and the required certification hearing. The ES&S 3400 system software is compatible with the currently certified M100 precinct tabulator and M650 central count tabulator. Unity 3400 is also compatible with ES&S's new digital tabulators, the DS200 precinct count tabulator and DS850 optical scan tabulator, as the software with both types of tabulators. A certification event for the new digital DS200 and DS850 tabulators with the EVS5000 software was held on September 17, 2013 and the system will be certified by the end of this month.

On October 1, 2013, a certification hearing is scheduled for the HART InterCivic 6.2.1 voting system. This is a software based system for generating ballots, election codes and tabulation of ballots. The ballot is scanned with a commercial digital scanner and the HART software captures voter's marks from the digital images to calculate results. HART has a central count system and a precinct scanner called the eScan. The company also sells an accessible DRE unit called the eSlate that could be used like the AutoMARK as the federally required accessible unit in all polling places for federal elections.

New Equipment

Recently Clearwater County purchased the ES&S DS200 precinct counters and Cassia County is looking at purchasing the DS200 system. Kootenai County is purchasing the DS850 central count tabulator and Lincoln County is purchasing the M100 precinct count system.

Other counties looking at possible voting equipment updates are Ada, Canyon, Madison, Bonneville and Bingham.

FVAP Grant Award – UOCAVA and Sample ballot portal.

Idaho has been awarded a five year \$250,000 grant from the Federal Voting Assistance Program to conduct a research project to provide an online ballot portal for overseas voters and a voter specific sample ballot for anyone in the state. The Department of Defense is promoting electronic voting in hopes of improving the voting experience for UOCAVA voters. The three vendors so far interested in this project are 1) Democracy Live, 2) Kennech and 3) ES&S. This project is scheduled to be completed before the May Primary and could provide on-screen ballot marking technology which could be used in the future for accessible voting for people with disabilities.

The Democracy Fund (Voting System Replacement)

There is currently \$3.2 million available in the Democracy Fund. Most of the funds are allocated for the voting systems grant program. The statewide voter registration system is costing \$400,000 per year for software support and maintenance. Eventually, when this fund is depleted, the state will have to rely on the legislature for funding for maintenance and enhancements to the voter registration system.

HHS Grants (Improvements for Accessible Voting)

Currently we have \$300,000 in Federal funds available to counties for improvements for accessible options for polling places. We only have one application now and only one application last year. We are hoping to see more applications before the Primary Election. Every year that we don't use the money, the federal government decreases the amount available for reimbursement to the counties. This time next year, they will reduce the available funds by \$100,000. Idaho has drawn down approximately \$460,000 over the last six years to reimburse counties for access improvements to polling places.

We encourage the counties to invite people from their local disability community to tour county polling places and make suggestions to improve polling place access for all voters.

Other business from members of the committee

There has been a lot of discussion regarding the use of electronic poll books. The Secretary has considered the process and convenience for the counties on Election Day and likes the idea. Even though there is nothing that prohibits the use of electronic poll books in the code, there is also nothing in the code that gives authority to use them. Therefore, the Secretary is not comfortable using them until there is a specific statutory authorization for their use. Our office is considering legislation to authorize electronic poll books. Electronic poll books potentially cut down on instances of voters receiving

an incorrect ballot and provide time savings to the counties, especially updating voter information after an election.

The EAC (Elections Assistant Commission) is not active at this time as the board has vacancies that have not been filled. The President has selected a group of experts who are looking at voting around the country trying to determine what caused the long lines and problems at the last General Election. Our state did not have a problem with long lines. The longest lines in Idaho were at early voting locations.

Another issue the EAC will be looking into is voter impersonation identity fraud. We have not had a problem with voter impersonation fraud. Idaho only has a few isolated cases of voters who voted twice by using the same name. We are not aware of anyone in Idaho voting under two different names.

Ada County would like to look into having Vote Centers where people can come from anywhere in the county to one voting place. Vote Centers works best with electronic voting.

Ada County is also looking at legislation to allow digital images to be the primary documents so that don't have to keep paper documents. In particular, registration cards.

Meeting adjourned