

**Help America Vote Act  
Idaho State Planning Committee  
Minutes, February 10, 2012**

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

Chris Rich, Ada County Clerk  
Phil McGrane, Ada County Deputy Clerk  
Dave Gibson, Caxton Printers  
Ken Roberts, House Republicans  
Christine Pisani, ICDD  
Colleen Fellows, Democratic Party  
Jim Philpott, Ada County Democratic Party  
Tim Hurst, Chief Deputy, Secretary of State  
Lisa Mason, Secretary, Secretary of State  
Jim Mairs, HAVA Coordinator, Secretary of State Office

The minutes for August 24, 2011 meeting were approved.

**EAC Status**

The EAC committee is currently without a board and faces an uncertain future. The only company that has been active in trying to get voting equipment certified is ES&S.

**Review of HHS Grants**

Health and Human Services Grants (HHS) are reimbursement grants that the state can draw down money to reimburse counties to improve access to polling places. There is \$400,000 available and we have \$7,200 in pending applications. As the General Election gets closer, we should see more applications from the counties for voting booths, accessible signage, etc.

These reimbursement grants can also be used for training persons with developmental disabilities to be involved with the voting process. Train the Trainer was implemented at the last General Election and was headed by Christine Pisani with Project Vote for the Idaho Council on Developmental Disabilities with support from the Office of the Secretary of State and a federal grant from HHS. An email network through the ICDD is in place to continue awareness of accessible voting options for Idahoans. Although there are no plans currently for a statewide “Train the Trainer” program, the agencies that have participated in the past have staff and clients that have been trained on operation of the ballot marking device and the idahovotes.gov website continues to provide education and demonstrations for voters with disabilities.

## **The Democracy Fund**

The Democracy Fund is grant money for counties to update or change their voting systems. These funds are also used for the Idaho Statewide Voter Registration System (ISVRS) maintenance. It costs the state \$464,000 per year for maintaining the system and \$80,000 goes to ITD for the use of their services.

Three counties have just purchased new systems that they will be using in the Primary and General Elections – Minidoka, Jerome and Elmore.

The inventory of equipment purchased with federal HAVA funds is complete. The office of the Secretary of State has received from all the counties their inventory lists and equipment serial numbers to make sure that state records and county records match in preparation for a potential Federal audit. It is the responsibility of the subgrantees to abide by Federal records keeping guidelines of inventory and to be able to account for all equipment.

## **Closed Primary Election – May 15, 2012**

Staff from the Secretary of State's Office will be traveling the state presenting training sessions for the County Clerks and election personnel. Ballot preparation is underway with the print and optical scan vendors and sample ballots are being prepared. Three ballots are necessary for the closed primary election: A Republican ballot, a Democratic ballot and a non-partisan ballot. The non-partisan judicial races will also appear on the Republican and Democratic ballots.

Party affiliation will be highlighted during training. Currently Idaho has 21,805 Republican, 5,000 Democratic, 329 Libertarian, and 200 Constitutionalist affiliations. 10,500 people have declared unaffiliated and 708,000 have not declared a party preference. Voters who have not affiliated before Election Day may affiliate at the polls. Effective training is essential to assist poll workers and voters due to the changes in election law and procedures required by the Closed Primary this year.

A statewide media campaign, funded by the Legislature, to educate voters on their ballot choices and what to expect at the polls on Election Day is being planned. The "Be A Voter - Know Before You Go" campaign will include ads on radio, broadcast television, cable television, in newspapers, on billboards as well as content elements for websites and for counties to use in their home media markets.

Counties are preparing their poll worker training which will be supported by training materials from the Office of the Secretary of State.

There was no further business and the meeting was adjourned.