Help American Vote Act
State Planning Committee
Minutes March 12, 2003

Chairman and facilitator of the Committee, Dr. James Weatherby, called the meeting to order. Committee members in attendance were Tim Hurst, Dr. James Weatherby, Barbara Roberts, Sharon Widner, David Navarro, Noel Hales, Bob Fort, Rose Gehring, Emil Drzayich, James Hansen, Eleanor Chehey, Dave Gipson and Brian Kane. Members absent were Kelly Buckland, Dan English, Representative Wendy Jaquet and Representative Bill Deal. Secretary of State, Ben Ysursa, staff person from the Secretary of State's office, members of the Technical Subcommittee and members of the public were also present.

Dr. Weatherby noted the two handouts and directed to Committee to the Proposed Schedule. Dr. Weatherby asked Tim Hurst to explain the acceleration of proposed dates and deadlines. Mr. Hurst explained that the final plan should be sent to the Election Assistance Commission by June 1 in order to have funds available mid-July. Having funds available mid-July would allow the counties to know before they set their budgets for 2004 if matching funds would be available to upgrade their election equipment.

The Committee agreed that the next meeting would be held on March 26 at the Ada County Building.

Dr. Weatherby stated that the Committee would look at the outline of the HAVA requirements and give examples of goals to be included in Idaho's state plan and how to achieve such goals. Dr. Weatherby suggested that the Committee focus on specific areas of the outline beginning with;

 #3 - How the state will provide programs for voter education, election official education and training, and poll worker training which will assist the state in meeting the requirements of Title III.

The following suggestions were made:
1. Public Service announcements on how to cast a vote and what to bring to the polls as a first time voter in Idaho.
2. Incorporate voter education in the school curriculum.
3. Recruit high school students as poll workers and have training be part of school curriculum.
4. Mock elections in the secondary schools
5. IACRC review and analyze current poll worker training tools.
6. Hold voter seminars.
7. Form outreach partnerships with public and private organizations.
8. Uniform Voter ID card.
9. Voter Guide – possibly web-based.
10. Provide bilingual voter information and recruit bilingual pollworkers.
11. Uniform voting system statewide.
12. Comprehensive schedule planning the training and education through election day..
13. Facilitate programs to ensure that participation in Spanish speaking jurisdiction be at comparable levels.

#4   How the state will adopt voting system guidelines and processes which are consistent with the requirements of Sec. 301.

Voting System Standards.
1. Voting system guidelines are in place.
2. A direct recording electronic voting system must be available in every precinct.
3. Reduce the number of polling places by allowing all absentee ballot precincts.
4. To accommodate election day registration all absentee ballot precinct residents could register and vote the day of election at the office of the county clerk.
5. Secretary of State to do a survey asking counties to review the handicap accessibility of their polling places.
6. Secretary of State to work with disability groups to attain handicap ballot accessibility for every precinct.
7. Define what is handicap accessible for the blind.
8. All voting systems currently used in Idaho have a verifiable audit trail and all newly certified direct recording electronic voting systems must provide verifiable audit trail.

Provisional Voting
Idaho is not under provisional ballot requirement due to election day registration.

Voting Information Requirements
1. Public posting on Election Day
2. Caxton Printers currently provide precinct supplies to counties.
3. Secretary of State will work with Caxton Printers to incorporate required posted information i.e., date of the election and the hours during which polling places will be open, instructions for mail-in registrants and first-time voters, general information on Federal and State laws and how to contact the appropriate officials if these rights are alleged to have been violated.
4.   Detailed voting instructions for each separate type of voting system, including absentee, were updated in 2002.
5. Counties would be responsible for their respective sample ballot(s). Sample ballots should reflect only the candidates appearing on the ballot(s) for that particular polling place.

Discussion was held on attempting to address the mail-in registrants and first-time voters up front by press releases and county election officials requesting identification immediately upon receipt of mail-in registration.

Computerized Statewide Voter Registration List Requirements for Voters Who Register by Mail.

Tim Hurst gave an update on the Statewide Voter Registration Technical Committee. The Secretary of State is currently gathering information from the counties to determine the various levels of automation, type of system, how registration lists are used, etc. This information will be presented to the Technical Committee at their next meeting. Currently there is not a system utilized by any of the counties, which would meet the requirements of the HAVA. Twenty-eight counties use the Computer Arts system and most other counties have their own automated systems. Election Systems and Software and other vendors are willing to do partnerships with the State in developing and maintaining a statewide voter registration list.

Privacy of the information on the list was discussed. Secretary of State, Ben Ysursa, stated that this was an issue to be addressed under the public records law and should not be part of the statewide plan.

Dr. Weatherby directed the Committee to the remaining topic on the outline that would be addressed at the meeting.

#8. How the state will adopt performance goals and measures.

1. Exit survey of voters on voting process to be maintained over a period of years.
2. Polls on non-voter participation.
3. Measure the efficiency of polling places and new voting systems i.e. wait time.
4. Measure how many voters use handicap unit.
5. Suggestion boxes at each precinct.
6. Comments from public and political parties on use of statewide voter registration lists.

Discussion was held on voter turnout being used as a measurement.

Dr. Weatherby was encouraged by the progress the committee had made towards what should be included in the state's plan. He stated that the Committee would adjourn for the day to reconvene on March 26.

Brian Kane made the motion to adjourn.
Barbara Roberts seconded the motion.
Hearing no questions.
Vote unanimous to adjourn.