

**Help America Vote Act
Idaho State Planning Committee
Minutes, July 17, 2008**

The meeting was called to order by Dr. James Weatherby. Those in attendance were:

Tim Hurst, Chief Deputy of the Secretary of State
Jim Mairs, HAVA Coordinator with the Secretary of State's Office
Lisa Mason, Election Division of the Secretary of State's Office
Dan English, Kootenai County Clerk
Elinor Chehey, League of Women Voters
Chris Rich, Ada County
David Navarro, Ada County
Barbara Roberts, Democratic Party
Tony Poinelli, Association of Counties

Also in attendance via telephone conference were Kelly Buckland, Idaho State Independent Living Council and Sharon Widner, Washington County.

Copies of the February 7th meeting were distributed. After a brief discussion the minutes were approved.

Review of HHS Grants

Grants to improve access to polling places total \$13,800 to date in 2008. Only one county has applied for funding to improve access to their polling places. Two grant requests were denied because federal requirements instruct that grant funds not supplant county funds. A county can not use the HHS Grant money for routine maintenance of effort expenses. Jim Mairs has sent an email to all the county clerks reminding them to check their polling places to make sure that they are accessible and apply for funding. There is almost \$400,000 available now with another \$100,000 for next year in grant funds for improvements to polling places. Counties have been encouraged to take advantage of funds available to them.

The Democracy Fund

Tim Hurst distributed copies of allocations to date from the grant program and the counties that received funds to upgrade their voting systems. Ada, Cassia, Blaine and Canyon Counties have all upgraded their systems. Canyon County is planning a mock election at the fair this summer with their new M650 central count tabulators. Other counties are looking to upgrading their systems after the general election. \$6.3 million has been made available and we have paid out approximately \$1.5 million. \$13 million in the Help America Vote Act funds have been spent to date and approximately \$6 million remain in the fund.

Primary Election Report

Voter turnout for the Primary Election was just over 25% statewide. It ranged from 11% in Latah County to almost 60% in Clark County. Absentee voting was up in north Idaho.

**Help America Vote Act
Idaho State Planning Committee
Minutes, July 17, 2008**

Low turn out in Latah County was partially due to the University semester break. Voter registrations rolls were inflated because some students registered and then went home when school ended for the semester.

Ada County has 6 new M650 central count tabulators and did well with them for a first election with new equipment. Bannock County also has a new M650 bringing their total to 3 machines. Blaine County utilized a single M650 and did very well as did Cassia County and Latah County and Madison County with their new units. Canyon county is going to be using new M650s for the General Election and will be doing a mock election at the fair and go through all the process that they have to learn. Their progress seems to be on track. Besides Canyon County going to the M650 for the General Election, Fremont County will upgrade from an M150 a single M650.

Kootenai County utilized three M650s and did well even though there were some issues with acceptance testing with the tabulators. The issues were corrected by the vendor.

Lemhi County and Teton County have the M100 precinct based tabulators. The unit features instant feedback for the voter i.e. if the voter inserts an over voted ballot, the ballot is rejected and the M100 notifies the voter immediately. Jim Mairs made the comment that every machine, regardless of what model of tabulator it is must be serviced before an each election by ES&S. Also, for all the new installations, site support is essential on Election Day.

Everything with the AutoMARK went very well. The unit was not widely used, but there were no problems reported. Bingham County, who is very aggressive training their poll workers and encouraging people with disabilities to use the ballot marking device, had 146 votes on the AutoMARK. Preparation and testing for the AutoMARK has improved since the last election.

Preparations for the 2008 General Election

A large turnout is expected for the General Election. The Secretary is estimating the turnout will be somewhere between 75 and 80% and the counties are being advised to prepare accordingly.

A media campaign to inform the public that polling places are accessible is in the planning stage. The campaign will focus on accessibility and options for voters who can not make it to the polls on Election Day.

A poll worker training DVD with chapters on testing the AutoMARK, disability etiquette, and how to properly mark an optical scan ballot is complete and ready for distribution to the counties. Counties are instructed to make sure that every voter receives a demonstration on properly marking the optical scan ballot so that ballots are readable by the tabulators.

**Help America Vote Act
Idaho State Planning Committee
Minutes, July 17, 2008**

Project Vote II (Determined to Vote 2008)

The State approved funding for Project Vote again for this election. Last election they trained 7 regional teams in Boise and the teams traveled the state to train other individuals with disabilities on how to use the ballot marking device. In August the teams will be training in independent living centers around the state, working with high school students and college students age 18-21 who have a disability, and some residents of state hospitals.

On the poll worker DVD there are chapters featuring Project Vote teams and Secretary Ysursa demonstrating the ballot marking device. There is also a chapter on the audio ballot by one of the Project Vote team member who did a wonderful job explaining this important feature. The 2008 election training DVD will be sent to all counties and used by the Project Vote teams. Training materials will also be available on the web.

EAC Activities

The EAC is now responsible for certification of voting equipment. Tim Hurst has been invited to a meeting in August sponsored by the EAC to talk about streamlining and reducing the cost of the certification of voting equipment. The EAC is made up of 4 commissioners who are recommended by Congress and the President. The EAC has a National Standards Board with two people from each state on the board. Dan English and Tim Hurst represent Idaho. The EAC has developed a number of help books and quick start guides on how to improve elections available on their website. Their biggest challenge is developing and implementing Voluntary Voting Systems Guidelines which manufactures can use in the design of new equipment.

Proposed Federal Legislation regarding elections

No legislation will be passed this year.

State Plan Amendment

In order to be eligible for \$575,000 in additional grant funds the state plan must be amended. Tim Hurst handed out information on amending the state plan and asked the committee to take a good look at the information and get back to him with comments.

Other business from members of the committee

Chris Rich asked about the ISVRS. Tim Hurst met earlier this week with the vendor and discussed concerns and suggestions for speeding up the system, especially the extract files. The vendor plans to improve the system before the general election.

The meeting was adjourned.