

**Help America Vote Act  
Idaho State Planning Committee  
Minutes, August 17, 2012**

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

Chris Rich, Ada County Clerk  
Elinor Chehey, League of Women Voters  
Kristina Glasscock, Twin Falls County Clerk  
Sherry Ward, Adams County Clerk  
Sally Boynton Brown, Idaho Democratic Party Executive Director  
Jim Mairs, HAVA Coordinator, Secretary of State Office  
Lisa Mason, Secretary, Secretary of State Office

The minutes for February 10, 2012 meeting were approved.

**New Committee Members in 2013**

Due to appointments from the Governor and changes in the legislature, we will be adding some new members from both parties in 2013.

**Certification of Voting Systems 2012**

Because of a law change this past year, 34-2409 I.C., the state of Idaho can now certify voting systems without prior approval from the Election Assistance Commission. However, approval by a certified testing lab is required. Idaho will be able to join with other states, like Washington and Oregon, and do a group certification. After the 2012 General Election, we will be looking at optical scanners from ES&S and possibly other vendors.

There are four counties still using punch cards, however, after the 2012 General Election, we will be looking at replacing punch cards over the next few years. It is getting extremely hard to find anyone to service the equipment.

**HHS Grants**

HHS grant funds are available for improving access to polling places. Currently we have an outstanding grant with Custer County for \$2000 and have just completed a grant with Canyon County for leg extenders on voting booths that allow access for wheelchairs. This year the HHS grant has reimbursed the counties approximately \$15,000 for polling place improvements. There are funds available now to the counties to make sure everyone has accessible voting places.

## **The Democracy Fund**

The Democracy Fund is utilized to replace voting systems and to maintain the statewide voter registration system. The Democracy Fund is available to those four counties that will be replacing punch card systems and to other counties that may need to upgrade their voting system. The ISVRS, the state voter registration system, requires approximate \$500,000 per year to maintain.

There were concerns expressed about the maintenance of the dedicated statewide voter registration computers and printers and who will be paying for the replacement/repair of those machines when the Democracy fund is depleted.

## **General Election Preparation**

### **Poll Worker Training**

All counties met the UOCAVA 45 day deadline for mailing military and overseas ballots for the Primary. All the counties did extremely well in a very difficult situation with the number of ballots and complications of the Primary Election due to redistricting changes in the law and party rules.

We have started to prepare poll worker training to assist the counties with training their poll workers. Tim and Jim will be in Twin Falls at the Clerk's Conference to talk about what's new for the General Election and providing suggestions on poll worker training to the County Clerks.

There is much anticipation that General Election will go a lot more smoothly than the Primary Election. There will be two optical scan ballot pages and three pages in the paper ballot counties. All counties will be required to have an optical scan ballot for the AutoMark.

Both parties have applied for an extension of the September 1 deadline for the certification of the presidential electors. That will bring the deadline to September 6 for the parties to certify their candidates to our office. There are two petitions in Ada County currently being circulated for Independent Presidential Candidates

## **Other business from members of the committee**

There were questions regarding party affiliation and those voters that have not chosen a party yet. Any voter who has not affiliated with a party will be automatically designated as "Unaffiliated" in the statewide voter registration system. This process will take place in early September.

Ada County Elections will have a booth at the Western Idaho Fair and will giving demonstrations on ballot on demand. They are hoping that down the road they will be able to use it for walk-in, absentee and mail out absentee ballots to help save on ballot printing costs. Their system will be reviewed before implementation by the Secretary of State.

Kristina Glasscock in Twin Falls asked about the future of the AutoMark. There is concern regarding ongoing maintenance and the size/weight of the machine. To date, there is no other machine certified as an accessible voting device like the AutoMark. However, the DS200 from ES&S, that may qualify as an accessible voting device and meet Federal and Idaho election law requirements. Actual performance of the DS200 in the General election in Florida will be evaluated and the device will then have to pass state certification before it can be used in Idaho.

The meeting was adjourned.