

**Help America Vote Act
Idaho State Planning Committee
Minutes, February 4, 2015**

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

Lawrence Denney, Secretary of State
Tim Hurst, Chief Deputy Secretary of State
Gayle Batt, House Republicans
Elaine Smith, House Democrats
Chris Rich, Ada County Clerk
Patty Weeks, Nez Perce County Clerk
David Johnson, Executive Director, Idaho Republican Party
Elinor Chehey, League of Women Voters
Dave Gipson, Caxton Printers
Mel Leviton, Disability Rights Idaho
Christine Pisani, Idaho Council on Developmental Disabilities
Jim Mairs, HAVA Coordinator

Attempted to join, phone issues:
Kristina Glasscock, Twin Falls County Clerk
Abbie Mace, Fremont County Clerk
Sally Boynton Brown, Executive Director Idaho Democratic Party

The minutes for the February 6, 2014 meeting were approved.

New committee members:

Secretary Lawrence Denney, Representative Elaine Smith and David Johnson, new committee members for 2015, were welcomed to the HAVA committee.

The Democracy Fund (Voting System Replacement)

Mr. Hurst discussed the recent EAC audit. The auditors had concerns with the written documentation of the procurement process and state monitoring of the counties. More controls will be put in place and Mr. Mairs will be monitoring the counties.

Mr. Hurst met with JFAC co-chairs to discuss election funding necessary in the future as the Democracy Fund is expended. The voter registration system costs about \$650,000 per year. All Title II funds, originally 16 million dollars, have been expended. Some Title I funds (originally 5 million dollars) remain. Some of the remaining funds are set aside for voting system replacement. The state may need to appropriate funds for the voter registration system maintenance. The counties in the future will not have funds from the Democracy Fund for voting system replacement.

Mr. Hurst has also discussed with the JFAC co-chairs extending the deadline for the Election Consolidation Fund (approximately 1 million dollars) due to expire January 1, 2016. This fund could be used to support the voter registration system. There are no plans to ask the Legislature for additional funds this year but probably will next year.

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Mr. Rich asked if the concept was to keep or replace the current system. Mr. Hurst responded the office is exploring both options. The office would require additional funding to re-build the current voter registration system which cost 5 million dollars to develop. The infrastructure is now in place so new software would be the major expense. The office continues to enhance the current system with upgrades for the time being.

HHS Grants (Improvements for Accessible Voting)

This year, to improve access to polling places, the office has about \$200,000 available. To date \$8,600 is committed for access improvements in Bingham, Boise, Lincoln and Boundary counties. Next year we will have only \$100,000 left available in this drawdown grant. In two years this grant will be unavailable. We are encouraging counties to take advantage of these funds this year.

Legislation

The office is proposing legislation that authorizes the use of electronic poll books. There is also some cleanup legislation to adjust dates in the election calendar. The Secretary would also like authorization from the Legislature for online voter registration.

Mr. Rich brought up the proposed legislation for the Presidential Primary election moving from May to March of 2016. He also suggested having elections on in-service days for schools when students were not attending.

Mr. Hurst commented that Legislators have talked with the office about this concept. Also he commented about the electioneering issues when polling places for bond and levy elections are held in a school building. Ms. Weeks added parking and commotion were problems with polling places in schools and her county did not use schools.

New Equipment

In August 2014 the Election Systems and Software (ES&S) EVS 5.2.0.0 ElectionWare software was certified for use with the ExpressVote, DS200 precinct tabulator and the DS850 central count tabulator. The ExpressVote is a touchscreen accessible voting device that prints out a ballot on an IBM size card which can be tabulated by the DS200 precinct tabulator or the DS850 central count tabulator. The unit is smaller and lighter than the AutoMARK and about the same price. Cassia County purchased the ExpressVote with the DS200 precinct tabulator and reported their voters liked the machine after the November election.

Ms. Pisani and Ms. Leviton brought up two issues with the ExpressVote discovered during certification. The support stand for the device has already been re-designed and strengthened. The other issue, no audio directing the blind voter to go to the button on the right hand bottom of the screen to move forward, has been reported to the vendor and will be addressed in the next version of the device.

Three counties, Bingham, Blaine and Payette have purchased the ES&S DS200 digital precinct scanners. Canyon County has purchased two DS850 central count

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scanners. Canyon County had a reporting issue in November with the 5.2.0.0. version of Election Reporting Manager (ERM) software that will be corrected in the 5.4.0.0. version of the software.

Caribou County, like Franklin and Bonneville Counties has purchased the eSlate DAU (Disabled Accessible Unit) and eScan from Hart Intercivic. Franklin and Caribou will run the first elections on this precinct based system in May, 2015.

There are now 3 accessible voting devices used in the state: the AutoMARK and the ExpressVote from ES&S and the eSlate DAU (Disabled Accessible Unit) from Hart. All have a voter verifiable paper audit trails, audio ballots and are accessible with two positions switches and sip and puff devices. The AutoMARK and ExpressVote are touch screen devices with braille key pad. The eSlate DAU uses a click wheel to enter voter choices.

Other Business from Members of the Committee

Mr. Rich discussed Ada County's interviews with the U.S. Attorney concerning a blind voter and the availability of an accessible device at the polls for municipal elections. Currently an accessible device is required by HAVA for all Federal elections. The county received a letter from the U.S. Attorney concerning the availability of the device for all elections under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

The county and the U.S. Attorney agreed that when the county purchases a new voting system the county will endeavor to put out assistive voting machines for all elections. Mr. Rich explained that the county would like to purchase a system that can meet all the laws in the next two years. He added that the county will need financial and legislative assistance to do so.

Mr. Hurst commented that the voting system vendors have been hesitant to produce and federally certify new systems as the rules for certification have not been clear up to now. The Election Assistance Commission (EAC) has three new commissioners this year. As standards are updated over the next couple of years the vendors will come out with new systems to meet EAC requirements for certification.

Ms. Leviton commented on the availability of accessible machines for Municipal elections. She suggested getting together with the counties and brainstorming to find short term solutions for both the county and voters with disabilities.

Mr. Hurst added if all polling places are not accessible it is possible to re-assign voters who require assistance to accessible polling places. There are provisions in the federal and state law that allow polling place re-assignment. Mr. Hurst suggested Mr. Mairs facilitate the conversations with the disability community and the counties.

Ms. Pisani brought up Friday July 17th the disability community plans to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and would like to include the work done around accessible voting by the SOS office.

Ms. Leviton brought up the AutoMARK demonstration and training project facilitated by Disability Rights Idaho. The objective is to teach people how to use the device before Election Day. Although the AutoMARK will be phased out in the coming years, they work as training machines as the ExpressVote from ES&S uses basically the same navigation.

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This past year 6 machines from Bonneville County were set up at demonstration sites including the Center for Disabilities and Human Development/Idaho Assistive Technology Project at the University of Idaho, at the Centers for Independent Living in Boise (Living Independence Network Corporation) and Pocatello (Living Independently For Everyone) and the Idaho Council on Disabilities and Disability Rights Idaho, Boise and Pocatello offices. The Department of Veterans/Disability Student Services Affairs at Boise State University have also signed up for next year.

Online voter registration was brought up by Ms. Chehey. Secretary Denney responded that online registration was an option and that signature technology was available. Mr. Hurst added that there is a link with the vehicle registration department to verify signatures in states that currently have online voter registration. Secretary Denney added that online voter registration would eliminate incomplete registrations as an online system would not allow incomplete registrations to be submitted which would cut down on data entry time and data entry errors.

Meeting adjourned