

Help American Vote Act  
State Planning Committee  
Minutes June 24, 2004

Chairman and facilitator of the Committee, Dr. James Weatherby, called the meeting to order. Committee members or their representatives in attendance were Tim Hurst, Barbara Roberts, Sharon Widner, David Navarro, Dan English, Jim Hansen, Emil Dryzayich, Eleanor Chehey, Rose Gehring, Peg Jardine – Bannock County representing Larry Gahn, Dave Gipson and Tony Poinelli. Members absent were Kelly Buckland, John Sandy, Representative Wendy Jaquet, Representative Bill Deal, Kelly Buckland and Noel Hales. Secretary of State Ben Ysursa, Chris Rich, Ada County Clerk Chief Deputy, Penny Ysursa staff person from the Secretary of State's office, Jim Mairs of Mairs Productions, Marilyn Sword from Council on Developmental Disabilities, Ramona Walhof from National Federation of the Blind of Idaho, Gloria G. Munoz, Idaho Latino Vote, Theresa Wilding and Eri Yeary from Project vote.

Copies of the updated State Plan, minutes of the February meeting and Project Voter materials were distributed.

David Navarro made the motion to approve the minutes.  
Rose Gehring seconded.  
Vote unanimous.

Tim Hurst introduced Jim Mairs explaining that Mr. Mairs has been contracted by the Secretary of State's office to assist in complying with a main component of HAVA, voter outreach and education. He explained the importance of trying to enlist the private sector and government in the effort to reach a wide range of potential voters at a low cost. Mr. Mairs stated that a repetition of the message is essential in leaving an impression on the audience you are trying to reach. His intent is to have a concentrated effort three weeks before the election to inform the electorate of the provisions of the HAVA i.e., access, voter's responsibility in checking the ballot and the availability of assistance. Mr. Mairs explained that the initial campaign would be setting up a prototype to test what works and could be used in future years.

Discussion was held on how the voter outreach program would be measured. Secretary Ysursa expressed concern that in an election in which there were few candidate contests and no issues statewide, voter turnout may not be a fair measurement of the program.

Discussion was held on various methods of voter outreach. Jim Hansen inquired about the availability of the materials development in Spanish or Braille. Mr. Hurst stated the radio message would be made available to the Latino Stations and a Spanish Voter's Guide would be available. Ramona Walhof expressed Braille was not necessarily the best assistance that could be provided to the sight impaired community. She recommended recorded messages and assistance with transportation. Marilyn Sword added her support for transportation assistance for all persons with disabilities. Dan English suggested absentee voting as a remedy for the transportation problem and asked if this were an acceptable method of voting for persons with disabilities. Theresa Wilding stated although absentee voting certainly is an alternative she felt most preferred voting at their polling place. Gloria Munoz from Latino Vote felt that in addition to materials furnished in Spanish resources are needed to allow follow-up.

Chairman Weatherby introduced Eleanor Chehey, Theresa Wilding and Eric Yeary for the "Project Vote" presentation. "Project Vote" is a program to encourage persons with disabilities to register and vote. Theresa referred the Committee to the handouts on "Project Vote" and presented a slide presentation. Eleanor, Theresa and Eric attended training in Chicago on empowering persons with disabilities to vote. Due to their attendance Idaho was awarded a grant of \$3,000 for use in training groups in Idaho. With the limited funds Eric and Theresa will be focusing their training in Health District Regions 6 and 7. Mr. Hurst requested a proposal be submitted for review in order to make additional funds available to "Project Vote" to allow training throughout the state. Jim Hansen questioned how the training provided would qualify "Project Vote" for HAVA Funding. Theresa stated one of the main points of the training is that voters need to make an educated vote and Mr. Hurst stated that HAVA encourages participation of those with disabilities. A video and further discussion was held regarding the barriers for the disabled.

Secretary of State asked Tim Hurst to briefly review the funding received from Health and Human Services. Mr. Hurst stated a small portion of the \$100,000 HH&S grant was used to develop a training video for the poll workers on disability etiquette. The remaining \$95,000 was granted to counties for polling place accessibility on a reimbursement basis. To date \$23,000 has been reimbursed to the individual counties. Mr. Hurst stated a second grant of \$100,000 had been received.

Continuing with voter outreach programs, Mr. Hurst presented information on the Voter's Guide that will be printed in English, Spanish and in an audible format for the blind. Mr. Hurst explained that it would be an information pamphlet on all processes of voting. Dan English requested a Voter's Guide be developed to address the voting system for each county. Discussion was held concerning candidate information being included in the Voter's Guide or alternatives to provide the voter with candidate information.

Chairman Weatherby asked Mr. Hurst to give the Committee an update on funding and activities. Tim gave a brief update on the statewide voter registration system. Noting the program is on schedule and stated that the goal is to have four or five counties pilot the system in the general election. Mr. Hurst informed the Committee of the partnership with the Department of Education in developing a CD for Civics participation by high school seniors. The CD will be distributed to the schools to be part of the curriculum this fall. The Secretary of State's office is also participating with the League of Women Voters in the Student Mock Election program in trying to expand it to a statewide program.

Mr. Hurst stated that Idaho has received roughly eleven million of Title II funds to meet the requirements in Title III of the ACT. The 5% match that is required by the state and local governments is approximately \$610,000.000. This amount has been met with the state appropriation and contributions by the counties. Mr. Hurst stated that the vast majority of the money is budgeted to be used in buying new voting equipment.

Tim Hurst and Dan English were asked to report to the full Committee on the activities of the Election Assistance Commission Board after their meeting in Houston. Discussion addressing questions on a voter verifiable receipt, requiring one type of voting system statewide and how far the eleven million would go in meeting Idaho's voting equipment needs was held.

Barbara Roberts made the motion that the State of Idaho, when it makes its decision on purchasing new voting equipment, require the system to have a voter verifiable paper trail.

Chairman Weatherby called for discussion.

Tim Hurst stated that HAVA requires there be a paper audit trail. He stated that the controversy is that the paper trail is kept internally on the machine rather than displaying the paper trail to the voter. He stated that he had a problem with the Committee going on record saying that we should have a voter verifiable paper receipt.

Dan English speaking to the motion stated that he could not support a voter verifiable trail.

Secretary of State, Ben Ysursa stated that he did not disagree with the motion but that he thought it was a little premature. He stated that he agreed with the NASS position, which he would make available to the committee. He stated that it is a wait and see position after the various commission studies are completed and what transpires during the 2004 election.

Chairman Weatherby suggested reviewing the motion at a December meeting.

Jim Hansen seconded the motion.

The motion failed upon voting by the Committee.

Chairman Weatherby asked if there were any questions before the Committee adjourned.

Barbara Roberts asked that the Committee members be supplied with periodic updates regarding voting equipment and the statewide voter registration system. Gloria Munoz inquired about what financial assistance may be available from HAVA funds for Latino Vote. It was her understanding that Maria Malbutt submitted a proposal to the Secretary of State. Mr. Hurst stated that a proposal had not been received for review and indicated that it was the intention of the Secretary of State to work with the Latino community. Ramona warned that it is extremely important that the Committee not generalize too much about the disabled, and that all disabled groups are represented, on the committee. Discussion was held on the statewide voter registration system and what the availability would be to the public.

Tim Hurst made the motion to adjourn.

Dan English seconded the motion.

Chairman adjourned.