

**Help America Vote Act  
Idaho State Planning Committee  
Minutes, February 5, 2009**

The meeting was called to order by Dr. James Weatherby. Those in attendance were:  
Jim Mairs, HAVA Coordinator, Secretary of State's Office  
Brian Kane, Deputy Attorney General  
Dan English, Kootenai County Clerk  
Rose Gehring, Idaho County Clerk  
Chris Rich, Chief Deputy Ada County  
Sharon Widner, Washington County Clerk  
Tony Poinelli, Association of Counties  
Elinor Chehey, League of Women Voters  
Dave Gipson, Caxton Printers

The minutes for the July 17, 2008 meeting were approved.

**Review of HHS Grants**

Grants funds counties used to improve access to polling places totaled \$20,593. The state used \$89,000 for two media campaigns, one for the primary election and one for the general election. A total of \$600,000 was available for counties to improve access to polling places. To date the counties have been reimbursed \$336,981 leaving \$263,000 available for future improvements.

**The Democracy Fund**

Jim Mairs distributed copies of allocations to date from the grant program and the counties that received funds to upgrade their voting systems. The grant program has paid out over \$2 million and there is approximately \$5 million left in the fund to replace voting systems. Title II money for requirements payments has been utilized. The state plan has been amended and Idaho will receive an additional \$574,000 from the EAC this month.

Tony asked if there was anything that the state can do to help the counties with a statewide contract for the maintenance agreement for voting system when the current contracts expires.

**General Election Report**

Although there were some reading and reporting issues with the M150 tabulators, all ballots were tabulated correctly in the five counties using the M150s in the state. Punch card tabulators were harder to maintain this election cycle as there are very few qualified service personnel. There are currently 9 counties using a punch card ballot. The new M650 and M100 tabulators performed well although there were some issues. Ada County reported one unit shut down for no apparent reason and ballots were tabulated on

other machines. An M650 users group has been organized for all counties utilizing the M650 tabulator. Procedures, information and best practices will now be more easily shared. The counties with the new M650s are Ada, Blaine, Canyon, Cassia, Fremont, Kootenai, Latah and Madison.

AutoMarks worked but are not being widely used. Production of the physical ballot and the audio ballot, testing and maintenance continue to be troublesome for the counties.

Oregon has developed an alternate ballot program for accessible voting. The system is not yet certified by the federal government but worked well in Oregon. Idaho will review their system this year.

### **Preparations for the 2010 Elections**

Not much is known about legislation at this point. Consolidation, Election Day registration and absentee restrictions may be considered by the legislature.

The office of the Secretary of State in cooperation with the county clerks is working toward further standardizing the optical scan ballot using federal and other professional guidelines to design a statewide template. The ballot template will be used by counties that layout their own ballots and ES&S for those counties that use the vendor to layout their ballots.

Rose Gehring expressed concerns about people who rent a space for a camper for 30 days so that they can register in the county and therefore be able to purchase a hunting license. Brian Kane suggested discussing it with the county prosecutor. He said that residency is not just showing up and showing that you paid rent somewhere. Residency includes the manifest intent to remain.

### **Determined to Vote 2008**

The Determined to Vote 2008 project was very successful this year. The 7 teams were trained to instruct people with disabilities on their voting options and use of the ballot marking device as before and presented in the 7 health districts in Idaho. The program reached hundreds of people and was \$20,000 under their projected budget. In high schools in Canyon County the program partnered students with disabilities with students who didn't have disabilities and received positive press coverage for their efforts. After a Determined to Vote team visited The STEP Program at Boise High for students with disabilities in transition to college, the class invited Jim to watch their own presentations on the presidential candidates. Their presentations were excellent and on Election Day all the students took public transportation to their precincts and voted. The STEP class also came to watch the presidential electors vote on December 15 and met Governor Otter and Secretary of State Ysursa.

There was no other business from the members and the meeting was adjourned.