

**Help America Vote Act
Idaho State Planning Committee
Minutes, August 21, 2009**

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

Jim Mairs, HAVA Coordinator, Secretary of State Office
Tim Hurst, Chief Deputy, Secretary of State
Lisa Mason, Secretary, Secretary of State
Dan English, Kootenai County Clerk
Rose Gehring, Idaho County Clerk
Chris Rich, Chief Deputy Ada County
Tony Poinelli, Association of Counties
Todd DeVries, Consortium for Idahoans with Disabilities

The minutes for the February 5, 2009 meeting were approved.

Introduction for Todd DeVries, Consortium for Idahoans with Disabilities. He is taking Kelly Buckland's place.

Review of HHS Grants

HHS Grants are used to improve access to polling places and voter education. These funds are available to counties that determine their polling places need access improvements. This will be particularly important because HB 372 passed by the legislature this year and will take affect in 2011. To date the counties have been reimbursed \$338,162 leaving \$261,837 available for future improvements. \$1,181 has been reimbursed in 2009. We would like counties to take more advantage of these grant funds before election consolidation takes effect in 2011.

The Democracy Fund

Tim Hurst reported that there is \$5.4 million in the Democracy fund for the replacement of voting system. The biggest expense has been the statewide voter registration system which runs \$440,000 per year for the maintenance of the system. We are looking at possibly expanding the voter registration system to include GIS data which would help with election consolidation in identifying the voting areas and also with reapportionment.

Rose Gehring asked if having a secure drop box for absentee ballots to be dropped off would be okay. That would be okay; also having someone standing out at the curb to accept absentee ballots would be okay.

Replacements of voting systems for the counties are as follows:

- Bingham County has two new ES&S M650 central count tabulators.
- Bonner County has a new ES&S M650 central count tabulator.
- Gem County is expecting a new ES&S M650 central count tabulator.

- Gooding County is in contract negotiation.
- Jefferson County has a new ES&S M650 central count tabulator.
- Nez Perce is in the contract period.
- Valley is expecting a new ES&S M650 central count tabulator.
- Twin Falls has received two ES&S M650 central count tabulators.
- Elmore County will be the only county left that has the 150 and they are considering changing.

Jim Mairs reported on his trip to Omaha to meet with ES&S (Election Systems and Software). He spent two days in training on the Unity software suite used to design styles and code ballots for tabulation. He also trained on the M650 tabulator and the M100 precinct tabulator used by Idaho counties.

Other business from members of the committee

Tim Hurst reported that there was a court hearing on the Closed Primary law suit in February. Nothing has been done with it and it is still in the judge's hands.

Last year the House proposed HB 285 which would require a voter to show identification at the polls. We are looking at different states to see how they handle identification requirements at the polls.

In Federal legislation, Senate Bill 1415 is now part of the defense appropriations bill. The bill will require a 45 day mailing period. Absentee ballots must be mailed 45 days before the election. States must have a system, electronic or otherwise for requests made after the 45 day deadline.

Tim Hurst and Dan English attended the Federal Standards Board meeting a couple weeks ago dealing with voluntary voting systems standards and the new guidelines for voting systems. Dan is the chair of the EAC Standards Board.

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