

June 20, 2005

A meeting of the Board of Election Commissioners of St. Louis County was held at its office located at 12 Sunnen Drive, Maplewood, Missouri, Monday, June 20, 2005, at 3:00 p.m. on notice and call of the Chairman, John Diehl, Jr.

Present at the meeting were:

John J. Diehl, Jr.	Chairman
Chaim H. Zimbalist	Secretary
Anita Yeckel	Commissioner
Bill Miller	Commissioner
Judy Taylor	Director
David Welch	Director

The following staff members were in attendance for the presentation by the Secretary of State's Office: Deputy Director Debbie Quicke, Deputy Director Charlene LaRosa, and Assistant Director Ryan Regan.

The meeting was opened and called to order by Mr. Diehl. He welcomed Secretary of State Robin Carnahan and her staff and Jo Mannies from the Post-Dispatch.

Upon agreement of the Board the approval of minutes, public forum and directors' report were postponed so that Secretary of State Carnahan and members of her staff could make a presentation.

Secretary Carnahan said she was pleased to meet with the Board to bring them up to speed, as there is much to do before the January 1, 2006 deadline of the Help America Vote Act (HAVA). She shared with the Board that she has written election law and observed elections in various parts of the world and that the world looks to the United States as a model of elections. Public scrutiny and interest in elections started with the presidential election in Florida in 2000 and is not going away and there is no room for partisan rhetoric or actions. Major funded parts of HAVA are voter education, poll worker training and recruitment, the statewide voter registration database, upgrade of voter systems and technology, second chance voting, provisional voting and handicapped accessibility. The main things to keep in mind for voting systems are reliability, accessibility, accuracy, security, ease of use for voters and poll workers, cost, and compliance with federal and state requirements.

Leslye Winslow, Deputy Secretary of State for Elections, gave a presentation on HAVA funds available and cost comparisons of different voting systems. Missouri has been allocated \$63,000,000. St. Louis County has funds available in several areas. The punch card buyout is approximately \$4,960,709.88; there is a grant for election administrative improvement of \$388,500, which has already been received, \$2,000,000 for ADA compliant voting machines and approximately \$333,333 for poll worker training. There are small Health and Human Services grants available for polling place accessibility for temporary ramps, signage, etc. These amounts are based on the 1,554 precincts and 650 polling locations.

Carl Medley, Director of Information Technology, gave a presentation on the statewide voter registration database. The hardware and software will be provided to us. There is redundancy in the system so that if there is a problem at the State Information Center, everything switches to the other site automatically. In addition to the equipment we have now, we will be given five new work stations and we'll have appropriate scanners and printers. Data migration is beginning this summer and should be completed by December and we would be at the tail end of the migration. Tests will be conducted before we fully rely on the new system at the first of the year.

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Mr. Diehl thanked Secretary Carnahan and her staff for their presentations and coming to the Board meeting. and Mr. Diehl made a motion to approve the minutes from the June 8 meeting. Mr. Miller seconded the motion. Roll call was taken and the votes were as follows: Mr. Miller, aye; Ms. Yeckel, aye; Mr. Zimbalist, aye; Mr. Diehl, aye. The minutes were approved.

There being no one present for the public forum, that portion of the meeting was closed.

Mr. Diehl then called for the directors' report. Mr. Welch said there was a report in the Personnel section, but that they had nothing else at this time.

The Secretary of State's presentation was the only item under old business. For new business Mr. Diehl spoke of his meeting with County Executive Charlie Dooley. In that meeting Mr. Dooley gave his opinion that our present punch card system would be good for another five years and the only thing mandated by HAVA is one handicapped accessible voting machine per polling place.

The Board members agreed that a proposal be prepared with cost comparisons for the different voting systems to present to Mr. Dooley. There was discussion on whether a consultant might be of assistance.

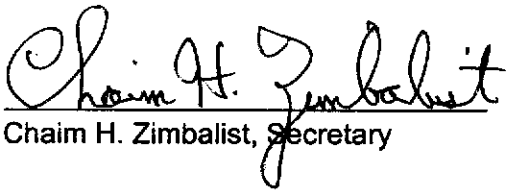
Mr. Welch said he felt an optical scan system would be only a stop gap measure and that DRE/Touch Screen Systems are the systems of the future. Mr. Diehl said that we shouldn't be the guinea pig for the future and that discussion on various voting machines should be on the agenda for the next Board meeting.

As there was no discussion on personnel matters that portion of the meeting was closed. There being no further business to come before the Board, Mr. Diehl moved that the meeting be adjourned. Ms. Yeckel seconded, a roll call was taken and the votes were as follows: Mr. Miller, aye; Ms. Yeckel, aye; Mr. Zimbalist, aye; Mr. Diehl, aye.

The next Board meeting is scheduled for 3:00 p.m., Tuesday, July 12, 2005.



John J. Diehl, Jr., Chairman



Chaim H. Zimbalist, Secretary