

July 12, 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, Tuesday, July 12, 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
Kevin O'Keefe	Counsel

The following staff members were in attendance: Deputy Director Debbie Quicke, and Deputy Director Charlene LaRosa.

The meeting was opened and called to order by Mr. Diehl. He welcomed members of the public who were in attendance and let them know that we were not having any demonstrations of election equipment and would not be entertaining sales pitches or criticisms of individual vendors. Those speaking before the Board were: Patricia Schuba of 2322 Hwy. 100, Franklin County who wants voter verifiable paper ballots for any DRE equipment; Cynthia Richards of 1069 Jackson, University City who said that vendors should not be required to come in during the vote counting process; Patricia Berg of 2429 Sutton, Maplewood who said she would like to make sure voting machines are accessible to the disabled; Vern Reisenleiter of 924 Kirkland who outlined five criteria for voting equipment - no internet service, computer security, open architecture, quality assurance for the technology and better recount procedures; Judith Conoyer of 220 Canary Lane in St. Charles as part of the group *Election Integrity* who said their aim is for honest, fair and open elections.

Mr. Welch, Ms. Taylor, Ms. Quicke, Ms. LaRosa and Mr. Diehl related that they attended a conference in New York where they saw presentations of various vendors who are seeking certification from the Secretary of State in Missouri. Ms. Yeckel said she had seen several of them while she was in the legislature.

Mr. Diehl outlined the major types of election equipment or systems, which will be considered for use in St. Louis County beginning with Optical Scan. Optical Scan has a paper ballot marked with a pencil and scanned. If there is a problem the ballot will be kicked out. This satisfies the second chance voting requirement of HAVA. This equipment can be programmed to reject ballots that have under votes, however that is not a requirement under HAVA. The advantage of this system is that there is a high perceived comfort level, as the voter would have paper in their hand. The disadvantages include jamming, speed of processing, printing expense due to having to print ballots in the amount of 110% of the electorate, and post election maintenance.

The DRE or touch-screen is the quickest of those reviewed. It catches over votes and under votes. The disadvantages include price, they require climate controlled storage and take up more room than our current equipment, they are heavy and the printers required for the voter verified paper audit trail have paper spools that hold about 200 small ballots which would necessitate changing paper cartridges many times during election day. There is a question as to what the Secretary of State will designate as the official ballot, the electronic record or the printed paper verification.

The Inkavote is a voting machine that makes punch cards compliant with the second chance voting requirement of HAVA. Instead of using a stylus to punch a ballot card, a mark would be applied to the ballot card.

There is another version of a DRE that is not a touch-screen machine. It uses a rotary wheel and an enter button. It's manufactured by HART and has no special storage requirements.

A conference will be held in Los Angeles next month that will have other vendors in attendance. The Board members expressed interest in attending. There was discussion of having vendors demonstrate their voting equipment before the Board. Mr. Diehl said decisions would need to be made on voting systems before they could start assessing specific voting machines.

Before the next Board meeting, staff will develop the criteria on which to assess voting systems and/or equipment. That criteria will include storage requirements as to space and climate control, post election maintenance, weight, training, ease of set-up, vendor support and security.

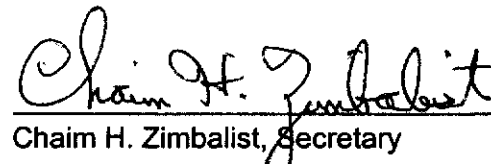
Mr. Welch informed the Board of his intention to resign as Director of Elections effective August 1. Mr. Diehl thanked him for his service on behalf of the Board and staff.

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 19, 2005.



John J. Diehl, Jr., Chairman



Chaim H. Zimbalist, Secretary