

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, August 21, 2012, at 2:00 p.m. on notice and call of Chairman Kellett.

Present at the meeting were:

Richard H. Kellett	Chairman
Julie R. Jones	Secretary
John W. Siscel, III	Commissioner
Ann Pluemer	Commissioner
Darold Crotzer	Attorney
Rita Heard Days	Director
Joseph A. Goeke, III	Director
Mary Wall	Deputy Director
Charlene LaRosa	Deputy Director

Chairman Kellett called the meeting to order and a roll call was taken. A quorum being present, the meeting was called to order.

There being no one to speak at the Public Forum, Chairman Kellett made a motion to close the Public Forum and Commissioner Pluemer seconded the motion. A vote was taken and the Public Forum was closed.

Commissioner Jones moved that the minutes of the July 17, 2012 Board Meeting and the minutes of the August 14, 2012 Special Board Meeting be accepted and filed and Chairman Kellett seconded. A vote was taken and the minutes were approved.

Chairman Kellett then called for the Directors' Report.

Judge Goeke reported that we were certifying the election today, with the exception of the 87th State Representative District, and there are two potential recounts. We have planned for a new election in the 87th, in case it is needed. There would be 16 polling places. If the election were held September 11, 6 of the polling places would not be available. If the election were held September 18, 2 polling places would not be available.

Chairman Kellett then called for Senator Days' report.

Senator Days reported on the meeting with the supervisors of the Mount Calvary Lutheran Church polling place and they admitted their mistakes in not following the directions that had been given. She also stated that there is technology available to reduce the problem of poll workers handing out wrong ballots and she will look at several vendors of electronic poll books to see if they might be helpful. The trial for the 87th District race is scheduled for Friday at 1:30.

Regarding preparation for the November election, there have been long lines at this building for absentee voters. The Senator suggested exploring a pilot program for absentee voting satellite locations, perhaps one in North County and one in South County. Currently registered voters number 667,000 and that number is growing.

Chairman Kellett made a motion to explore such a pilot program for an election after November, 2012, and Commissioner Pluemer seconded. Commissioner Jones said that in her opinion the absentee voting satellite locations were not legal and that we had previously explored the possibility. Other opinions were given that it was permissible and that other jurisdictions in Missouri are using satellite locations.

Commissioner Jones said trying a pilot program for the November election would be reckless. A vote was taken with Commissioners Kellett, Siscel and Pluemer voting yes, and Commissioner Jones voting no.

A letter was received from a voter who was not happy about having a church as a polling place. She suggested a nearby middle school as an alternative voting place. The Election Board takes many things into account when selecting polling places. One factor is adequate parking, and the middle school has a very small parking lot. The Election Board uses churches of many faiths, and voting does not take place in any sanctuaries, but in fellowship halls or other rooms.

Chairman Kellett said that in his 56 years of voting that he has voted in schools and churches and they have been very accommodating.

Chairman Kellett made a motion to accept and file the Financial report and Commissioner Pluemer seconded. A vote was taken and the report was accepted.

Chairman Kellett read Charlene LaRosa's notice of retirement, which will be effective October 1, 2012. Chairman Kellett said that the way she treated people and handled the employees was first class.

There was no Old Business that needed to be addressed. Under New Business, Judge Goeke said Charlene LaRosa's retirement should have been included in this portion of the meeting, and he made the recommendation that the Board approve the promotion of Trisha Todd to replace Charlene when she retires. Commissioner Jones made a motion to promote Trisha Todd to the position of Republican Deputy Director effective upon the retirement of Charlene LaRosa. A unanimous vote was taken in favor of such promotion.

Commissioner Pluemer made a motion to accept and file the Personnel report, and Chairman Kellett seconded. A vote was taken and the report was accepted as filed.

Under Legal, Attorney Crotzer asked Gerry Greiman, Susan Carlson's attorney, to provide information about upcoming Jewish holidays which could impact a September special election. September 18 is the second day of Rosh Hashanah and September 25 is the first night of Yom Kippur. He recommended that the election be held on a day other than those Tuesdays. September 24 (a Monday) would be acceptable.

It was asked that a motion be made to authorize Attorney Crotzer to file a motion requesting a new election under RSMo 115.600.

Chairman Kellett made a motion to accept Attorney Crotzer's report and Commissioner Pluemer seconded the motion. A vote was taken and the report was accepted.

Chairman Kellett made a motion to go into closed session to discuss legal and personnel matters and Commissioner Pluemer seconded. A vote was taken and the Board entered closed session.


Richard H. Kellett, Chairman


Julie R. Jones, Secretary