

MI COUNCIL OF ELECTION OFFICIALS MEETING NOTES

(Held at Delta Township Hall - Lansing)

January 30, 2008

Present:

County Clerks: Laurie Braid (Shiawasee), Mary Hollinrake (chair, Kent), Sue Kaltenbach (Saginaw), Larry Kestenbaum (Washtenaw), Tina Leary (Van Buren), Tim Snow (Kalamazoo); *Local Clerks:* Kathy Dornan (Farmington Hills), Chris Swope (Lansing), Sharon Tischler (Southfield Twshp), Janice Vedder (Delta).

Also Present: Connie Spak (Oakland), Chris Thomas (BOE), Bill Zaagman (GCSI)

- 1) Meeting called to order by Chair Hollinrake at 12:35 p.m.
 - Chair indicated that this year, it will be the obligation of any member who cannot attend to find an alternate.
 - To make CEO more effective, let's list our priorities, work on those items we *can come to consensus* on and advocate with the SOS & legislature one united position.
- 2) Approval of Minutes from last meeting postponed until 2/20/08 meeting.
- 3) Reports
 - A) Mary Hollinrake – Meeting with Sen. McManus, 1/30/08
 - Her report on her 2007 hearings around the state will be published on the web next week listing “findings.”
 - She does not call them “recommendations,” but will introduce a package of bills to support her “findings” pertaining to:
 - i. initiative petitions
 - ii. school election dates (she wants 1)
 - iii. super precincts – pilot
 - iv. term limits (relevant to CEO?)
 - v. early voting – pilot
 - vi. robo calls
 - vii. constitutional cleanup (relevant to CEO?)
 - viii. e-poll book
 - ix. inactive voter file
 - In spring, she plans to hold hearings on campaign finance
 - CEO might want to see what on the McManus list syncs up with what Corriveau in the House wants.
 - Clerks will meet with McManus the morning of CEO each month at 8:30 in the Capitol. (We need 2 MAMC clerks to attend.)
 - B) Chris Thomas (BOE)
 - Expect legislative gridlock again in 2008

- So, CEO should decide what is absolutely necessary for '08 elections such as:
 - i. Permanent AV lists
 - ii. Allow 1st time voters to appear in front of any clerk in order to be allowed to vote absentee.
 - iii. Move forward with Corriveau's No Reason/Early Voting work group
 - iv. Some sort of In-person AV so that those voting in the clerk's office may put AV ballot through the tabulator.
 - v. Monitor, have input on federal legislation
 - revised Holt bill is incentive based. It concerns paper audit trails & post-election hand counts.
 - Lofgren bill: have emergency paper ballot available in touch screen prcts.
 - If Dems win presidency, there will be more legislation in 2009

- *Indiana Voter ID Supreme Court Case* - from the oral argument, it appears as if the justices do not have a problem with requiring ID at the polls.

C) Bill Zaagman (GCSI)

- agrees with Chris that it may be slow going in the legislature this year. Anything we want for 2008, must be through the legislature by June.
- He surmises that they will wrap up the budget by early July, return in Sept, then break in Oct.
- He met with Rep. Corriveau who wants to move on a) early voting & b) the Melton bill (**4774**) allowing 1st time voters to appear in front of any clerk.
- MAMC school dates survey results:
 - First choice - Nov odd/Aug even,
 - Sec choice - Nov even

4) Miscellaneous

- School Election Days Ad Hoc Committee: Tim Snow will convene another meeting before the 2/20 CEO meeting.
- ES &S Ballots: Voters complained about the oval line on ballots being too fine. Can ES&S do anything about the thickness of the line?

Adjourned at 2:05 p.m. on motion of Larry Kestenbaum, seconded by Sharon.

Next Meeting: Noon, Wednesday
 February 20, 2008
 Delta Township Hall, Lansing, MI