

MI COUNCIL OF ELECTION OFFICIALS MEETING NOTES

(Held at Delta Township Hall - Lansing)

February 20, 2008

Present:

County Clerks: Mary Hollinrake (chair, Kent), Lauri Braid (Shiawassee), Larry Kestenbaum (Washtenaw), Tim Snow (Kalamazoo), Diane Zuker (Clinton); *Local Clerks:* Todd Blake (Fremont), Chris Swope (Lansing), Sharon Tischler (Southfield Twp), Tonni Bartholomew (Troy), Terri Kowal (Shelby Twp), Sue Morrow (Plainfield Twp)

Also Present: Kathy Dornan (Farmington Hills), Betty Morlock (Lowell), Lorna Wilson (Castleton Twp), Evan Hope (Delhi Twp), Sue deSteiguer (Kent), Chris Thomas (BOE) and Bill Zaagman (GCSI)

- 1) Meeting called to order by Chair Hollinrake at 11:35 p.m.
- 2) Approval of Minutes from 10/17/07 meeting postponed until forwarded for review. (Following the meeting and upon further review, there was no quorum for this meeting)
- 3) Minutes from 1/30/08 meeting were approved on motion from Chris, seconded by Tim.
- 4) Legislation: Chris Thomas

HB 5739 – will enable first-time voters who registered by mail to verify registration in person with photo Id at any clerk’s office, to qualify for AV ballot.

- The House Committee amended the bill at SOS’s request to remove the 8 day limitation and also tie-barred the bill to 4774.
- Chris noted the BOE will implement this change into the QVF and draft an affidavit form for voters to send in with their AV ballot application

HB 4774 – will allow voter registration at any clerk’s office for any community.

- Chris noted this was allowed in previous legislation, but removed accidentally in 94’ election legislation. He also noted clerks should use caution when deputizing for registration help.

MAMC Legislative representatives Todd Blake and Chris Swope reported testifying in support of 4774 & 5739 at the House Ethics & Elections Committee hearing on 2/19. They noted the MAMC has identified these issues on their ‘Priority’ list for some time. The House Committee approved the amended bills unanimously for submission to the House for a vote.

S1086 - petition signatures (MCL 168.471&2a) are good for 210 days versus the current 160, giving more realistic time to verify signatures and address challenges. Senator McManus has re-introduced this.

S1087 – petition circulators (MCL 168.480 & .544c) requiring petition circulators to be qualified electors. This will eliminate roaming ‘bounty hunters’ from being contracted to circulate petitions for recalls on Michigan legislators and elected officials.

Motion by Larry, seconded by Chris to establish CEO support for HB 4774 & 5739; motion approved.

HB 5337 - Chris Thomas noted the NVRA is silent on this bill and questioned its relevancy in Michigan. If approved, it could potentially create a paperwork nightmare.

Motion by Larry, seconded by Chris to establish no CEO position on HB 5337; motion approved.

- 5) Old Business: Tim Snow submitted the following recommendation regarding school election date reform:

**SCHOOL ELECTION DATE RECOMMENDATION
JOINT SUBCOMMITTEE OF MEMBERS OF
MICHIGAN ASSOCIATION OF COUNTY CLERKS
MICHIGAN ASSOCIATION OF MUNICIPAL CLERKS
FEBRUARY 12, 2008**

The Joint Subcommittee recommends to the Michigan Association of County Clerks, the Michigan Association of Municipal Clerks and the Council of Election Officials that legislation be introduced that amends Election Law to provide the following regarding School Board Elections:

- Elimination of annual elections for school board members
- School Districts may select from the following list of dates to hold their board elections:
 - Even year August (State Primary Election)
 - Odd year November (City Election)
 - Even year November (General Election)
- School Districts will have an opportunity to select any of these three dates for their regular election
- Township and City clerks may “opt out” of the odd year November election only with the consent of the Election Coordinator

This proposal is beneficial to the election community, school community and voters because:

- Voters will not have to remember different dates for school elections
- Voters will have the opportunity to vote in the same location for each election
- Schools districts will save thousands of dollars by having their board elections combined with existing elections
- School Board members generally serve 8 – 12 years, thus moving to 6 year terms should not be a hardship
- School Boards’ moving to 6 year terms will provide continuity with 3 positions being the most up in any election

- Schools may still use any of the four election dates (February, May, August or November) for millage/bond issues
- Election officials will more easily be able to coordinate election inspectors, supplies, etc. when elections are held together

Kathy Dornan noted the school election sub-committee had also recommended that 'even year November' selection should have consent of the election coordinator. Following discussion, it was agreed that both 'even year November and August' should have that requirement. Tim also added that school election costs will be greatly decreased as a result and should be noted at the bottom of the document.

Motion by Lauri, seconded by Sue to approve the 'School Election Date Recommendation' with the above noted amendments; motion approved.

- 6) New Business: Mary noted the CEO Chair, both Legislative Committee Chairs and an additional MAMC Legislative representative will be meeting with Senator McManus at 3pm today at the Capitol, to discuss CEO priorities and Sen. McManus' objects for election legislation.
- 7) **Next Meeting:** 11:00 am, Wednesday, 3/19/08 @ the Delta Township Hall, Lansing, MI
- 8) Adjourned at 12:52 p.m. on motion of Tonni, seconded by Sharon.

Respectfully submitted,

Todd Blake
MAMC Legislative Chair