COUNCIL OF ELECTION OFFICIALS
MEETING MINUTES
February 18, 2015

At a regular meeting of the Council of Election Officials held on February 18, 2015 at 9:11 a.m. at the Delta Township Hall, Lansing, Michigan:

Chairman Joe Bridgman (Huron Township Deputy Clerk) called the meeting to order.

Members present: County Clerks – Terry Kubasiak (Branch), Tim Snow (Kalamazoo), Kristen Millard (Montcalm), Susan Kaltenbach (Saginaw), Lauri Braid (Shiawassee), Local Clerks – Terry Bennett (Canton Township), Joseph Bridgman (Huron Township Deputy), Linda Kingston (City of Clio) Maryanne Cornelius (City of Novi).

Others present: Bill Zaagman (GCSI)

Bill Zaagman covered the following bills:
1.) Discussion on HB 4068 Consolidated Precincts – Support with a 75 day deadline, not a 60 day window for consolidation.
   It was moved by M. Cornelius, seconded by T. Kubasiak to not support for May because of timing issues. Motion carried.
   It was moved by T. Bennett, seconded by K. Millard to have Bill Zaagman work with Chair to amend the legislation to change from 60 days to 75 days. Motion carried.
   It was moved by K. Millard, seconded by L. Kingston, that consolidation be allowed with the concurrence of the County Clerk when the County is the one who programs ballots. Motion carried.
2.) SB 44 & 45 Presidential Primary.
   M. Cornelius moved, seconded by L. Kingston, to remain neutral on SB 44 & 45. Motion carried.
3.) HB 4214 – AV Applications can’t be received more than 75 days before an election.
   This bill was just read in February 17, 2015. Move ballots must be sent out 45 days before an election. Not before 45 days or after 45 days. Everything else would be set as not before 30 days before an election.
   T. Bennett moved, seconded by M. Cornelius, to not support HB 4214. Motion carried.
4.) Bill Zaagman is working on getting a request in for voting equipment and encouraged everyone to contact their State Representative especially those on the Approps Committee that we need that appropriation.

2015-2016 Legislative Priorities

- Appropriate funds for new Election Equipment, and Software.
- Move the deadline for Precinct Delegates to that of other candidates, second Friday before the Election. Also eliminating Election Day write-ins.
- Establishing three Election Dates, March, June, and November, eliminating one date.
- Prohibit a person who is appearing on the ballot from also filing as a write-in for another office.
- No Reason Absentee Voting, eliminating the six reasons needed to obtain a ballot.
- Permit any clerk to register a person to vote with photo ID.
- First time Voters who register by mail can present photo ID with any clerk so that the MVIP flag can be removed.
- Eliminate refunds of Candidate Filing Fees for all Elected Offices.
- Reduce the Ballot quantities in General Elections from 100% to reflect other election quantities.
- Establish a withdraw date for a Ballot Proposal, similar to a candidate withdrawal deadline.
- Permit MOVE ballots to be accepted electronically, currently they can be sent electronically.
- Options for collaborating among clerks for election services
- On-Line voter registration
- School in-service days to free up buildings

Potential Legislative Reception scheduled for May 22 from 4 to 7. More details to follow.

The meeting adjourned at 10:52 a.m.

Lauri L. Braid
Shiawassee County