At a regular meeting of the Council of Election Officials held on March 11, 2015 at 9:00 a.m. at GCSI, 120 N. Washington Square, Suite 110, 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), Pattie Bender (St. Joseph), Lauri Braid (Shiawassee), Local Clerks – Joseph Bridgman (Huron Township Deputy), Linda Kingston (City of Clio), Ann Bollin (Brighton Charter Township), Pam Smith (City of Farmington Hills), Chris Swope (City of Lansing), Mary Clark (Delta Township).

Others present: Bill Zaagman (GCSI), Melissa Malerman (BOE)

It was moved by Linda Kingston-Wesley, seconded by Terry Kubasiak, to approve the minutes of the February 18, 2015 meeting minutes. Motion carried.

Bill Zaagman covered the following bills:

1) HB’s 4270 – 4276 – Eliminate February Election date. It was moved by Kristen Millard, seconded by Terry Kubasiak, to support the bill and try to amend bill to remove the floater date for schools. Motion carried.

2) New Equipment Budget – Draft of RFP is waiting for approval. Bill encouraged Clerks to reach out to Appropriation members in both House and Senate to request that funds be put in the budget for new equipment.

3) HB 4068 Consolidated Precincts – the window closed for May election. Maybe look at it again in the fall. It was moved by Chris Swope, seconded by Lauri Braid to, Amend current support by removing “concurrence of the County Clerk” and change to “take action by the 77th day before an election and notify the County Clerk by the 75th day before an election. Motion carried.

4) HB 4307 Registration – It was moved by Chris Swope, seconded by Mary Clark to support this bill. Motion carried.

5) HB 4183 Legal Notices – It doesn’t eliminate newspapers, just adds alternatives.

Melissa Malerman

1) Reminded Clerks to send in ballot proofs for the May Election
2) Revised Petition Forms should be available from vendors
3) Presidential primary set for 2016

Legislative Reception

Set for June 3, 2015 from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. at GCSI. $1,500 or less to be split by both groups.

It was moved by Lauri Braid, seconded by Linda Kingston-Wesley to adopt the 2015-2016 Legislative Priorities.

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.
- Eliminate requirement to maintain a master card for any voter who has a digitized signature in the QVF.
- Allow for delivery of election return envelopes to the County Clerk the day following all elections provided the unofficial results have been transmitted.

**Support Statements**

We support efforts to find solutions for “first-time voters,” including on-line voter registration options, permitting all clerks in any jurisdiction to register legal voters, and remove barriers to enable them to vote an absentee ballot.

We support efforts to provide alternatives to printing required public notice provisions, including use of web-sites and electronic noticing.

We support efforts to make it easier for voters to vote by absentee ballot, including: elimination of the reasons to vote absentee and/or permitting any voter to vote by absentee ballot in their clerk’s office.

The meeting adjourned at 10:20 a.m.

Lauri L. Braid  
Shiawassee County