The regular meeting of the Council of Election Officials was called to order at 9:15 a.m. by Justin Roebuck. The following were present:

**CEO Voting Members:**

Justin Roebuck – Ottawa County  
Barb Byrum – Ingham County  
Bob Genetski – Allegan County  
Tim Snow – Kalamazoo County  
Mike Hanley – Sagniaw County  
Sue Courtade – East Bay Township  
Mary Clark – Delta Township  
Jeremy Howard – City of Mt. Pleasant  
Chris Swope – City of Lansing  
Mary Kotowski – City of St. Clair Shores

**MAMC CEO Members:**

Lanie McManus – Garfield Charter Township  
Melanie Ryska – City of Sterling Heights  
Dan Kasunic – City of Kentwood  
Jackie Beaudry – City of Ann Arbor

**MACC CEO Members:**

Suzie Roehm – Van Buren County  
Lindsay Oswald – St. Joseph County of Ottawa

**Others Present:**

Lisa Brown – Oakland County  
Joe Bridgman – Livingston County  
Marney Kast – Hillsdale County  
Nancy Waters – Muskegon County  
Tim Allshouse – Governmental Business Systems (GBS)  
Bill Zaagman – GCSI

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES – December 10, 2019**

*Motion to approve minutes by Byrum, Supported by Swope  MOTION CARRIED*
LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Bill Zaagman gave a brief legislative update:

Number of items signed by Gov. Snyder before end of year

- Township filing fees – increase was dropped but now Twp candidates allowed to file with fee. Still refundable to candidate
- Petition fraud – making clear criminal penalties for the crime of petition fraud
- PA 523 - FOIA changes as a result of “Emily FOIA” – particularly in the 45 days plus three days to send the initial information (48 days from the time the notice is sent the requestor must respond, otherwise the materials may be destroyed or removed from the active “FOIA file”. This does not change the retention schedule for ballots, election materials or other documents. (This legislation is now in effect – but anyone who has an outstanding “emily” request – advised to RESEND the FOIA notice in order to officially start the 48 day clock.
- Filing Deadline for local offices – hopefully the final correction to eliminate confusion on when candidates file for local office (state law vs. local charter) “15th Tuesday before the date of the election where the candidates name appears on the ballot”
- PA 611 – Precinct Delegate Certification – certification moved from the precinct to the County Clerk’s office. Originally we wanted to move the filing deadline for delegates to the 15th Tues rather than the 13th – this was taken out of the final version of the bill that passed and hopeful that we can implement this change in the new session.
- Bills regarding the compensation of the board of county canvassers – and setting the time of meeting to “not later than 9am on the Thursday following the election” – this bill also requires the use of electronic poll books, and requires that the Board of Canvassers reports to the Secretary of State the number of precincts that were out of balance during the canvass.
- Senate Bill 1238 – Proposal 3 Implementation Bill – after some feedback and working with House and Senate leadership, passed without many grey areas in terms of what was required under the Proposal 3 process. We were fortunate to have something pass to give us some clarification before the May Election season begins.
- Senate Committee assignments have been set and incoming Senator (Fmr. Secretary of State) Ruth Johnson is now Chair of Senate Elections/Ethics.

Chris Swope raised some concerns that SB 1238 currently does not address: – SB 1238 – issues

School district agreements – do the opt-out jurisdictions need to be open on Election Day for in person registration?

New Constitutional language gives City and Township Clerks the authority to decide whether or not to *extend* the hours past the required 8 hrs during the weekend. SB 1238 as it passed requires a vote of the governing body if hours are to be extended.

Does this call into question the entire process of MVIP – are MVIP requirements even needed any longer?
ELECTIONS UPDATE FROM SECRETARY OF STATE BENSON

Secretary Benson was present to provide an update on her first few weeks in office as Secretary of State. She announced that Michigan will be officially joining the Electronic Registration Information Center (ERIC), a multistate partnership dedicated to the accuracy of the nation’s voter files.

- Michigan will become the 25th State to join ERIC.
- ERIC is a statistically reliable process and will be a great advancement in making sure that our voter rolls are accurate.
- This was one of the first and most important goals for Sec. Benson in terms of improving the accuracy of our voter rolls.
- ERIC is a “Self Governing” collaboration – which means MI will have a place on the board of directors and will be able to speak into issues and concerns directly to this board.
- ERIC has reduced the number of provisional ballots in the states where it has been implemented.
- ERIC is cost effective - $25,000 to join and an annual membership not to exceed $20,000/yr MI will use federal HAVA funds in order to cover this – no additional MI taxpayer dollars will be spent for us to join the collaboration.

Other comments from Secretary Benson:

- Looking forward to joining the election administration community.
- I want to seek ways that we can collaborate in order to make sure that voters have the resources they need in order to participate fully in our process.
- Most important hallmark in my administration will be to make decisions in a collaborative way and make sure that we are on the side of our voters.
- Critical to work together on the implementation of Prop 3
- I want to explore reforms and common goals that we share, such as pre-registration of 16 year olds and other ideas on your list of priorities.

Lisa Brown asked about a possible collaboration with ERIC and MSP in order to facilitate the accuracy of CPL records.

Secretary Benson commented that while her focus is on the QVF and voter information, the idea was a good one and she would be open to exploring.

BUREAU OF ELECTIONS UPDATE

Sally Williams provided an update on a number of items:

- Excited for the potential of Secretary Benson’s new administration and want to echo her sentiments on collaborating with election officials.
- Shawn Starkey is new communications director – any communications requests will go through Shawn.
- Focus of BOE at the moment is implementation of the Prop 3 legislation – right now focusing on the automatic voter registration process. There will be changes to the “Blue and White” form –
from voter registration “application” to now a receipt for the voter. You’ll see changes to those forms coming soon.

- Overall end to end evaluation of our process – what are other states doing? How do other states handle these same processes already? What about the things we’ve done “forever”, and what can we change?
- Some of the immediate deadlines affected by Prop 3 – the AV application process – major change to the forms is that we are obviously eliminating the reasons. What does “must vote in person” mean if every citizen has the right to an absentee ballot. There are current pieces of law that may be in conflict with this change and we are looking at the options, including asking for an AG opinion on this issue.
- BOE is looking to assemble a group of those having a May election – there may be some specialized meetings for training, communication – perhaps webinar for those who are on the frontline of the initial election under Proposal 3’s new rules.
- The mandatory ePoll book process – for those jurisdictions that have *never* implemented ePoll Books – the grant program is still in effect to purchase laptops for those jurisdictions.
- The legislative update sent out by BOE was an attempt to highlight the critical pieces of legislation that passed at the end of the year along with some implementation points – this was a beginning, but we are currently working hard to make sure our documentation is updated. Make sure you look for the revision date on all training documents as it may effect new legislation.
- We are also working on the process to alter the petition process – at this moment its more directly affecting our office – however we do see this process as affecting the county and local jurisdictions as well. Make sure you reach out to BOE if you have a county or local proposal.
- The Voting System Survey – please fill this out if you haven’t already.

New Main Phone Number in the BOE:
- 800-292-5973 – old 800 number will still work.
- 517-335-3234

Marney Kast asked about the possibility of the state providing a possible bulk discount rate for any jurisdictions looking to upgrade their EPB laptops.

Sally Williams indicated that she will look into that option.

Lisa Brown asked how the process will work for contacting the communities who don’t have EPB’s currently.

Sally Williams indicated that the BOE will be making contact with those communities.

Justin Roebuck asked if the BOE was looking into the option of eliminating the paper transactions for the blue and white forms, since the majority of these forms are sent electronically already through the QVF inbox directly to local clerks.

Sally Williams indicated that this may be a possibility and that she would bring up the idea with BOE staff.
OLD BUSINESS – No old business

NEW BUSINESS – No new business

ADJOURNMENT
Motion to adjourn by Snow, supported by Hanley. MOTION CARRIED

Meeting adjourned at 10:29 a.m.

Minutes submitted by:

Justin Roebuck
MACC Legislative Co-Chair/CEO Vice Chair