COUNCIL OF ELECTION OFFICIALS  
Delta Township, Michigan  
May 16, 2007

PRESENT: Tim Snow, Louise Stine, Mary Hollinrake, Ed Weessies, Sharon Tischler, Chris Swope, Tonni Bartholomew, Pattie Bender, Ann Ulrich, Dana Muscott, Karen Buie, Terri Hegarty and Lou Ann Bluntschly

The meeting was called to order at 11:20 AM.

Sharon moved and Chris supported to approve the Agenda, Motion CARRIED.

Ed moved to approve the minutes of the April 28th, 2007 meeting as presented, Karen seconded, Motion CARRIED.

Chris Thomas, Director of Elections, gave an update on H.R. 811. He stated that the bill has been modified, but still has an audit. He thinks that it will probably pass the House but die in the Senate.

Bill Zaagman gave an update on legislation.

Janiece Vetter gave a report from the committee on school election dates. The committee recommended the following:

1. School board members shall be elected biannually (i.e. every other year)
2. Add August as an option date
3. If school districts chooses a biannual election in conjunction with state or federal elections, election coordinator must approve
4. Allows schools on every year November to rescind (i.e. change date)

JUSTIFICATION:

1. Biannual elections cuts costs 50%
2. “One Size Fits All” does not work for MI. For some schools and municipalities, even-year August may work for them and save more money
3. During State/Federal elections, the EC understands the complexities involved, i.e. school districts that cross municipal or county boundaries; number of municipalities involved; challenges with programming, accumulating and canvassing state/federal election in addition to cross-county school districts; number of split precincts would be created. Forcing counties to a 2-page ballot will double the cost of ballots, plus creates training and recordkeeping issues.
4. Schools that choose even year November do not have August as a choice.
5. Would have 6 months to make change.

Janiece will write up and give to the Legislative Committee. Community College issue will not be addressed.

Ed moved to endorse and present the proposal to the School Board Association, Terri Hegarty seconded, Motion CARRIED.

The meeting adjourned.

Lou Ann Bluntschly, MCCO  
Secretary