BOARD OF ELECTIONS

Mrs. Charles A. Cardwell, Jr. CHAIRPERSON

> Eric Elliott SECRETARY

John Redding MEMBER



FORSYTH COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS BOARD MEETING- MAY 17, 2004

Present:	Mrs. Charles A. Cardwell, Jr., Chair Mr. Eric Elliott, Secretary Mr. John A. Redding, Member
Staff:	Mrs. Kathie Chastain Cooper, Director of Elections Mrs. Laura Gerardi-Dell, Deputy Director of Elections Ms. Pamela Craver, Administrative Assistant

Call to Order

The Chair called the meeting to order at 4:05 PM.

Approval of Minutes- April 20, 2004

The Board reviewed the minutes from the April 20, 2004 Board Meeting. Mr. Redding stated that a guest at the previous meeting did not give her legal name and asked that her legal name be put in the minutes. The Board agreed to make the change. Mr. Redding moved to approve the minutes with the recommended change. Mr. Elliott seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Public Session

The Board allowed a public session and limited each guest to 3 minutes each. Present was Joyce McCloy, 212 Evergreen Dr., Winston-Salem. Ms. McCloy is a member of a coalition that is opposed to DRE voting machines without a verifiable paper trail. She expressed her concern with DRE voting equipment in a letter she sent to the board members. (See attached) She has met with elected officials to discuss her concerns and is hoping to stop the purchase of DRE equipment without a paper trail. She is also opposed to testing DRE equipment in 2004.

Approval of Ballot for Primary

The Director went over the ballot pages with the Board Members. Mr. Redding moved to approve the ballot pages. The motion was seconded by Mr. Elliott and it passed unanimously.

Sample Ballot

The Board and Staff discussed the sample ballot and the approval. The Board agreed to approve the sample ballot individually instead of having a meeting to do so.

Additional Guests

Two additional guests arrived during the meeting and wanted to speak. The guests were Linda Sutton, 4859 Westmoreland Dr., Winston-Salem, and Ciat Shabazz, also known as Louise Young Smith, 118-F Charleston Ct., Winston-Salem. Ms. Sutton stated she is in favor of having a way to verify ballots and would like to see a paper trail. She questioned why we are not having two additional one-stop voting sites for the primary. The Board explained the County Manager did not recommend funding the two additional one-stop locations since it is not required by law. Ms. Sutton stated the County Commissioners should be asked to approve the funding. Mrs. Cooper explained that the sites would not be funded by the County since there is a budget crisis affecting all departments. The Director explained there would be five sites for the General election, including one at Reynolds Park Rec., that will get funded and we hope to receive grants from the State to help with the costs of sites.

Approval of One-Stop Plan of Implementation for Primary

The resolution for the Board of Elections Plan of Implementation for No Excuse Absentee Voting was presented to the Board. Mr. Redding moved to approve the resolution. This was seconded by Mr. Elliott and it passed unanimously. (See attached)

Testing of Voting Equipment for Primary

The Board and Staff discussed testing DRE voting equipment in the Primary. Mr. Elliott is opposed to testing the equipment until 2005 because the vendors may have the paper trail in place on DRE equipment. The Director explained that due to the poor condition of the current punch card voting equipment, it would be necessary to test the equipment per the RFP. Mr. Elliott stated that the 2004-2005 budget allows for leasing equipment for the 2004 General Election. The Board and Staff discussed their concerns about DRE equipment as well as optical scan equipment. Mr. Elliott suggested testing the equipment at the Board of Elections one-stop location. This way the staff can get a feel for how the equipment operates. Mr. Elliott moved to test the required systems at the Board of Elections one-stop site for the 2004 Primary, with each system having all ballot types. Mr. Redding seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. Mr. Redding stated to the guests that in regards to their concerns about electronic voting equipment that the Board wants to make sure that which ever voting system they choose to purchase, it is the best and most accurate system available. He assured the guests of the integrity of the Board Members and the Staff.

Mr. Elliott stated he would like to see the dates of the RFP changed to allow more time to see if there are going to be a paper trail added to the DRE equipment. He explained the varying opinions regarding DRE and feels the Board of Elections needs to take their time in purchasing equipment. He likes optical scan equipment and might want to see an RFP for optical scan systems.

Mr. Elliott moved to reschedule the RFP dates. Mr. Redding seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Other Business

There was no other business.

<u>Adjourn</u>

Mr. Elliott moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Redding seconded the motion and the meeting was adjourned at 5:42.

s/ Mrs. Charles A. Cardwell, Jr., Chair

s/ Mr. Eric Elliott, Secretary

s/ Mr. John A. Redding, Member