

Howard County Board of Elections
8900 Columbia 100 Parkway
Columbia, MD 21045
January 28, 2008

Present:

Ann M. Balcerzak, President
Raymond M. Rankin, Democratic Member
Donna K. Thewes, Republican Member
Charles M. Coles, Jr., Republican Substitute Member
Democratic Substitute Member - Vacant
Vivian L. Dixon, Board Secretary
Michael S. Molinaro, Board Counsel

Staff: Betty L. Nordaas, Director
Guy Mickley, Deputy Director

Visitors: None

Ms. Balcerzak called the meeting to order at 4:04 PM. All members were present, constituting a quorum.

Approval of Minutes of January 07, 2008:

Ms. Balcerzak asked if the Board had any additions or corrections to Minutes. Motion to approve was made by Ms. Thewes, seconded by Mr. Rankin and unanimously approved.

Requests for Additions or Changes to Agenda:

- Political Contribution – MD Code of Ethics & HCBE Bylaws: Following discussion on these matters, Board Secretary to develop a method for tracking political activities/contributions of Members, to be maintained on a quarterly basis. Bylaws provision to be flagged for review in Fall 2008.
- Status of Judge recruitment – Judge recruitment continues as does their dropouts. The Board received assurance that the Rovers would handle required evaluation of all polling places, in the event of inclement weather.

Correspondence: None

President's Report: League of Women Voters

- Questioned LWV on selections of High Schools for Voter Training/Registration – school's pro-activity, has been deciding factor.
- Referred LWV representatives to State regarding notifying unaffiliated 17-year olds inability to vote in 2008 Primary.

Director's Report:

- Howard County Detention Center Registration Efforts: Met January 14, 2008, with HCDC Official to initiate absentee balloting for persons in a "holding" status; waiting to go to trial or that have not been convicted of a felony. Charlotte Davis and Vivian Dixon, Board Secretary, accompanied Director. To date 22 registration applications, 10-HC balances to Baltimore City, et al and 12 absentee ballots, of which 8 were HC, have been received.
- Following discussion on posting of Primary results after Polls closed, it was agreed that only person inside at closing time could remain and the public posting of results would be posted (where possible), for outside persons to view (i.e. glass door).
- Public L&A (parallel testing), Friday, February 1st, beginning at 10:00 am. Testing will last approx. 4 – 5 hours. Public notification on website and in five (5) newspapers. Board Member, Raymond Rankin will represent Board.
- Sample Ballots will be mailed from February 1st to 4th, to all registered/pending voters
- Based on Board Counsel's research and contact with a Howard Community College Vice-President, the Director sought and received Board sanction to relocate polling location from the Instructional Lab Building to the Science/Technical Building for Novembers' General Election.
- Copy of FY09 Budget will be given Secretary for distribution to Members. Director asked Board to review, provide feedback and place on February 28th Agenda for final approval (Budget will be 2-weeks overdue as of that date).

Attorney's Report:

Briefed on Attorney's telecom conferences for January 9th and 23rd.

Old Business: None**New Business:**

- Board unanimously ratified Director's letter, clarifying Voting Qualifications for 17-year olds.
- Nominations for Canvass Board Chairman and Secretary were placed, accepted and unanimously approved. Ms. Balcerzak, Chairman and Mr. Rankin, Secretary.

Action: Ms. Nordaas, Director and Guy Mickley, Deputy Director, referenced the State of Maryland Guidelines for the Administration of Provisional/Absentee Voting, during the Canvassing Orientation for newly appointed Members and refresher for others.

Adjournment:

There being no further business, adjournment was unanimously agreed upon. Session closed at 5:20 PM. The next regular meeting will be held February 25, 2008 at 4:00 PM. Canvassing Board Secretary will present Minutes of Absentee Ballot Canvassing for approval.

Respectfully submitted,

Vivian L. Dixon 25 Feb 2008
Vivian L. Dixon, Board Secretary

Ann M. Balcerzak 25 Feb 2008
Ann M. Balcerzak, President