

Iowa Voter Registration Commission

Minutes: 17 April 2023, 10:00 AM CT

The Voter Registration Commission convened on Monday, 17 April 2023, via telephone. Commissioners Burhans, Smithson, Bonham, and Marshall participated via phone. Legal Counsel Eric Gookin also participated in the meeting.

1. Call to Order

Meeting officially called to order by Chairwoman Burhans at 10:00 AM CT.

2. Approval of Minutes

Commissioner Bonham moved to approve the minutes from the 28 December 2022 meeting; Commissioner Smithson seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

3. Business

The commissioners began discussing the comments received in the public hearing for ARC6772C held on 13 March 2023. They reviewed the current definition of “political purpose” as written in IAC 821—3.2(2) versus the revision in the proposed rulemaking. Commissioner Marshall suggested we provide definitions for the voter list request reasons in statute (§48A.39), and Commissioner Smithson suggested we also define “noncommercial purpose” and offer an example or two. As the discussion unfolded, Commissioner Smithson suggested the Commission consider rescinding ARC6772C and starting over. Chair Burhans said she’d review what that entailed and put the topic on the next agenda.

Discussion also touched on security options that could be applied to the electronic voter lists used to fulfill requests. Specifically mentioned were watermarks and file hashes, and Chair Burhans will investigate those options and provide more information at a later meeting.

Members of the public were on the phone line to listen to the meeting, and Chair Burhans had to remind them several times to mute their lines. The noise from those who left their lines unmuted grew so loud that the commissioners no longer could hear one another. At that point Chair Burhans requested adjournment and said that a new meeting would be scheduled.

4. Adjournment

Commissioner Smithson motioned for the Commission to adjourn; Chair Burhans seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned.