

Iowa Voter Registration Commission
Minutes: April 13, 2015 1:30 P.M..

The Voter Registration Commission meeting was called to order on Tuesday, April 13, 2015, in the Secretary of State's conference room by Deputy Secretary of State and Commission Chairperson Carol Olson. Commissioner Chad Olsen, Commissioner Ben Foecke, and Commissioner Susan Bonham were also present. Director of Election Dawn Williams, Communications Director Kevin Hall and Elections staff member Christy Suesakul were also present.

1. Introduction of ISACA and IDP designees

Susan Bonham, Harrison County Auditor; ISACA designee
Ben Foecke, Executive Director; Iowa Democratic Party

2. Update on project with DOT regarding on-line voter registration

Chairperson Olson began with an overview of the online voter registration project and the collaboration with the Department of Transportation to date. Chairperson Olson stated that the Department of Transportation indicates that the project is on schedule for a January 1, 2016 completion date. Commissioner Foecke asked about expanding online registration beyond the DOT website and Chairperson Olson responded that the current project could allow registrants to connect to the DOT through links on other sites, but that only registrants that had an Iowa driver's license or non-operator's identification could be registered directly through the site. She explained that if a registrant was not in the DOT system, they would be directed to a fillable form that they could print out and mail to the local commissioner of registration. Commissioner Olsen shared that Pew has studied the efficiency of other state attempts to capture the remaining percentage of registrants not in their DOT system online.

3. Approval of 1-20-2015 minutes

Motion by Commissioner Bonham, second by Commissioner Olsen to accept the minutes of the meeting of January 20, 2015. All Ayes

4. Discussion regarding production and distribution of voter registration lists and fees

Christy Suesakul provided an overview of IVoters list requests and fees. Suesakul noted fees collected in 2014 for lists produced by the Secretary of State are deposited in the state general fund. Chairperson Olson will review fee authority before next meeting.

5. Update on pending legislation affecting voter registration

Chairperson Olson distributed a FAQ sheet on HF 585, Safe At Home. Olson noted that a SAH participant's name cannot appear on voter registration lists, therefore participants

voter registration, absentee request and absentee ballots will be managed at the Secretary of State's office instead of at the county level.

HF 506 and SF 328 both affect voted absentee ballot delivery. A general discussion was held regarding the problem created by 2010 court case and possible solutions.

6. Clarification regarding use of provisional ballots for eligibility questions

Dawn Williams provided an overview of how the office of the Secretary of State manages felon lists for voter eligibility purposes. The Secretary of State has a project nearing completion to transmit felon information from the Court Administrator to the SOS electronically which will greatly improve accuracy.

Williams noted that the quality of information that has been received from the local clerk's offices in the past is not reliable and that confusion was created when Executive Order 42 was issued in 2005 and rescinded in 2011. Because of this, Iowa county auditors have requested clarification on how the provisional/challenged ballot forms should be completed by voters who are potentially classified as convicted felons. Specifically, does the act of signing the affirmation on the voter registration form section of the provisional/challenged envelope constitute perjury if it is found that the voter is a convicted felon? After consulting with the Attorney General's office it was determined that the law is clear that felons who have not had their voting rights restored should not sign the affirmation on the voter registration form.

7. Adjournment

The next meeting has been tentatively set for July 15, 2015. Time is to be determined. Motion by Commissioner Olsen, Second by Commissioner Foecke to adjourn. All Ayes