

Iowa Voter Registration Commission

Minutes: April 5, 1:30 P.M.

The Voter Registration Commission meeting was called to order on Tuesday, April 5, 2016 at 1:30 P.M., in the SOS Conference Room at the Lucas State Office Building by Deputy Secretary of State and Commission Chairperson Carol Olson. Commissioner Ben Foecke, Commissioner Susan Bonham and SOS Law Clerk Alexis Steele also were present via telephone. Commissioner Chad Olsen, Secretary of State Paul Pate, Election Administrator Eric Gookin, Director of Elections Dawn Williams and Election Division staff member Mike Sievers also were present.

1. Call to Order

Called to order by Deputy Secretary of State and Commission Chairperson Olson at 1:30 P.M.

2. Approval of 12-31-2015 minutes

Motioned by Commissioner Bonham, second by Commissioner Foecke to accept the minutes of the meeting on December 31, 2015.

3. Voter Registration Form Gender to Sex Change

Chairperson Olson proposed that the word gender on the Voter Registration Form be changed to sex to be consistent with Iowa Code. SOS Law Clerk Alexis Steele provided an overview as to why the change need to be made. Steele explained that sex is biological and gender is cultural. Commissioner Olsen asked what word the DOT uses on a driver's license. Eric Gookin stated the DOT uses the word sex. Commissioner Carol Olson moved to change the word gender to sex on the voter registration form, second by Commissioner Bonham. Roll call vote: Foecke, Aye; Olsen, Aye; Olson, Aye; Bonham, Aye. Motion carried.

4. "Political Purpose" defined in ARC 2261c

Commissioner Carol Olson provided an overview on the term political purpose and the importance of having it defined. Eric Gookin provided an overview of the process to adopt the rule. Motion to adopt rule. Roll call vote: Bonham, Aye; Olsen, Aye; Olson, Aye; Foecke, Aye. All Ayes.

5. Update on Electronic Voter Registration

Secretary Pate explained numbers continue to increase for online voter registration.

6. Update on Bill Allowing 17 Year Olds to Vote

Chairperson Olson explained the bill became popular after the caucus, but movement for the bill has diminished. Secretary Pate added once the technology in elections is more efficient, costs to do complete projects will be easier.

7. Voter List Fee Retention

Commissioner Olson reviewed for the Commission action taken by the VRC to adopt rules to enable the

SOS to retain fees collected for voter registration lists. Olson explained that the proposed rule was withdrawn, as the change can be made only by statutory provision.

8. Consideration of Voter List Fees

Chairperson Olson proposed that the SOS discontinue the process of printing labels for Voter List requestors and she explained that auditors often use the fees set by the VRC. Commissioner Carol Olson mentioned that counties could still provide them if they so choose. Secretary Pate added that if there is a significant demand for providing labels, the VRC can revisit it. Motion by Chairperson Olson to discontinue printing labels, second by Commissioner Chad Olsen. Roll call vote: Olson, Aye; Olsen, Aye; Foecke, Aye; Bonham, Aye. All Ayes. Motion Carried.

9. Poll Workers

Secretary Pate requested assistance from the Republican and Democratic parties to provide a list to county auditors for potential poll workers.

10. Felon Database Initiative

Secretary Pate provided a brief overview of the work being done on the felon list and explained the next meeting would include more details.

11. Absentee Ballots

Commissioner Chad Olsen voiced concern with counties mailing out ballots before they are allowed. Dawn Williams mentioned counties can mail out ballots when the ballots are ready, but can't have people voting in-person until 40 days before the election. Secretary Pate voiced concern over inconsistency from county to county in mailing absentees.

11. Adjournment

Chairperson Olson mentioned that the next meeting will be held in July. Meeting adjourned by Chairperson Olson at 2:30 P.M.