

Iowa Voter Registration Commission  
Minutes: October 26, 1:30 P.M.

The Voter Registration Commission meeting was called to order on Monday, October 26, 2015 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 Chad Olsen, Commissioner Ben Foecke, and Commissioner Susan Bonham also were present. 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 9-9-2015 minutes**

Motioned by Commissioner Foecke, second by Commissioner Chad Olsen to accept the minutes of the meeting on September 9, 2015.

**3. Voter registration for Safe at Home participants**

Commissioner Carol Olson provided an overview of Safe at Home Voter Registration and the proposed rule for handling registrations. Director of Elections Dawn Williams asked if the rule only applies for a person in Safe at Home that registers to vote. Commissioner Olson confirmed the rule only applies to those in Safe at Home. Commissioner Chad Olsen questioned whether the Secretary of State's office had access to Safe at Home voters through the program. Commissioner Olson clarified that the Secretary of state's office does have access to Safe at Home voters. Commissioner Bonham asked what would happen if a special election took place and the voter hadn't marked it. Deputy Olson stated overnight mail be used whenever necessary and that the county auditor won't have information on the voter if registered in Safe at Home.

**4. Voter registration list fees**

Chairperson Carol Olson proposed to amend IAC 721 – 28.2(2) to have revenue from voter registration lists be put towards the Secretary of State's office instead of the general fund in order to cover expenses. Motion by Commissioner Chad Olsen, second by Commissioner Bonham to amend IAC 721 – 28.2(2). Roll Call vote: Olsen, Aye; Olson, Aye; Foecke, Aye; Bonham, Aye. Motion to amend rules carried.

**5. Definition of political purpose for requesting voter lists**

Eric Gookin presented several definitions to the Commission for the term "political purpose" and an overview of why the definition is needed. Commissioner Foecke sought clarification to make sure the change wasn't to limit political parties. Eric Gookin explained that the proposed definition is just for clearness. Motion by Commissioner Chad Olsen, second by Commissioner Bonham to approve the definition of political purpose as being, "The phrase 'political purpose' means research, advocacy, or education relating to the election, administration, or governance of public policies." Roll call vote: Olsen, Aye; Olson, Aye; Foecke, Aye; Bonham, Aye. Motion to amend rules carried.

**6. Discussion of charging a fee for a single voter's information, requested by someone other than the voter.**

Director of Elections Dawn Williams requested that there be a charge for a single voter's information requested by someone other than the voter. Chairperson Olson added the charge would be for those requesting more in depth information, not quickly answered information. Commissioner Foecke questioned how certain requests would be differentiated. Dawn Williams stated if a report was pulled from I-Voters the requester would be charged, but clarified no charge will come to a voter looking up their own information. Foecke expressed concern in regard to the Democratic Party's use for single voter information. Dawn Williams addressed the concern stating the charge is only for voter history in printed reports, not for a basic lookup. Motion by Commissioner Bonham, second by Commissioner Olsen to approve the five dollar charge for a single voter's record, for those requesting the record other than the voter. Roll call vote: Olson, Aye; Olsen, Aye; Foecke, Aye; Bonham, Aye. Motion carried.

**7. Voter Registration Totals**

Chairperson Olson entertained the idea of having monthly voter registration reports printed for each meeting. Commissioner Chad Olsen stated since the reports are online there was no need.

**8. DOT Online Registration**

Director of Elections Dawn Williams provided an overview of the DOT online voter registration process and the reports available from the DOT.

**9. Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned by Chairperson Olson at 2:25 P.M.