

State Plan Committee on Election Reform.
Wednesday, April 2, 2003
Governor's Board Room 210 State Capitol
Minutes of Meeting

Members of the State Plan Committee attending:

Sherrie Swensen, Salt Lake County Clerk
Steve Rawlings, Davis County Clerk
Linda Lunceford, Weber County Clerk
Robert Pero, Carbon County Clerk
Kim Jackson, Utah County Clerk
Bill Gibson, Division of Services for the Blind and Visually Impaired
Todd Taylor, State Democratic Party
Sandy Peck, League of Women Voters
Amy Naccarato, State Elections Director
Olene Walker, Lieutenant Governor
Liz McCoy, Disability Law Center
Thom Roberts, Atty General's Office
Senator Patrice Arent

Guests:

Leslie Gertch, Division of Services for the Blind and Visually Impaired
Sandy Naegle, Governor's Office of Planning and Budget
Mike Vu, Salt Lake County Clerk's Office
Nick Floros, Salt Lake County Clerk's Office
Pat Beckstead, Davis County Clerk's Office
Donna Mitchell, Utah County Clerk's Office

Absent:

Leticia Medina, Office of Hispanic Affairs
Senator Dan Eastman
Representative Lorainne Pace

I. Welcome

The meeting began at 2:00 p.m. with a brief welcome by Lt Governor Walker and an introduction of attendees.

II. Committee Discussion

A. Voting Systems Vendor Show

The committee agreed that the show was productive, with good media coverage. Bill Gibson appreciated the exposure of issues affecting the blind and visually impaired.

B. Review State Plan

1. Revised Budget

Lt. Governor Walker told the committee that the original plan budgeted money over a long period of time to ensure future funding. In retrospect, she said, this placed an initial burden on the counties. The new proposal was designed to lessen the burden. She said that the county clerks are far more supportive of the new plan.

A. New voting equipment

\$20.5 million

- First machine - State buys
- Second machine - County pays \$400
- Third machine - County pays \$400 (4/5 of precincts would need)
- Forth machine - County pays \$400 (3/4 of precincts would need)
- Fifth machine - County pays \$400 (3/4 of precincts would need)

Linda Lunceford - Weber County estimates

- 612 machines
 - About the same as number of Votomatics - a little less
- 165 voters per machine
 - 1 voter = 5 minutes
 - Vendors estimate about 200 per machine
- Assume \$3,000 per machine
 - Lt. Gov - could be as low as \$2,500
- Under first budget - total cost just over \$1 million, Weber's cost over \$700,000
- Under new budget proposal - expect about a million six from the federal government, Weber to pay about \$187,000
 - Equipment only (cost doesn't cover storage, programming, etc.)

Kim Jackson asked if the state had information on additional equipment expenses. The Lt. Gov said it will depend on the county. The State will fund the equipment and counties will be responsible for additional expenses (storage, carts, etc.)

B. Remaining Budget

Lt. Gov - To accommodate new equipment budget, cuts had to be made elsewhere

- Revolving fund for growth and future upgrades: From \$5 million to \$3 million
- Maintenance of equipment, support: From \$3 million to \$1 million
- Voter Information Pamphlet: From \$2 million to \$1.5 million
- Judge training: From \$1 million to \$.5 million
- Statewide database: Remains at \$1 million
- Voter Outreach, signs, PSA's: From \$1 million to \$.5 million

Budget Discussion

- Kim Jackson asked the Lt Governor when the first county payment will be due. She said the payments would begin in '04 and continue until '06 and possibly to '07 if the county needs more time. She mentioned that the revolving fund was intended for rapidly-growing counties like Utah and Washington.
- It was suggested that to save money, the VIP be mailed to active voters only. Lt Governor - It needs to go to all households to avoid discrimination and give people the opportunity to register (form included in pamphlet)
- Todd Taylor suggested that \$500,000 may not be enough for voter education. Lt Governor - A good portion of it will be used the first year, to teach people about new equipment. Sherrie Swenson - A lot of education can be done without cost-free events, like county fairs and service organizations.
 - Bill Gibson said it would be helpful to let other organizations showcase the equipment. The center for the blind serves over 14,000 people a year and could provide demonstrations.

Todd Taylor made a motion to adopt the revised budget. Bill Gibson seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.

C. Budget Allocations

The committee will meet twice a year to review and oversee the distribution of funds

D. County Obligations

Committee members made the following amendment suggestions:

- Change 'Counties must maintain their current elections budget' to include *at least*, and make reference to the *November 2000 election*
- Refer to the voter registration database as *shared*
- Change the date for developing a plan from July 1 to *September 1, 2003*
- In addition to storage and security, add that counties are responsible for the *maintenance* of the equipment

E. Purchase of Equipment

The Lt. Governor would like the following on the selection committee for new voting equipment

- Clerks on the State Plan Committee
- Two additional clerks
- Sandy Naegle from GOPB
- Ray Palmer from State IT Services
- Doug Richins from Purchasing
- Amy Naccarato, Director of Elections
- A member of the blind/visually impaired community
- Thom Roberts from the Attorney General's Office

Committee members expressed their concerns regarding equipment specifications. The Lt. Gov said that the county clerks on the purchasing committee will have the opportunity to evaluate and specify their needs. Sandy Naegle pointed out that an RFP has to be very specific - if a vendor doesn't match the specifications, they can't bid.

It was estimated that the RFP will be out by the end of the year, allowing for pilots in the 2004 June primary.

F. Misc. Plan Amendments

- The State, in conjunction with a ~~university~~ *colleges*, will design a certification program for county clerks and their staff *and others*
- All judges will be required to attend training *except in cases of emergency*

Amy will note the suggested changes and email a draft in a week for approval. A press release will then be issued, followed by hearings and a 30-day public review and comment period.

Bill Gibson will make the plan available in Braille and large-print