



**Pulaski County Election Commission
Meeting Minutes
May 10, 2016
5:00 p.m.**

Members Present

Leonard A. Boyle, Sr.
Pat Hays
Kevin Gorman

Staff Present

Bryan Poe
Shawn Camp

Visitors Present: Cynthia Howell, AR Democrat Gazette; Kalan Horton, Student, UALR; John Lyons; Jason Kennedy, County Clerk's office; Adam Fogleman, County Attorney's office

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Pat Hays. A quorum was determined; all commissioners present.

Approval of Meeting Minutes March 11, 2016

Commissioner Boyle moved to accept minutes as presented; seconded by Commissioner Gorman. Motion passed by voice vote.

Business

Discussion of Possible New Polling Site

Kalan Horton, student and employee of UALR, presented a request to have a polling site located on the campus of UALR. Mr. Poe noted the requirements for placing a polling site and since this is a university campus, parking availability is important for accessibility for all voters. He noted also that it would be more feasible to place an early voting site in the university district for accessibility to all voters in the county especially those in the university vicinity. Mr. Poe is suggesting a location on the edge of campus with accessible parking, preferably Jack Stephens Center or the Cooperative Extension Service Center.

Motion to continue discussions with Mr. Horton on making a polling site available on the UALR campus made by Commissioner Boyle; seconded by Commissioner Gorman. Motion passed by voice vote. Commissioner Boyle volunteered his services to assist in helping in this effort.

Commissioner Gorman suggested the feasibility of having one regional early voting site that would accommodate the entire county to help alleviate long lines during early voting. He noted the downside of voter inconvenience to have one site where voters in the outlined areas would have to travel further as opposed to their voting locations on Election Day.

Letter to Arkansas Rehabilitation Services

Mr. Poe has completed the letter to be delivered to Arkansas Rehabilitation Services requesting recruitment of persons with disabilities to become poll workers in Pulaski County.

Cell Phone Policy

Adam Fogleman, County Attorney, presented information regarding the use of cell phones in the polling place. He noted that the rule of no cell phone use is permissible, but it needs to be defined when it is being used in the polling location by voters during the voting process. Once the voter has their ballot pulled up on the voting device and they feel the need to refer to information from their phone concerning what is on their ballot, it may be necessary for the election official to cancel the ballot and move the voter to a private area to research information concerning candidates and issues on the ballot. It would also help, prior to entering the voting booth, to refer voters to the sample ballots posted in the polling location.

Order of Destruction of Unused Ballots and Ballot Stubs, March 11, 2014 Special Election
Order signed by the board.

November 8, 2016 School Election Legislation

The board has been notified by the superintendent of the State Board of Election that the Pulaski County Special School District will hold an election on November 8, 2016 to coincide with the November General Election. Two logistical issues concerning this election are school elections must be conducted at polling locations within the school district boundaries and school elections must be on a separate ballot. This creates a number of administrative issues as well as increasing the cost of the General Election and voter confusion. The office has been in contact with the State Board of Election Commissioners (SBEC), the Association of Arkansas Counties (AAC), the Arkansas Governor's office and the Arkansas Secretary of State's office. The sections of the law concerning this issues were brought before the state Joint Budget Committee by Representative Bennett and Senator Ingram to address these two sections of law. However they did not make it through the committee and has been put aside. They are to be included in a larger bill sponsored by Representative Bell to be on the Governor's call for special session on Highway funding next week. Another issue is the need for additional voting machines. The cost for rental from the vendor is approximately \$20,000.00.

Responses to SBEC Complaints

Mr. Poe was advised by the SBEC that our office is to discuss complaints in the same manner as the SBEC by not mentioning any specifics of the complaint until it has been resolved and made public.

The response to the current complaint has been completed and signed and ready to submit to the SBEC. Motion to accept response to SBEC Complaint 2016-007 was made by Commissioner Boyle; seconded by Commissioner Gorman. Motion passed by voice vote.

Motion to accept response to SBEC Complaint 2016-006 was made by Commissioner Gorman; seconded by Commissioner Boyle. Motion passed by voice vote.

OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Camp is currently touring polling locations to gather information on all voting facilities in Pulaski County. It is necessary to be aware of the location needs and capabilities of each location. This will help in the future to assist workers and voters in locating the facilities and in knowing what manpower is needed at each location. He is also checking wiring needs for technology. This information will be helpful when time to evaluate the number of polling locations needed in the future.

Currently we are conducting conversations with all of the current chief judges and making evaluations that will be beneficial in updating the poll worker training process. Once all of the evaluations are completed, a report will be compiled and the staff will then review the information to make improvements in the training process, training materials and procedures.

Commissioner Boyle presented a handout guide from the Disability Rights of Arkansas concerning how to assist voters with disabilities.

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May, 24, 2016 at 5:00 p.m.

Meeting adjourned.