

Board of Elections Minutes - Tuesday, February 5, 2019

Absent: Commissioner Wahls attending Dominion Voting Machine Training February 5 - 7 and February 12 -14.

No Minutes for the December and January meeting as only Agenda was on file. Commissioners were not present due to absence from the county.

FINANCIAL:

January Year to Date financial report attached. Expenses for Election Inspectors and Election Ballots posted.

OLD BUSINESS:

Seventy-six (76) Affidavit Letters were processed by the Board for the GE18 Election. Determinations for the forty-two (42) valid. Rulings include: in-county movers, re-activation inactive voter or administrative errors following research. Thirty-four (34) affidavits determinations were invalid for reasons based on Election Law items such as: not being registered in this county, voters relocated outside this county, voter went to the wrong poll site or did not complete the affidavit envelope.

NEW BUSINESS:

Affiliation Enrollment Applications are processed once annually. 519 voters Acknowledgment cards sent with letters to the voters noting their party affiliation change. Office has over one hundred enrollment application changes for 2019.

Office provided one Fire Election list for the following districts mid-December vote: Apalachin, Berkshire, Candor, Newark Valley and Waverly fire district.

OACSD Capital Project Vote on January 22, 2019: Poll Books, Separate Voter lists per the two districts, and Privacy Booths were provided per the school district request.

Staff attended the Department Head Training: Contract Grievances hosted by Personnel Office.

Deputy Commissioner Vera Lin Layman completed the Institute for Advancement training in 2018.

Center for Internet Security (CIS) Election Infrastructure Assessment met with Board staff and IT staff regarding Cyber Security of Elections. The NYSBOE has obtained grant money to complete a risk assessment of every county BOE. The focus was on reviewing policies, procedures and practices for maintain elections system and voter information security with IT focus on performing internal network vulnerability scans, system configuration assessments as well as reviewing current scan data.

The Voting Machine Technicians were trained to make webpage updates. The Board's page will have updates pending the new election calendar that will see consolidated State/Local and Federal Primary held on the fourth Tuesday of June from here forward. This change will affect the petition carrying and filing as well as all Campaign Finance filings. Additionally, six Election Chapter Laws are passed in Albany. Bill items range from allowing 16 and 17 year olds to pre-register to vote, amending election law in relation to voter registration transfers between counties, Limited Liability Companies, LLCs, be subject to the aggregate contribution limit of five thousand dollars, move up the polling place designation annually to March 15, move up the Certification date for offices to be voted for the General Election to February 1 annually, earlier National Change of Address processing to February annually, Mail Check process moved up to April annually and most significantly setting out the process for Early Voting. Establishing a 9 day early voting period running until the Sunday before election day will require extra staff hours as well as an increase in Election Inspectors during these days. Location of an Early Voting site remains to be determined as details such as potential rent, insurance, salary for early voting inspectors, clerks and the machine technicians, security expenses, obtain and train to utilize Electronic Poll Books (E Poll Book), costs for the E Poll Book Connectivity, potential new voting systems for Early Voting, Ballot on Demand Systems as well as the associated hardware, software and licenses.

Poll Site Agreements have been sent to 18 sites. The poll sites formerly at Owego Middle School and Apalachin Elementary Schools have been changed to the Owego Methodist Church on Main Street, Owego and Apalachin Methodist Church on Pennsylvania Avenue, Apalachin. All Voters will receive individual yellow Mail Check Cards later this spring informing them of their poll site. A Press Release regarding this voting news will be forthcoming as well as signs posted at the former and new locations.

PERSONNEL:

Democratic Election Commissioner, James Wahls approved at December 11th evening meeting.

A search for a Democratic Machine Technician (DMT) is underway. (Current DMT is actively seeking FT employment)

RESOLUTION

None