Minutes of May 6, 2019, State Board of Elections Meeting

Members Present:  Mr. Chambers, [R]-Wilmington
Mr. Pasquale, [D]-New Castle County
Ms. Philpotts, [D]-Wilmington
Ms. Pugh, [D]-Sussex County
Mrs. Sandstrom, [D]-Kent County
Ms. Sikora, [R]-Sussex County
Mr. Sterling, [R]-New Castle County, At Large
Mrs. Whittington, [R]-New Castle County
Mrs. Williams-Mayo [D]-New Castle County, At Large

Staff Present:  Mrs. Manlove, State Election Commissioner
Mr. Albence, County Director, New Castle County Office
Mr. Greig, Deputy County Director, Kent County Office
Mr. McDowell, County Director, Sussex County Office
Mr. Sholl, Deputy County Director, New Castle County Office
Mrs. Turner, Deputy County Director, Sussex County Office
Mrs. Young, County Director, Kent County Office

Public Present:  Nelly Jordan

1. Mr. Pasquale called the meeting to order at 4:07 p.m.

2. Mrs. Sandstrom moved, and Mr. Sterling seconded, a motion to approve the minutes of the April 8, 2019, meeting. Motion passed unanimously.

3. Commissioner Manlove provided an update on the current financial status of the Department per its appropriation in the FY2019 State Budget. Expenditures are higher than expected due to costs related to the purchase and implementation of the new voting equipment and related systems. The Department is working the Office of Management and Budget to determine additional funds needed.

4. Commissioner Manlove provided an update on the current statewide voter registration total. The total number of registered voters in the State as of May 1, 2019, was 704,709.
5. Commissioner Manlove provided a summary of upcoming elections and the Department’s upcoming outreach and staff activities.

6. Commissioner Manlove provided a recap of the Department’s website statistics, including visits to the State Election Commissioner and county office websites, provided via the Google Analytics program.

7. Commissioner Manlove provided a summary of Voter Registration transactions through April 30, 2019, by type and source.

8. Commissioner Manlove provided a recap of recent elections-related legislation, which includes: enactment of early voting (which goes into effect in 2022), consolidating the Presidential Primary and State Primary Election (passed by House, awaiting action in Senate), a “cleanup bill” for Title 15, and a bill to require candidates to disclose their tax payment status before being allowed to appear on a ballot.

9. Commissioner Manlove reviewed the status of Campaign Finance violations. The Commissioner updated the Board that the Department is now utilizing an investigator contracted via the Department of Justice to follow up on these infractions.

10. Commissioner Manlove provided an update on the status of the conversion to the new voting system. Preparations are on schedule to utilize the new system for the School Board Elections on May 14, 2019.

11. OLD BUSINESS:
   - Mr. Sterling recapped the details of his recent voting machine inspection with Mr. Albence. He offered some insights regarding how the process may be streamlined for inspections prior to future elections.
   - Mrs. Sikora revisited concerns she raised regarding the 2018 General Election. Mr. McDowell, reported that the issues raised have been addressed.

12. NEW BUSINESS:
   - NONE

13. Mr. Sterling moved and Mrs. Pugh seconded the motion to approve the removals as presented.

14. Mr. Pasquale recognized Ms. Jordan, a member of the public. She posed some questions regarding the new voting machines and voting procedures. Board members and staff provided answers to questions raised.
15. Ms. Pugh moved and Mr. Chambers seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

James A. Sterling, III
Secretary

NEXT MEETING: MONDAY, JUNE 10, 2019
LOCATION: OFFICE OF THE STATE ELECTION COMMISSIONER, 905 S. GOVERNORS AVE; DOVER, DE19904