



STATE OF DELAWARE  
*office of the*  
STATE ELECTION COMMISSIONER

Elaine Manlove  
*State Election  
Commissioner*

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**Title 15 Taskforce Meeting**  
**September 25, 2013**  
**Minutes**

Taskforce Members in Attendance: Elaine Manlove, Andrew Lippstone, Sen. Colin Bonini, Rep. Earl Jaques, Sen. Margaret Rose Henry, Ann Woolfolk

Taskforce Members Not in Attendance: Rep. Deborah Hudson

Invited Parties in Attendance: William Bush, Elizabeth Maron, Richard Forsten

Invited Parties Not In Attendance: Richard Dillard

Public in Attendance: Celia Cohan, Delaware Grapevine; Letty Diswood, private citizen; Kathleen McRae, Delaware ACLU

The meeting was called to order shortly after 1:00 pm. The three topics on the agenda were: Governance, Voter Registration and Ballot Access.

**Governance**

Elizabeth Maron suggested that the three Boards of Election for each County be eliminated and replaced by a State Board of Elections with 8 members rather than the current 22 in the three counties. She also felt this consolidation would allow for additional cost savings by having one Department of Elections rather than three Departments in addition to the Commissioner's Office.

Richard Forsten felt the State Board should consist of 12 members. Everyone agreed that the number of members could be discussed at a later date.

**Voter Registration**

Commissioner Manlove shared a PowerPoint presentation that she had utilized when testifying before the Presidential Commission on Election Reform. Delaware is the leading state for voter registration transactions initiated at DMV. The Commissioner's Office will shortly introduce online voter registration allowing signature via signatures already on file. The current online



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system requires the applicant to print, sign and mail the application. This technology would also be used in Health and Human Services and Labor Departments since they are mandated to offer voter registration and many of their clients apply for benefits online.

There was discussion of both Election Day Registration and Candidate Background checks. Both initiatives are currently in bill form, however, neither has passed the Legislature. There was no consensus on either initiative.

**Ballot Access**

There was discussion around the current 1/10<sup>th</sup> of 1% of the number of voters registered in a party for ballot access. This threshold was changed several years ago from 1/20<sup>th</sup> of 1%. There was discussion, however, no consensus on changing that threshold.

**Public Comment**

A question was asked regarding the use of the statewide voter registration database for municipal elections. Some municipalities do use the state system as their voter registration while others maintain a separate system for the municipality. That decision is left to the municipality.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 3:00 pm. The next meeting is on October 16.

- Elaine Manlove