



STATE OF DELAWARE  
*office of the*  
STATE ELECTION COMMISSIONER

Elaine Manlove  
*State Election  
Commissioner*

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**Title 15 Taskforce Meeting  
November 13, 2013  
Minutes**

Taskforce Members in Attendance: Elaine Manlove, Sen. Colin Bonini, Rep. Earl Jaques, Ann Woolfolk

Taskforce Members Not in Attendance: Sen. Margaret Rose Henry, Rep. Deborah Hudson, Andrew Lippstone

Invited Parties in Attendance: Elizabeth Maron, Richard Forsten

Invited Parties Not In Attendance: William Bush, Richard Dillard

Public in Attendance: Letty Diswood, LWV; Sue Bryson, private citizen; Howard Sholl, Dept. of Elections for NCC; Apryl Walker, Delaware Alliance for Community Advancement

The meeting was called to order at approximately 2:00 pm. The two topics on the agenda were: Special Elections and Municipal Elections

**Old Business**

Commissioner Manlove was tasked with creating a timeline indicating which other dates would be affected if the Primary Election was changed to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday in August. The changes are as follows:

- Filing Deadline – 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday in June (noon)
- Withdrawal/Change Deadline – Friday following the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday in June (4:30 pm)
- Democratic and Republican Parties can fill vacant positions on the ballot – August 1

**New Business**

**Special Elections**

There was discussion about an improvement to the word “otherwise” in Section 7101, but no consensus. Currently the code reads:



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*Whenever there is a vacancy in either house of the General Assembly, by reason of failure to elect, ineligibility, death, resignation or **otherwise**, within 10 days of the creation of the vacancy a writ of election shall be issued by the presiding officer of the house in which the vacancy exists, directed to the department or departments of the county or counties in which such vacancy exists or, in case of necessity, in such other manner as shall be provided by law. Whenever there is such vacancy in either house and the General Assembly is not in session, the Governor may issue a writ of election to fill such vacancy, which writ shall be executed as a writ issued by the presiding officer of either house in case of vacancy.*

**Municipal Elections**

There was discussion about a change to Section 7552 – Complaint Procedure. If amended, it would mandate that a complaint regarding an alleged violation of Sections 7551, 7553, 7554, 7555 or 7557(h) be submitted no later than 14 days prior to the day of the election. That would give the citizens one week from the beginning of the posting process to notify the municipality of a violation allowing the municipality time to correct it. There was no consensus on making this change.

There was discussion about removing the State Election Commissioner from the appeal process and have appeals heard by Superior Court. There was no consensus on this change.

**Public Comment**

The League of Women Voters commented that they would prefer to have the State Election Commissioner as part of the appeal process for Municipal Elections.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 3:00 pm. The next meeting is on December 11 at 1:00 pm at the Dept. of Elections Warehouse, 220 Lisa Drive, New Castle.

- Elaine Manlove