



ELECTION LAW TASKFORCE

REPORT

To

The Senate Pro Tempore

And

The Speaker of the House



March 31, 2014

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Senate Concurrent
Resolution No. 20

BERNARD J. BRADY
SECRETARY OF THE SENATE



Room S-135
Home: (302) 655-0551
Office: (302) 744-4129
Fax: (302) 739-7718

SENATE
STATE OF DELAWARE
LEGISLATIVE HALL
DOVER, DELAWARE 19903

I, BERNARD J. BRADY, SECRETARY OF THE DELAWARE STATE SENATE,
DO HEREBY CERTIFY THE ATTACHED IS A TRUE AND EXACT COPY OF:

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 20

PASSED BY THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF
THE 147th GENERAL ASSEMBLY.


BERNARD J. BRADY
SECRETARY OF THE SENATE



SPONSOR: Sen. Blevins & Rep. Schwartzkopf
Rep. Longhurst

DELAWARE STATE SENATE
147th GENERAL ASSEMBLY

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 20

ESTABLISHING AN ELECTION LAW TASK FORCE.

1 WHEREAS, Title 15, Elections, of the Delaware Code contains 32 Chapters and covers a broad array of election
2 laws;

3 WHEREAS, Title 15 has been amended numerous times over the years; and

4 WHEREAS, Delaware's law regulating voting and elections should be clear, efficient, open and fair.

5 NOW, THEREFORE:

6 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the 147th General Assembly of the State of Delaware, the House of
7 Representatives concurring therein, that an "Election Law Task Force" is established to comprehensively review, study and
8 make findings and recommendations regarding Title 15 Elections.

9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Task Force shall be composed of the following members:

10 (a) Two members of the Delaware House of Representatives, one from the Majority Caucus and one from the Minority
11 Caucus, appointed by the Speaker of the House;

12 (b) Two members of the Delaware State Senate, one from the Majority Caucus and one from the Minority Caucus,
13 appointed by the President Pro Tempore;

14 (c) The State Election Commissioner who shall serve as Chair;

15 (d) A representative from the Governor's Office appointed by the Governor, and

16 (e) The State Election Commissioner's legal counsel shall serve as an ex-officio non voting member.

17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Election Law Task Force shall convene its first meeting no later than 60
18 days after enactment. The Election Law Task Force shall meet monthly and report its findings by March 30, 2014 to the
19 President Pro Tempore of the Senate and the Speaker of the House. Staff support for the Task Force shall be requested from
20 the State Election Commissioner's Office.

SYNOPSIS

This concurrent resolution establishes an Election Law Task Force to comprehensively review Title 15 and make recommendations on how to improve this Title.

Author: Senator Blevins

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Election Law Taskforce Report

Election Law Taskforce

Report to the Senate President Pro Tempore and the Speaker of the House

March 28, 2014

The Election Law Taskforce was created by Senate Concurrent Resolution 20 with a mandate to report its findings by March 30, 2014 to the President Pro Tempore of the Senate and the Speaker of the House.

The mandated composition of the Taskforce is as follows:

- Two members of the Delaware House of Representatives (one from the Majority Caucus and one from the Minority Caucus) appointed by the Speaker of the House
 - Rep. Earl Jaques
 - Rep. Deborah Hudson
- Two members of the Delaware State Senate (one from the Majority Caucus and one from the Minority Caucus) appointed by the President Pro Tempore
 - Sen. Margaret Rose Henry
 - Sen. Colin Bonini
- The State Election Commissioner who shall serve as Chair:
 - Elaine Manlove
- A representative from the Governor's Office appointed by the Governor:
 - Andrew Lippstone
- The State Election Commissioner's legal counsel shall serve as an ex-officio non-voting member:
 - Ann Woolfolk

Process

At the first meeting on August 9, the group agreed to divide Title 15 into the following topics to be discussed at the Taskforce Meetings:

- Governance
- Voter Registration
- Ballot Access
- Primary Elections
- General Elections
- Special Elections
- Municipal Elections
- Absentee Voting
- Early Voting
- Campaign Finance

It was also agreed to invite the following other (non-voting) interested parties to attend upcoming meetings and join the discussion:

- William Bush – Attorney, Delaware House of Representatives
- Richard Dillard – Attorney, Delaware Senate
- Elizabeth Maron – Attorney, Delaware Democratic Party
- Richard Forsten – Attorney, Delaware Republican Party

Governance

Currently the three Departments of Election for each county are governed by three Boards of Elections whose members are appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Senate. The State Election Commissioner is appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Senate.

A proposal was made to eliminate the three county Boards of Election and create a single State Board of Elections. This proposal passed 4 (Jaques, Henry, Manlove, Lippstone) to 1 (Bonini). Rep. Hudson was absent at this meeting.

At a subsequent meeting, a proposal was made that the State Board of Elections should consist of 10 members equally divided between the Democratic and Republican Parties: 2 from Wilmington, 2 from New Castle County outside Wilmington, 2 from Kent County and 2 from Sussex County; 2 additional members appointed by the Governor. In addition, the State Election Commissioner would be a member and would vote in the case of a tie. This proposal passed 4 (Jaques, Henry, Manlove, Lippstone) to 1 (Hudson). Sen. Bonini was absent at this meeting. All members would be appointed by the Governor, from lists provided by the major political parties, and confirmed by the Senate.

Voter Registration

The Commissioner shared with the Taskforce the improvements that have been made to voter registration. Delaware pioneered “e-signature” to improve our connectivity with agencies mandated to conduct voter registration. This project has given Delaware national significance and numerous other states and organizations have visited Delaware to view this process.

Delaware was the second state to join ERIC (Electronic Registration Information Center). This began as a Pew Center on the States initiative and is now an independent non-profit organization. Membership has allowed us to contact eligible, but unregistered, citizens and provide them with information on registering to vote. It has also allowed us to remove voters who are deceased or have moved to another state, thus improving the accuracy of our voter registration database.

Because of the success of these initiatives, no changes were proposed for voter registration.

Ballot Access

Several years ago, legislation passed that changed the threshold for ballot status from 1/20th of 1% of the number of registered voters at the end of the year preceding an election year to 1/10th of 1%. There were no proposals to change the current threshold.

Primary Election

A proposal was made to have filing fees set by the major political parties no earlier than January 1 and no later than February 1 of an election year. This proposal passed (5-1). Rep. Hudson was absent for this meeting.

The Taskforce spent considerable time debating the merits of changing the date of the September Primary Election. The reasons to consider changing the date are:

- School Security – Schools are in session for the Primary Election which increases the level of difficulty in conducting elections as well as opening school buildings to all who enter under the guise of voting.
- Federal law mandates that ballots to military and overseas voters be in the mail 45 days before Election Day. This is a challenge with a late Primary Election date.

No proposals were made to change the date of the Primary Election.

General Election

There was discussion which included Write-In Candidates, Candidate Residency, Election Officer Training, Electioneering, Provisional Ballots and Voter History. No proposals were brought forward to make any changes in the General Election.

Municipal Elections

A comment from the public generated discussion regarding why some municipalities use the State's voter registration database and others use their own voter registration system. When the Municipal Election law was enacted, it was decided to allow municipalities to decide which voter registration system they wanted. No proposal was made to make a change to that policy.

The Taskforce agreed to amend Section 7552 to mandate that a complaint regarding an alleged violation of Sections 7551, 7553, 7554, 7555 or 7557(b) be submitted no later than 14 days prior to the day of the election. This would give the citizens one week from the beginning of the posting process to notify the municipality of a violation which would, in turn, allow the municipality time to correct it, thus eliminating a complaint.

Absentee Voting

Current Delaware law requires a reason to vote absentee. Those reasons are in the Constitution. The voter must complete an affidavit that they return to the Dept. of Elections. The affidavit must be notarized unless you are sick, disabled or in the service of the United States or the state of Delaware.

The Taskforce voted 4 (Jaques, Henry, Lippstone, Manlove) to 1 (Bonini) in favor of removing the notarization mandate. Rep. Hudson was absent for at this meeting.

Early Voting

If Delaware were to adopt early voting, it would have to be in a controlled environment (for instance, the Elections Offices/Warehouses). Voters would vote on paper similar to absentee ballots, but would not need a reason to vote early. After much discussion, there was no agreement to adding an early voting component.

Restoration of Felon Voting Rights

Currently all felon fines are co-mingled with other fines (felony and misdemeanor). We can no longer connect the felony to the fine. The State Election Commissioner will work with the Courts to resolve this issue.

Campaign Finance

Rep. Hudson plans to introduce legislation to create a Campaign Finance Taskforce; therefore, no suggestions regarding Campaign Finance are included in this report.

Supplemental Certificates of Nomination

Following a court case, the Chancellor suggested that legislation should be able to eliminate any confusion regarding Supplemental Certificates of Nomination. The Taskforce voted (3-Henry, Lippstone, Manlove) to 2 (Jaques, Hudson) to remove the word "other" from the language below:

§ 3306 Supplemental certificates of nomination.

(a) Whenever it shall be determined, subsequent to the dates specified in § 3303 of this title, that a duly nominated candidate will be unable to serve if elected because of death, physical, mental or **other** incapacity, the state, county or city (if a municipality holds its election at the time of the general election) committee shall convene within 24 hours of said determination to authorize the filing of a supplemental certificate of nomination for a substitute candidate, or to decline to issue such a certificate. However, in the case of the death of a candidate, said committee may convene within a reasonable period of time

sufficient to have the new candidate's name placed on the ballot, but in no case later than 5 days from the date of death.

(b) Such certificate, if issued, shall be delivered to the officer or officers to whom the original certificate was submitted no later than 12:00 noon of the day following that meeting at which the certificate was authorized. However, if said meeting shall occur within 5 days of the day of election, the certificate shall be delivered immediately.

Disaster Recovery

The Taskforce agreed that a Disaster Recovery Plan is necessary and should be posted on all Elections websites. All four offices have completed the Continuity of Operations Planning Program through the Department of Technology and Information and the State Election Commissioner was a part of the National Association of Secretaries of State Task Force on Emergency Preparedness for Elections.

Addendums:

- Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 20
- Minutes from all meetings
- Attendance Sheets
- Letters from the public
- Letter from member of the General Assembly

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Meeting Minutes

Title 15 Taskforce Meeting
August 19, 2013
Minutes

In Attendance: Andrew Lippstone, Sen. Colin Bonini, Rep. Deborah Hudson, Rep. Earl Jaques, Elaine Manlove

The meeting was called to order shortly after 1:00 pm. The Taskforce reviewed Senate Concurrent Resolution which created the Taskforce. SCR20 mandates that the Taskforce report its findings by March 30, 2014 to the President Pro Tempore of the Senate and the Speaker of the House. The Taskforce shall also meet monthly.

With those directives in mind, the Taskforce agreed to meet every month and divided their discussion topics into the following:

First Meeting

- Governance
- Voter Registration
- Ballot Access

Second Meeting

- Primary Elections
- General Elections

Third Meeting

- Special Elections
- Municipal Elections

Fourth Meeting

- Absentee Voting
- Early Voting

Fifth Meeting

- Campaign Finance

The meetings scheduled for September through December will be held at the Dept. of Elections for New Castle County Warehouse, Parkway Industrial Park, 220 Lisa Drive, New Castle. The January and February meetings will be held in the Office of the State Election Commissioner, 925 S. Governor's Avenue, Dover.

Other areas affecting Elections are also to be considered: National Voter Registration Act (NVRA); Help America Vote Act (HAVA); Uniformed and Overseas Citizen Absentee Voting Act (UOCAVA); as well as Voting Accessibility for the Elderly and Handicapped Act.

The committee also agreed to include other interested parties to attend the upcoming meetings. Invitations will be extended to:

- William Bush – House Attorney
- Richard Dillard – Senate Attorney
- Elizabeth Maron – Democratic Party Attorney
- Richard Forsten – Republican Party Attorney

All meetings are public and are so noticed.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 2:30 pm.

■ Elaine Manlove

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 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 $1/10^{\text{th}}$ of 1% of the number of voters registered in a party for ballot access. This threshold was changed several years ago from $1/20^{\text{th}}$ 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

Title 15 Taskforce Meeting
October 16, 2013
Minutes

Taskforce Members in Attendance: Elaine Manlove, Sen. Margaret Rose Henry, Rep. Earl Jaques, Rep. Deborah Hudson

Taskforce Members Not in Attendance: Sen. Colin Bonini, Andrew Lippstone, Ann Woolfolk

Invited Parties in Attendance: Elizabeth Maron, Richard Forsten, Richard Dillard

Invited Parties Not In Attendance: William Bush

Public in Attendance: Letty Diswood, LWV; Sue Bryson, private citizen; Paul Lanouette, Board of Elections for NCC; Howard Sholl, Dept. of Elections for NCC; Bill Cook (for Sen. Bonini); Apryl Walker, Delaware Alliance for Community Advancement

The meeting was called to order shortly after 1:00 pm. The two topics on the agenda were: Primary Elections and General Elections.

Old Business

Representative Jaques suggested that the new State Board of Elections be comprised of 13 members: 5 from New Castle County, 3 from Kent County, 3 from Sussex County and 2 additional members appointed by the Governor from a list of 3 names submitted by each of the two major political parties.

Primary Elections

- Richard Forsten suggested that filing fees be set no earlier than January 1 of Election year and no later than February 1.
- Rep. Jaques suggested that the date of the Primary Election be moved to the second Tuesday in August. This would allow the Departments time to meet the federal mandate to mail military and overseas ballots 45 days before Election Day. It would also eliminate the problems associated with polling places in school buildings when students are in school. The Commissioner will create a timeline of other dates that would have to be changed by virtue of this date change.

- There was discussion around the difficulty Election Day challengers face when they cannot hear the name of the voter. Since the Depts. of Election no longer use signature cards, the challengers cannot review the cards to see if they have missed a voter. The Commissioner informed that group that this is something all four Elections offices have discussed. Currently there is no solution.
- Richard Forsten offered to create a suggested rewrite of Section 3101 regarding withdrawal of candidates to be reviewed at the next meeting.

General Election

Topics discussed included Write-In Candidates, Candidate Residency, Election Officer Training, Electioneering, Provisional Ballots and Voter History. No changes were suggested.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 3:00 pm. The next meeting is on November 13 at 1:00 pm at the Dept. of Elections Warehouse, 220 Lisa Drive, New Castle.

• Elaine Manlove

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 2nd Tuesday in August. The changes are as follows:

- Filing Deadline – 2nd Tuesday in June (noon)
- Withdrawal/Change Deadline – Friday following the 2nd 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:

*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



STATE OF DELAWARE
OFFICE OF THE STATE ELECTION COMMISSIONER

ELAINE MANLOVE, STATE ELECTION COMMISSIONER

Title 15 Taskforce Meeting
December 11, 2013
Minutes

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

Taskforce Members Not in Attendance: Sen. Margaret Rose Henry

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; Randall Chase Associated Press, Paul Lanouette, Board of Elections for NCC; Celia Cohen, Delaware Grapevine; Kathleen MacRae, ACLU; Bill Dunn, Civic League for NCC

The meeting was called to order at approximately 2:30 pm. The topics on the agenda were: Absentee Voting; Early Voting; Felon Process; and Candidate Background Checks.

Old Business

Richard Forsten had offered to provide possible new language for Section 7101 and possibly 3306. This is on hold until a later meeting.

New Business

Absentee Voting/Early /Voting

Current Delaware law requires a reason to vote absentee. Those reasons are in the Constitution. The voter must complete an affidavit that they return to the Dept. of Elections. The affidavit must be notarized unless you are sick, disabled or in the service of the United States of the state of Delaware.

There was discussion regarding the need for notarization. While some felt that the notarization mandate should be eliminated in an effort to make voting easier, others felt this could open the process to fraud. There was no consensus on this topic.

Early Voting

If Delaware were to adopt early voting, it would have to be in a controlled environment (for instance, the Elections Offices/Warehouses). Voters would vote on paper similar to absentee ballots, but would not need a reason to vote early. After much discussion, there was no agreement to adding an early voting component.

Restoration of Felon Voting Rights

The current tracking system for fines through the courts merges felony and misdemeanor fines making it sometimes impossible to determine if a fine for a particular felony has been paid. After much discussion, it was agreed that Superior Court should differentiate.

Candidate Background Checks

When a potential candidate files to run for office, the County Election Depts. will check their voter registration records to see if they are in felon status. If they have received a pardon or are a felon in another state, the Depts. would not know that. There was discussion about mandating background checks on all potential candidates, but the consensus was that the opposition candidate would point out any issues that would impact the candidacy.

Miscellaneous

- A letter from some members of the General Assembly is attached to the minutes making it part of the public record.
- Rep. Jaques suggested a night meeting to make it easier for the public to attend. We agreed to schedule the February meeting in Legislative Hall at 6:00 pm. Rep. Jaques will handle reserving a meeting room. Comments on all topics will be accepted at this meeting.
- Justice Veasey is completing his campaign finance investigation. He will provide recommendations to the Taskforce. Members asked if he could attend the January meeting.

Public Comment

- Lettie Diswood from the League of Women Voters supports the elimination of notarization of absentee affidavits and also supports early voting without a reason.
- Bill Dunn from Civic League of NCC feels absentee voting needs to be better publicized.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 3:30 pm. The next meeting is on January 15 at 10:00 am at the Office of the State Election Commissioner, 905 S Governor's Avenue, Dover, DE 19904.

Elaine Manlove



STATE OF DELAWARE
OFFICE OF THE STATE ELECTION COMMISSIONER

ELAINE MANLOVE, STATE ELECTION COMMISSIONER

Title 15 Taskforce Meeting
January 15, 2014
Minutes

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

Taskforce Members Not in Attendance: None

Invited Parties in Attendance: Elizabeth Maron, Richard Forsten, Richard Dillard, Norman Veasey

Invited Parties Not In Attendance: William Bush

Public in Attendance: Ken McDowell, Sussex County Elections; Celia Cohen, Delaware Grapevine; Dave Humes, private citizen; Jeff Raffel, Common Cause of DE; Letty Diswood, LWV; Sandy Spence, LWV; Mary Pat McVay, public; Rep. Danny Short, House of Representatives; Douglas Greig, Kent County Elections; Doris Young, Kent County Elections; Joseph Fulgham, House of Representatives; Rep. Paul Baumbach, House of Representatives; Kathleen MacRae, ACLU; Laura Waterland, CLASI; Deborah Moreau, Public Integrity Commission; Jan Konesey, public; James Browning, Common Cause of DE; Dee Durham, Common Cause of DE; John Flaherty, Delaware Coalition for Open Government; as well as others who did not sign in

The meeting was called to order at approximately 10:15 am. The topics on the agenda were: Campaign Finance and Disaster Recovery

Old Business

- Rewrite of Title 15 Sections 7101 and 3306 will be discussed at a later meeting.
- Legislation that has been introduced will not be discussed at the Taskforce meetings.

New Business

- Campaign Finance – Norman Veasey, Independent Council and Special Deputy Attorney General, was invited to discuss his *Report of Independent Council on Investigation of Violations of Delaware Campaign Finance and Related State Laws*. He highlighted his recommendations:
 - **Disclosure of Contributor’s Employer and Occupation**
 - **Ban Entity Contributions** – either clarify the statute or ban entirely
 - **Address Attribution of Contributions from Joint Accounts**
 - **Mandate that All Reportable Information is on File before a Political Committee May Deposit a Contribution**
 - **Amend Safe Harbor Provisions of Section 8043(b)** – Rather than give funds back to the wrongdoer, donate to an organization, for instance, Law Enforcement Foundation, or the General Fund
 - **Anonymous Reporting of Violations and Protection from Retaliation** – “whistleblowers” should be welcomed

Questions:

Rep. Deborah Hudson: Asked about contributions from entities that were returned after the election. She believes they should have to be returned before the election. Veasey indicated that candidates often do not know that the contributions are tainted but agreed that statute should have a timeline.

She also asked if all candidates listed in the report as accepting Tigani contributions were notified. He responded that they were all interviewed.

She then inquired about gifts to candidates should be multiplied if they are received gifts or tickets that cover more than one person and suggested that this should be looked at going forward.

She asked if there should be a fine for “wrong reporting” regarding entities. He believes there should be a civil penalty but would be better to eliminate entities.

Rep. Earl Jaques asked if Mr. Veasey felt that the system was working with the exception of this report or he stopped due to time or money constraints. He said he was concerned if candidates or staff knew about reimbursement schemes. He found no others were involved.

Rep. Jaques also asked about the low threshold for contribution and asked if contributors were confused about 2 year election cycle vs. annual contributions. He thought there could be some confusion but the laws were clear.

Elaine Manlove asked if he had recommendations about raising the limits. He suggested researching to determine what would be appropriate. Delaware has one of the lowest thresholds.

Rep. Jaques said that it is often difficult to determine ownership percentage of entities. Mr. Veasey said that it would be good to eliminate the entity contributions.

Andrew Lippstone asked how many other states require disclosure of employers. He responded that according to the Pew report (2004), over half of states require this disclosure.

Rep. Jaques asked about Public Integrity Commission and if they needed more resources. Mr. Veasey believes they do.

Rep. Hudson asked if the State Election Commission had followed up on late filings since the new law moved the fine from \$50/month to \$50/day. The Commissioner explained that letters had been sent and a list of those who were not in compliance had been sent to the Attorney General's Office. She also said that the new electronic filing system will automate this.

Andrew Lippstone asked if there was any consideration to giving additional resources to the State Election Commissioner's Office. Mrs. Manlove said that when she needs investigators, she refers the issue to the Attorney General's Office.

Sen. Bonini agreed that more transparency is better. He was, however, concerned about logging volunteer hours. He does not believe that there is a culture of "pay to play" in Delaware.

Rep. Hudson suggested expanding the Title 15 Taskforce due to the Veasey Report. Rep. Jaques responded that this would have to be done through legislation. Rep. Henry would not like to see the work of the Taskforce stop and delay them from completing their report due the end of March.

Jeff Raffel from Common Cause said his organization supports the Veasey recommendations. He asked if public financing were discussed. Mr. Veasey said that was a legislative decision.

Sandy Spence, League of Women Voters, suggested creating a Campaign Finance Taskforce in addition to the Title 15 Taskforce. She believes there should be transparency of LLC ownership which would go beyond only campaign finance.

John Flaherty, Delaware Coalition for Open Government, advocated for instantaneous reporting of campaign contributions and expenditures. On the Public Integrity side, he would like gift to

legislators from lobbyists to be \$0. He would also like Public Integrity Commission reports available online.

Deborah Moreau who represents Public Integrity said that reports are available if you complete an online FOIA request. Reports will be emailed within 30 minutes.

David Humes, a private citizen, suggests that only individuals who are can vote for a candidate should be allowed to contribute to that candidate's campaign. Mr. Humes also left information which is attached to these minutes.

Rep. Paul Baumbach agrees with all recommendations and believes that they should be the default solutions. We should accept them all and change only those that are not workable.

Elizabeth Maron asked Mr. Veasey to comment on the mandate of providing occupation. He felt that in the Tigani case it would have helped to know that employees who were making large donations were not wealthy people.

- Disaster Recover – all four election offices are part of the states COOP (Continuity of Operations Project). In addition, the Commissioner was part of the National Association of Secretaries of State (NASS) Taskforce on Emergency Preparation. She will provide copies of this report to the Taskforce members.

Public Comment

- Laura Waterland asked if the NASS plan was specific to Delaware. It is not. Delaware's plan would be the COOP Plan.
- There was a question about power outages and the Commissioner explained that our voting machines will work on battery for many hours. Also, technicians are readily available.
- Rep. Hudson mentioned reading about schools not being polling places. The Commissioner responded that it is a state as well as a national issue. In some states, schools are refusing to be polling places due to security issues. In Delaware, schools are closed for the General Election; however, schools are in session on Primary Election days.
- There was a question about identification at the polling place. Voters are asked for identification. If their name is on the poll list and they do not have identification, they may complete an affidavit affirming they are who they say they are.
- There was a comment about voters being delayed because of waiting for a response to a polling place from a phone call to the Dept. of Elections for

Sussex Count. The Commissioner acknowledged that there were phone delays in two of our County offices in the last election. Both offices now have new, more robust phone systems.

NEXT MEETING
6:00 PM
HOUSE CHAMBER
LEGISLATIVE HALL

- Elaine Manlove



STATE OF DELAWARE
OFFICE OF THE STATE ELECTION COMMISSIONER

ELAINE MANLOVE, STATE ELECTION COMMISSIONER

Title 15 Taskforce Meeting
February 19, 2014
Minutes

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

Taskforce Members Not in Attendance: Rep. Deborah Hudson

Invited Parties in Attendance: Elizabeth Maron, Richard Forsten, Richard Dillard

Invited Parties Not In Attendance: William Bush

Public in Attendance: Sandy Spence, LWV; Janice Orlando, LWV; Sue Claire Hayes, LWV Sussex County; Judy Currie, private citizen; Ken Currie, 9-12 Patriots; Sen. Lawson; Douglas Greig, Kent County Elections; and other guests who did not sign in.

The meeting was called to order at approximately 6:15 pm. The topics on the agenda were: a rewrite of Sections 7101 and 3306 (Old Business) and Review Recommendations from previous meetings for report to the Legislature (New Business).

Public Comment

It was decided to accept public comment first so that it could be considered during the process of writing the report to the Legislature.

- Elaine Manlove read a copy of a letter from Frank Calio (copy attached) to be included in the record.
- Mr. Ken Currie presented a memo (attached) with his comments. The next day he emailed updated comments (also attached).

- Sandy Spence asked if there would be campaign finance reform and if the taskforce would be expanded. Elaine Manlove stated that Rep. Hudson indicated she planned to introduce legislation for either an expansion of the Title 15 Taskforce or a separate Campaign Finance Taskforce.
- Sandy Spence also indicated that the League of Women Voters support no-excuse absentee voting.

Old Business

- Rewrite of Title 15 Sections 7101 and 3306 will be discussed at a later meeting.

New Business

Elaine Manlove brought up each item that had been discussed at every Taskforce Meeting so that the group could vote on issues to be included in the recommendations to the Legislature.

- Governance – There was a motion from Rep Jaques and a second from Sen. Henry to eliminate the three County Boards of Election and to create a single State Board of Elections. The motion carried. There was discussion on the number of members for the state board but that decision will be held for a later meeting.
- Ballot Access – the current threshold for parties to receive ballot access is 1/10th of 1% of the number of registered voters at the end of the year prior to election year. No one was in favor of changing that threshold.
- All were in agreement not to mandate that municipalities use the statewide voter registration system. The decision should be left to the municipality.
- There was an earlier recommendation to mandate that filing fees be set no earlier than January 1 and no later than February 1 of election year. All were in agreement with this mandate.
- There was an earlier discussion to change the Primary Election date to the second Tuesday in August. That decision will be held for a later meeting.
- There were earlier discussions to rewrite sections 3306 and 7101 for clarity. That decision will be held for a later meeting.
- There was an earlier discussion to remove the Commissioner from the appeal process on municipal elections in favor of going directly to Superior Court. That decision will be held for a later meeting.
- There was an earlier discussion regarding changes to the Municipal Election Law e.g.: 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 giving 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. That decision will be held for a later meeting.

- There was an earlier discussion regarding removal of the mandate for notarization of absentee ballot affidavits. Rep. Jaques made a recommendation to remove the notarization mandate, seconded by Andrew Lippstone. There were 3 Yes votes; 1 No vote; 1 abstention.
- There were earlier discussions of both Early Voting and No Excuse Absentee Voting. Both issues will be held for a later meeting.
- There was discussion regarding the elimination of fines from the restoration of felon voting rights. More information is needed and this will be held for a later meeting.
- There was earlier discussion regarding background checks for candidates for office. There was agreement not to require background checks.
- It was decided to hold discussion on campaign finance pending the outcome of legislation by Rep. Hudson.

**NEXT MEETING
MARCH 12, 2014
OFFICE OF THE STATE ELECTION COMMISSIONER
10:00 AM**

Elaine Manlove

4

Attendance Sheets



STATE OF DELAWARE
OFFICE OF THE STATE ELECTION COMMISSIONER

ATTENDANCE SHEET

NAME	DATE
1 Andy Lippstone	8/19/12
2 Debbie Anderson	8-19-12 House of R
3 Earl JAGUES	8-19-12 House D
4 Colin Bonin	8/15/13 Senate
5 Glenn Karlme	
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REMARKS:

9/25/13 Title 15 Taskforce Meeting

sign-in sheet

Ann Woolf DJ, ex-officio member
Letty Siswood, interested person

Elizabeth Macon Esquire Attorney for
Del. Democratic Party

Margaret Rose Henry ~~State Senator~~
" "

Ernie Jacques
William Bush

Andy Lippstone, Governor's Office

RICHARD FORSTEN, ATTY. FOR DEL. REPUBLICAN PARTY

April Walker, Delaware Alliance for Community Advancement

Kathleen MacLae ACLU-DE

Celia Cohen - Delaware Grapevine

Bobby [signature]

Title 15 Taskforce Meeting
October 16, 2013
1:00 pm

<u>Name</u>	<u>Representing</u>
Letty Diswood	LWUDE private citizen
Sue Bryson	
PAUL LANGUETTE	Dist of Election for New Castle County
Howard Sholl	invited guest
Rich Dillard	
Bill Cook	Attending For Sen. Colin Bonini
Earl Jaques	ST Rep
Elizabeth Maron	Delaware Democratic Party
Debbie Anderson	House
RICHARD FORSTEN	Delaware Republican Party
Margaret Rose Henry	State - Democratic Sen Sr
April Walker	Delaware Alliance for Community Advancement

→ Apryl Walker 302-388-8756 awalker@delaca.org
Delaware Alliance for Community Advancement (DAEA)

TITLE 15 TASKFORCE
NOVEMBER 13, 2013

NAME	REPRESENTING
Earl Jacques	ST Rep, 27 th District
Ann Woolfolk	AG's office
Lethy Diswood	LNU of Delaware
Sue Bryson	Private Citizen
Elizabeth Maron	Del. Democratic Party
Howard Sholl	DOE for NCL
Aryll Walker (DAEA)	Delaware Alliance for Community Advancement
Celia Boris	
Richard Forsten / em	DE Republican Party

**TITLE 15 TASKFORCE
DECEMBER 11, 2013**

NAME	REPRESENTING
Glenn Mauloo	State Election Commission
Eyal Jacques	St Rep, 27th District
Elizabeth Maron	Del. Democratic Party
Ranqall Chapp	AP
Letty Diswood	LWV of Delaware
Paul Janouette	BOARD NCC DOE
Ann Woolfolk	AGE
Chiz CL	Delaware Organics
Kathleen MacRae	ACLU
Aryl Walker	DALA
JILL DUNN	CL FOR NCC
Howard Shull	DOE for NCC
Andy Lippstone	GOV'S OFFICE
RICHARD FORSTEN	Rep. Party
Dulri Hudson	House - 12th Rep D

TITLE 15 TASKFORCE
JANAURY 15, 2014

NAME	REPRESENTING
KEN McDOWELL Ch. CL	SUSSEX ELECTIONS Delaware Group
Dave Holmes	private citizen - wish to comment
Letty Diswood	LAW OF DE
North Veasey	Independent Counsel
Jeff Ruffel	Common Cause DE
Sandy Spencer	League of Women Voters
Ann Woolfolk	NA
MARY PAT McVAY	N/A
DANNY SITORT	House of Representatives
Bobby Hudson	
EARL JAGUES	ST Rep
Jim Boyer	Self
Douglas J. King	Kent County Elections
DORIS YOUNG	Kent County Elections
JOSEPH FULGHAM	State Hs. of Reps.
Repr Paul Bumbach	House of Reps.
Kathleen MacLean	ACLU
Ed Maron	Democratic Party
Larry Anderson	CSI
Bill Miller	PIC
Jim Hresley	public
James Browning	Common Cause Delaware
Rich Pittard	Senate Attorney General
De De Vries	Common Cause Delaware
Margaret Rose Henry	State Senate

TITLE 15 TASKFORCE
FEBRUARY 19, 2014

NAME	REPRESENTING
Sandy Spive	League of Women Voters
Janet Orlando	League of Women Voters
Dore Marie Klapper	League of Women Voters Sussex City
JUDY CURRIE	PRIVATE CITIZEN
KEN CURRIE	9-12 Delaware Patriots
Margaret Rose Henry	State Senate
Ann Woolfolk	Counsel to Commissioner
Elizabeth Maron	Del. Democratic Party
Sen Bonini	Senate
Earl Jacques	ST REP
Rick Willard	invited guest
Jon Lawson	Senate
Douglas Greig	Kent County Dept. Elections
RICHARD FORSTEN	R'S



STATE OF DELAWARE
OFFICE OF THE STATE ELECTION COMMISSIONER

ATTENDANCE SHEET

	NAME	DATE
1	Elizabeth Maron Dem Party	3/12/14
2	Judi Curran	3/12/14
3	Ken Curran	3/12/14
4	John DAVIELLO - Dem Party	3/12/14
5	Ann W. Hill - AG's office	3/12/14
6	Jim Kim State News	3/12/14
7	Jim Doherty III DEE BOES	3/12/14
8	Ernie Traves	3/12/14
9	Howard Skell - DOE for NCF	3/12/14
10	Meghan H. Hogg	3/12/14
11	Libby Pederson	
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REMARKS:

5

Documents from the
General Assembly and
the Public



SENATE

F. GARY SIMPSON *MINORITY LEADER, 18th DISTRICT*
GREGORY F. LAVELLE *MINORITY WHIP, 4th DISTRICT*
BRIAN G. PETTYJOHN *19th DISTRICT*
ERNESTO B. LOPEZ *6th DISTRICT*
CATHERINE C. CLOUTIER *5th DISTRICT*
GERALD W. HOCKER *20th DISTRICT*
DAVID G. LAWSON *15th DISTRICT*

**DELAWARE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
LEGISLATIVE HALL
DOVER, DELAWARE 19901**

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

DANIEL B. SHORT *MINORITY LEADER, 39th DISTRICT*
DEBORAH HUDSON *MINORITY WHIP, 12th DISTRICT*
RUTH BRIGGS-KING *37th DISTRICT*
STEVEN T. SMYK *20th DISTRICT*
JEFFREY N. SPIEGELMAN *11th DISTRICT*
HAROLD J. PETERMAN *33rd DISTRICT*
RONALD E. GRAY *38th DISTRICT*
HARVEY R. KENTON *36th DISTRICT*
DONALD A. BLAKEY *34th DISTRICT*
WILLIAM R. "BOBBY" OUTTEN *30th DISTRICT*
DAVID L. WILSON *35th DISTRICT*
TIMOTHY D. DUKES *40th DISTRICT*

Elaine Manlove
State Election Commissioner
905 S. Governor's Ave
Suite 170
Dover, DE 19904

November 19, 2013

Dear Commissioner Manlove:

As per Senate Concurrent Resolution 20, the General Assembly created and charged a committee to "Comprehensively review, study, and make findings and recommendations..." to the General Assembly regarding election laws in Delaware. We fully support the review of any and all laws and regulations to determine if State Government can be more efficient, and can serve the people of our state better.

One point of concern we, as a group, have regarding the elections task force is the recommendation that the three County boards of elections be consolidated into a single statewide board of elections. Local control over elections, as well as many other facets of government, has been a hallmark of our state for decades. This shows itself in the world class operations of our court system, in row offices such as the clerk of the peace, register of wills, recorder of deeds, and Sheriff. Local control in Delaware also extends to Growth Planning, Zoning, Municipal police protection, school districts, and other areas of local jurisdiction and control.

We feel that focus should be placed on areas of election law that have failed us in the past, not in changing a working, efficient, and responsive system that has served the public and the candidates well for so long. We would appreciate these thoughts and concerns to be made as part of the public record in determining the final recommendations that are made to the Delaware legislature.

Very Sincerely,

Senator Brian Pettyjohn
19th Senatorial District

Senator Gary Simpson
18th Senatorial District

Senator Greg Lavelle
4th Senatorial District

Senator Gerald Hocker
20th Senatorial District

RECEIVED
COMM. OF ELECTIONS,
2013 DEC -9 P 2:16

Senator Ernesto Lopez
6th Senatorial District

Senator Cathy Cloutier
5th Senatorial District

Senator Dave Lawson
15th Senatorial District

Rep. Danny Short
39th Representative District

Rep. Deborah Hudson
12th Representative District

Rep. Donald Blakey
34th Representative District

Rep. Bobby Outten
30th Representative District

Rep. Dave Wilson
35th Representative District

Rep. Ruth Briggs King
37th Representative District

Re. Harvey Kenton
36th Representative District

Rep. Jack Peterman
33rd Representative District

Rep. Tim Dukes
40th Representative District

Rep. Steve Smyk
20th Representative District

Rep. Jeff Spiegelman
11th Representative District

Rep. Ron Gray
38th Representative District

cc: Senator Colin Bonini
Representative Deborah Hudson
Representative Earl Jaques
Andrew Lippstone, Chief Legal Counsel to Governor Jack Markell

State of Delaware

**Office of the State Election Commissioner
Elaine Manlove, State Election Commissioner**

Title 15 Taskforce Meeting

January 15, 2014

Public Comment

David C. Humes – private citizen

CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM

I have only been a citizen of the State of Delaware since December 2007. I am not a member of any political party. I am not a lawyer.

My interest in campaign finance is that I believe there should be a level playing field when it comes to any elective office. The enormous sums of money involved can often leave the average citizen's voice out of the process. I believe this to be possible at all levels of government. I admit to having never read the Delaware Constitution. I would think that in many ways it would mirror the United States Constitution.

I have read about the United States Supreme Court in its decision "Citizens United v. The Federal Election Commission". The decision, in essence declares that collective groups can be considered as people and have the same rights as individual citizens.

I believe that had the founding fathers desired for collective groups to be protected by the Bill of Rights, they would have done so and enumerated the groups that they wished to protect. The framers of the constitution were well aware of collective groups such as trade guilds, businesses, companies and other institutions. Had they chosen to protect those groups and give them the same rights as individual citizens, they would have done so. In fact the founding fathers did chose to protect a group. The founding fathers chose to protect "the press", as stated in Amendment I. I don't believe any groups other than those enumerated in the United States Constitution have the same rights as individual citizens.

If I called up "The News Journal" or WDEL and told them that I would like to exercise my constitutional right of free speech and have them air my opinions I don't think that they would honor my request. They may offer to allow me to print a full page add or have an hour long program if I was able to pay for that access. Once a fee is paid, once money changes hands, the transaction becomes commerce. I believe that the federal government has the right to regulate commerce "among the several States" (Article I, Section 8). The State of Delaware probably has been empowered under its constitution to regulate commerce within the state.

I would like to see election laws that would 1) only allow contributions by a Delaware citizen (or possibly registered voter) to a candidate that the citizen is eligible to vote for and 2) regulate commerce, the

amount that could be contributed to a candidate, including the candidate her or himself. I don't want elections for my Delaware officials influenced by residents of New York, Florida, California, Texas or any other state. I don't want elected offices in the State of Delaware to only be available to individuals with vast amounts of personal wealth to influence the election process and their election.

As a possible unintended consequence, the federal law now stands funding to PACs and Super PACs is not transparent. This runs the risk that at some time in the future funds from foreign individuals, organizations or even governments will "buy" an elective office. This won't start at the national level, but would more than likely start at a more local level on a "trial" basis.

Thank you.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "David C. Humes".

David C. Humes
252 Sloan Ct.
Wilmington, DE 19808
302-234-6935

Don't use tax dollars on primaries if all can't vote

I am a new resident of Delaware and have registered to vote as an Independent.

As with many other states, Delaware has a closed primary. The Democratic and Republican parties' argument is that if a voter wants to choose someone to represent the party, they should be a member of the party. I have no problem with that.

However, if primary elections are purely a party function, the cost of the primary elections should be born by the party. My tax dollars should not be spent on an election process that I am not permitted to participate in.

I am going to request that state Rep. Joseph E. Miro and/or state Sen. David P. Sokola introduce legislation to open the primary process.

The benefit to opening up the primary process would be more candidates with moderate views.

A majority of voters fall slightly left of center or slightly right of center. Yet, we currently only get candidates in the general elections who are far left of center or right of center.

Dave Humes
Wilmington

Pick a party if you want to vote in their primary

A letter lamenting the writer's inability to participate in the primaries displays a lack of knowledge of what the primary system is designed to do.

No one is elected to a public office in the primary system. The primaries are designed to select the candidate that is going to represent a party in a general election.

Therefore, only the voters of the respective party should have a vote in that primary. Part of being a registered "Independent" is a recognition that you are not going to participate in the selection of a party's candidate.

If you wish to participate in candidate selection make a choice and register as a party member. Failure to make that declaration leaves you only the choice to participate in the general election and no room to complain about who the candidates are.

Frank A. Newton
Dover

OPINION

The NewsJournal ...

Howard L. Griffin,
President and Publisher
David F. Ledford,
Executive Editor
John Sweeney,
Editorial Page Editor

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"What matters most in the education of a student is the teacher in the classroom ... the most important thing is to love and care for your students every day."

— AMBER AUGUSTUS, Delaware's Teacher of the Year

A12

THURSDAY, OCT. 20, 2011

Political system thwarts voters' will

I have to say that I can't completely agree with Rhonda Graham's Thursday column about the Occupy demonstrations: "Protests are fine but the ballot box is where change resides."

This is coming from someone who votes in every general election. The only thing that general elections end up doing is causing a wave that switches power from one party to the other.

The real process begins with the primary elections, where the candidates are chosen. Unfortunately I am unable to participate

because I am an independent voter. The parties who won't allow me to participate are all too happy to spend my tax dollars to fund their party election.

Change will only occur when all voters are allowed to participate fully in the process. Until then we will only be offered candidates from the more extreme left and right. Not much of a choice.

The most important thing in changing the system would be to revisit the extremely flawed decision by the U.S. Supreme Court in *Citizens United v. FEC*. This ruling allows for the secret purchase of our government by wealthy interests – domestic and foreign.

The real change that is needed is to pass a law that only allows political contributions to candidates that an individual can vote for. And those contributions must have a limit.

I don't want money from California and/or Texas to determine who my congressman or senators are here in Delaware.

Dave Humes
Wilmington

OPINION

The NewsJournal ...

Howard L. Griffin,
President and Publisher
David F. Ledford,
Executive Editor
John Sweeney,
Editorial Page Editor

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"The Constitution recognizes that there is such a thing as state borders and a state can police their borders."

— SUPREME COURT JUSTICE ANTONIN SCALIA, on questioning the government's position in the Arizona immigration law case

THURSDAY, APRIL 26, 2012

A14

Independents unfairly shut out of primaries

I moved to Delaware over four years ago from another state. One of the first things I did was register to vote – as an Independent. I contacted my elected representatives, respectfully requesting that they introduce legislation to permit independent voters to participate in primary elections. My letters and emails stated the elected officials didn't have to vote for the legislation, but to merely represent me and introduce it.

My current state representative replied in an email, "Here in De. the Parties do not want to change the system."

It was interesting for me to find out that Delaware operated differently than the state I came from. Elected officials don't represent the citizens but rather the "parties." I have also worked with two different state senators. Each told me they would look to propose such legislation. This has not happened. Another primary election rolls around and I can't participate. I am under the belief that my tax dollars pay for the primary elections and the "parties" do not fund primary elections.

I now need some help in finding out where I go to get my tax dollars back, as I am not represented. Back in 1776 folks had a little of a problem with "taxation without representation," I seem to recall.

Dave Humes
Wilmington

Frank B. Calio
104 Lansing Avenue
Laurel, DE 19956
302-875-3770 Home
302-236-9948 Cell
fcalio@comcast.net
www.frankcalio.com

RECEIVED
COMM. OF ELECTIONS

2014 JAN 23 P 2:43

January 17, 2014

To: Election Law Task Force

Dear Commissioner Manlove,

You and I can agree for the need in Delaware for Election Reform, so I applaud the formation of the Election Law Task Force.

However as professional and creditable as the members of the Task Force are, the committee lacks members who have first hand knowledge of the internal workings of Elections especially Campaign Finance.

I note there are no members on the committee representing Sussex County or from each of the county Board of Elections, and especially from your Campaign Finance Supervisor Paul, who probably is more knowledgeable in Campaign Finance Law than anyone in the state.

I also note some who have worked with Elections in the past are not members of the committee; League of Women Voters, Common Cause, ACLU, etc. Although some of these groups are in attendance at your meetings, they will not be involved in the final draft of your recommendations to the legislature.

The committee should be enlarged to include some of these groups.

As a former State Election Commissioner I fail to understand the committee's recommendation to eliminate the 3 Boards of Election for each County as a cost saving solution. The total costs of the state's 22 members

is \$44,000 a year; what is the cost per day to pay for legislator staffers to sit around all day waiting to go in session while legislators roam the halls attending committee meetings?

The current Election Board system, "ain't broke, why fix it"? An 8 or 12 member state-wide board is not going to have the same positive impact as does the current system.

As you are aware Elaine, the current board arrangement has been very helpful and supportive of the 3 County Board of Elections especially during the Election cycle; they know the area they serve, the problems that may occur and they work those areas Election Day, taking a load of problems off the Election employees.

A state-wide system would not be as efficient as the current system. Delaware has one of the best voting records in the country, and I attribute a lot of that to the efforts of the local boards. Change sometimes can be good, but not in this instance.

If there is a problem with our Elections it is in the area of Campaign Finance and that is where this committee should focus if they want change. As you are aware Delaware receives failing grades from non-profit organizations that grade states on Campaign Finance reporting.

Please my comments onto the Task Force. Thank you.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Frank B. Calio". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Frank B. Calio

Synopsis: For the Election Commission to offer training, require registration and provide reporting of all civic groups that plan or conduct voter registration activities in Delaware

The Training in laws and procedures would be *optional*, formally offered to the leadership and membership of all civic groups, both existing and newly formed, regardless of whether any voter registration activity was current.

Registration would be *required* for the group itself, not individual members, by the assignment of a unique number to be placed on all forms, paper and digital, to be used for individual voter registration.

The Commission would *publish* the Registry of these civic groups once a year, showing those that had been trained and the number of individual registrations filed by the group, digitally and in paper.

Rationale: Protecting the integrity of the voting process is fundamental to America's government. The public needs to have confidence they can identify those civic groups assisting voters, judge their competence and assess their influence/impact on the Registration Rolls. In short, it holds the groups publically accountable for their registration activities.

Respectfully submitted:

Ken Currie

132 River Bend Drive

Dagsboro, De 19939

302-934-6714h

717-979-2664c

kfcurrie@gmail.com

Synopsis: The Election Commission require registration and provide reporting of all civic groups that plan or conduct voter registration activities in Delaware

Registration would be *required* for the group itself, not individual members. The requirement applies to groups based in-state and out-of-state that have in the past, are now or will conduct some form of voter registration activity. The formal group name as well as .or other names commonly used to identify the group must be listed, such as aliases and Doing-Business-As. The group's contact information as well as that of the leadership must be recorded. Each group will be assigned a unique number. A place for that number will be made on the state registration forms, paper and digital, used for individual voter registration.

As currently done now, the Election Commission will offer the *option* of training in the election laws and procedures of Delaware both to existing and newly formed groups, regardless of whether any voter registration activity was current. The Commission's Registry would show training offered and received, including the names of the group's individuals so trained.

The Commission would publish the Registry of these civic groups regularly, showing the number and summary descriptions of the individual state-form registrations assisted/filed by the group, digitally and in paper.

Rationale: Protecting the integrity of the voting process is fundamental to America's government. The public needs to have confidence they can identify those civic groups assisting voters, judge their competence and assess their influence/impact on the Registration Rolls. In short, it holds the groups publically accountable for their voter registration activities.

Respectfully submitted:

Ken Currie

132 River Bend Drive

Dagsboro, De 19939

302-934-6714h

717-979-2664c

kfcurrie@gmail.com

Registered Lobbyist, 9/12 Delaware Patriots