

State Election Commission
Monday, August 20, 2018 – 9:00 a.m.
Secretary of State Conference Room
Minutes

Members Attending:

The Honorable Mac Warner, Secretary of State (By Teleconference)
Nate Tawney – In Person
Matthew Chapman – (By Teleconference)

Others Attending:

Donald Kersey, Director of Elections and Deputy Legal Counsel
Chuck Flannery, Deputy Secretary of State and Chief of Staff
Steve Connolly, Deputy Secretary of State and Chief Legal Counsel
Missi Kinder, Campaign Finance Specialist
Jake Jarvis, State Journal
Joe Powers, Courthouse Computer Systems
Jane Cline, Director of Public Policy - Spilman, Thomas & Battle

The State Election Commission met on Monday, August 20, 2018 at 9:00 a.m. in the Secretary of State Conference Room. Secretary of State Mac Warner called the meeting to order and a quorum was established.

The purpose of this meeting is to appoint a new State Computer Expert for the review of electronic voting systems. Voting Systems are defined as any tabulating, ballot marking or vote capturing component that voters will use on election day, or county clerks will use on election night for ascertaining results of any given election. Election Systems & Software (ES&S) is the only qualified vendor for voting systems in West Virginia

Mr. Kersey explained that all voting systems must first be tested and certified by the Election Assistance Commission (EAC) before being approved and certified for use in West Virginia. The State Computer Experts then statutorily review the system and writes a report of their findings, which is submitted to the State Election Commission for approval.

ES&S has submitted a request for certification for their EVS 5.2.4.0, which is an update to their ExpressVote voting system. Enhancements in this release include faster tabulation of results, dual column display and security upgrades. The meeting for testing the 5.2.4.0 has been scheduled for Friday, August 24th, and this system must be approved or denied by the end of September, to give counties time to prepare for the upcoming November election.

The Secretary of State's office has been unable to communicate with one of the State Computer Experts, so a new individual must be selected. The Computer Experts must have sufficient knowledge and expertise of election systems, and of opposite political parties. Andy Parker with Global Science and Technologies (GST) is willing to take the position. Mr. Parker has already passed a background check and is not of the same political party as Tony Schliesser, the remaining computer expert.

Mr. Chapman questioned if this would have to be put out for bid, and Mr. Kersey mentioned that computer experts are paid \$500, so a bid is not required.

Mr. Chapman made a motion to approve Andy Parker as a State Computer Expert, with Mr. Tawney seconding the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

The State Election Commission will receive a report of finding after the review, and will then hold a meeting to approve or reject the system.

Mr. Kersey mentioned there is \$3.6 million dollars in the HAVA loan fund, and another \$2.9 million dollars in the loan and grant fund. Applications will be accepted from counties until August 24th for voting system upgrades. The State Election Commission will determine the final grant approvals. The Grant Board will be meeting on August 28th and 29th, and the State Election Commission will meet very soon thereafter.

Members of the Grant Board are:

- Donald Kersey, (Chair), Elections Director & Deputy Legal Counsel for WV Secretary of State
- Brian Wood, Putnam County Clerk
- Roger Toney, Boone County Clerk
- Joy Doss, Advocate for Disability Rights of WV
- Rebecca Blane, Director of Intergovernmental Affairs for the Governor

The Secretary of State's office will do a preliminary review of applications prior to the Board meeting, and will forward all materials concerning HAVA to the SEC members.

With no further business, Mr. Tawney made the motion to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 9:18 a.m.

