

**Minutes of the New York State Board of Elections
September 29, 2011**

The meeting of the Board of Canvassers of the New York State Board of Elections was convened at the offices of the New York State Board of Elections, 40 Steuben Street, Albany, New York in the 4th Floor Conference Room and was called to order at 12:05 p.m. The meeting was chaired by Commissioner James Walsh. Commissioners present were Douglas Kellner, Evelyn Aquila and Gregory Peterson.

The Board of Canvassers considered a motion to approve the Certification of election results for the September 13, 2011 Special Election to fill the vacancies in the 9th Congressional District, the 23rd, 27th, 54th, 73rd, 116th and 144th Assembly Districts

- **The motion was approved unanimously (Commissioners Walsh, Kellner, Aquila and Peterson voting in the affirmative; 4 Yes and 0 No).**

The meeting of the Commissioners of the New York State Board of Elections held at the offices of the New York State Board of Elections, 40 Steuben Street, Albany, New York in the 4th Floor Conference Room was called to order at 12:15 p.m. The meeting was chaired by Commissioner James Walsh. Commissioners present were Douglas Kellner, Evelyn Aquila and Gregory Peterson. Staff members present were: Robert Brehm, Todd Valentine, Kim Galvin, Paul Collins, Elizabeth Hogan, William McCann, Anna Svizzero, Joe Burns, John Conklin and George Stanton. The guest list is attached.

Minutes of July 28th, 2011 – Minutes were accepted (**Commissioners Walsh, Kellner, Aquila and Peterson voting in the affirmative; 4 Yes and 0 No**).

Unit Updates:

Executive – Robert Brehm and Todd Valentine reported on several issues including:

- Preparing for next year's budget. The Governor's Office has asked that we submit the numbers from last year.
- Due to the fact that the Professional Employees Federation (PEF) voted down their contract, we are required to lay off two employees.
- George Stanton, head of Information Technology Unit has decided to retire at the end of the year.
- The agency will not have an annual conference next year, but will partner with the county boards at their winter conference in January.
- Worked closely with a few of the counties in preparing for the primary after the devastation of the hurricane and tropical storm.

Legal – Kim Galvin and Paul Collins reported on activities related to the Legal Unit including:

- Waiting to hear from the Department of Justice concerning a waiver application submitted for the 2012 election

Election Operations – Anna Svizzero reported that the Election Operations unit is working on several ongoing issues including:

- Additional nominations have been received for the Supreme Court contests.
- ES&S functional testing will wrap up within the next week to two weeks. Dominion upgrades will follow.
- The counties are sending in their three percent audits from the Primary Election. There was an issue in Seneca County due to a skewing of a ballot and one in Chautauqua County due the county using a poor quality memory card.

PIO/NVRA – John Conklin reported on several ongoing projects in the PIO/NVRA unit.

- The NYSVoter review process with the counties will be completed by the end of the year.
- The training sessions for the Chapter 505 compliance with poll site accessibility have been completed.

Campaign Finance – Elizabeth Hogan reported on the projects in Campaign Finance and Enforcement, including:

- Staff is working on a draft regulation to Chapter 399 of 2011 concerning independent expenditures in political campaigns.
- The new software that staff and IT have been working on is almost complete except for a couple of issues.

ITU – George Stanton reported in the Unit Update

- George has worked on a document to the Co-Executive Directors with some concerns on the future of the IT Dept. and issues that may pose challenges in the future.

Old Business:

New Business: The Commissioners took action on several issues including:

- VOTE to adopt the staff report on the prima facie objections for the 148th Assembly District. **The motion was approved unanimously (Commissioners Walsh, Kellner, Aquila and Peterson voting in the affirmative; 4 Yes and 0 No).**
- VOTE on Resolution to Authorize Expenditure of HAVA funds for Court – Ordered Voting Machine Modifications and Testing. **The motion was approved unanimously (Commissioners Walsh, Kellner, Aquila and Peterson voting in the affirmative; 4 Yes and 0 No).**
- VOTE on Resolutions commending the following County Boards of Elections on conducting the Primary Election in light of Hurricane Irene and Tropical Storm Lee: Broome, Delaware, Greene, Montgomery, Schenectady and Tioga County. John Conklin read one of the resolutions for the record. **The motion was approved unanimously (Commissioners Walsh, Kellner, Aquila and Peterson voting in the affirmative; 4 Yes and 0 No).**

- VOTE to adopt the staff reports on Campaign Finance Enforcement. **The motion was approved unanimously (Commissioners Walsh, Kellner, Aquila and Peterson voting in the affirmative; 4 Yes and 0 No).**
- VOTE on the general and specific objections to the Certificate of Nomination for the Independent Party for the Office of Supreme Court in the 5th Judicial District. **The motion was approved unanimously (Commissioners Walsh, Kellner, Aquila and Peterson voting in the affirmative; 4 Yes and 0 No).**
- The next board meeting will be Thursday, October 27th at noon.

The meeting was adjourned 2:15 p.m.