

**SB11 Workgroup
Draft**

Minutes

The meeting was called to order on June 23, 2015, at 9:00AM by Co-Chair James Alcorn, State Board of Elections (SBE) Chairman and Co-Chair Matt Davis, Department of Elections (ELECT) CIO. Attending were SB11 Workgroup members Greg Riddlemoser, Barry Horowitz, Donna Patterson, Michael Watson, Nicholas Vonpecman, Leslie Fuentes, Nancy Tickle, Kou Karwoski, and Olga Hernandez. ELECT staff support members present were Terri Harman, Business Analyst and Rose Mansfield, ELECT Board Liaison.

Co-Chair Davis reviewed the foundation for the formation of the SB11 Workgroup and stated that a report was listed on the ELECT website regarding WinVote voting equipment. Co-Chair Davis reported that with the decertification of the WinVote equipment; the June primary was successful in the ten localities affected by the decertification. Co-Chair Davis explained that the SB11 Workgroup will be reviewing the return of absentee ballots electronically verses the current practice of return [United States Postal Services]. Co-Chair Davis explained that the workgroup has two goals and questions to answer (i) Is this feasible and (ii) what would be the procedures? Co-Chair Davis stated that a final report will be due to the Privileges and Elections Committee on January 1, 2016. Co-Chair Davis presented the workgroup materials with a review of the documents included in the working papers. Discussion perused among workgroup members with questions directed to the co-chairs for clarification and response.

Co-Chair Davis stated that the issue of electronic delivery of absentee ballots was of particular concern. Mr. Riddlemoser stated that the IT delivery system used by the military personnel removes the attachments and as a result many ballots are shipped to the soldiers' personal e-mail addresses. Ms. Patterson stated that making it a requirement to use the military e-mail system could present problems with continuity among the different branches of military service. Ms. Patterson requested that a representative of the IT Corp provide a presentation to the workgroup on the particulars of sending electronic communications through a soldiers' military e-mail. Mr. Watson suggested that the electronic communications host through a different site for access by the military member to cast their absentee ballot, i.e. the ELECT website. Mr. Horowitz stated that legislators will be concerned about the security of the votes and if there was a risk for fraud that would change the results of an election.

Co-Chair Alcorn stated that it is important that the ballot remain secret while moving through the electronic system. Co-Chair Davis stated that Utah has a provision, signed by the voter, adding a secret disclaimer when the ballot is process electronically. Co-Chair Davis stated that the financial costs associated to this endeavor should be considered as under the current atmosphere most budgets are experiencing severe constraints. Co-Chair Davis stated that the program would cost

47 approximately one million dollars. Mr. Karwoski stated that a secure system could
48 be developed with the current technology available to the industry.

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50 Co-Chair Davis stated that Ms. Harman assisted ELECT in developing a Request for
51 Information (RFI) regarding SB11 and seven organizations responded to the
52 request. Co-Chair Davis stated that once the RFI's were received ELECT requested
53 information on associated costs. Ms. Fuentes asked if existing systems could be
54 considered a shared resource, i.e. Division of Motor Vehicles (DMV), to provide a
55 secure authentication network and avenue for transmitting data. Co-Chair Davis
56 identified that there is a cost associated with utilizing shared services, i.e. access
57 fees. Ms. Patterson stated that any program implemented would require a testing
58 before the presidential election. Co-Chair Davis stated that the window of
59 opportunity is narrow as petitions will be processed starting this fall in advance of
60 the presidential primary set for March 1, 2016. Additionally, the suggested program
61 requires a legislative review with a probable requirement of legislation changes.

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63 Mr. Riddlemoser stated that the thought behind this program is to increase the
64 number of military absentee ballots returned to their localities in a timely manner.
65 Ms. Tickle stated that a twofold authentication process should be required when
66 returning the absentee ballot electronically and would be considered optimal. Co-
67 Chair Davis stated that a risk analysis paper would be delivered to the members at
68 the next scheduled meeting. This document would serve as our report to the
69 general assembly and would include input from members and the public. Co-Chair
70 Alcorn stated that it should be recommended that an implementation of a program
71 with this goal not be considered during a presidential election year.

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73 Co-Chair Alcorn asked if there were any further comments and there were none. Co-
74 Chair Alcorn moved *that the workgroup adjourn*. Mr. Watson seconded the motion
75 and the workgroup unanimously approved the motion.

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77 The next meeting of the SB11 Workgroup is set for September 3, 2015 at 9:00 AM at
78 the Washington Building, 1100 Bank Street, Richmond, Virginia; Room B27.

79 There being no further business, the SB11 Workgroup adjourned at 12:20PM.

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83 Co-Chair James Alcorn

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89 Co-Chair Matt Davis