

General Registrar's & Electoral Board Workgroup

1 Minutes

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4 The meeting was called to order on December 2, 2015, at 10:00AM by Co-Chair John
5 Hager and Co-Chair Jean Jensen. Attending were electoral board (EBs) members
6 William Bell, Renee Andrews, Bill Thomas, and Robin Lind; general registrar's (GRs)
7 Tracy Howard, and Larry Haake. Charles E. Judd, Ex-Officio was present and the
8 Department of Elections (ELECT) was represented by Rose Mansfield, ELECT Board
9 Liaison and Martha Brissette, ELECT Policy Analyst; and members of the public.

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11 Co-Chair Hager submitted the GREB Workgroup Minutes for approval from the
12 November 19, 2015 meeting to the members. Mr. Lind *moved that the Minutes be*
13 *approved as submitted.* Mr. Judd seconded the motion and the GREB Workgroup
14 Members unanimously approved the Minutes.

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16 The first order of old business was the review of the legislative bill to be submitted
17 to the general assembly in 2016. Mr. Haake stated that the document presented
18 contained the suggested changes submitted by workgroup members. Mr. Lind
19 inquired if the bill had the support of the workgroup and if submitting this to the
20 patron was the next step. Co-Chair Hager stated that the timing of the submission
21 was important and stated that Mr. Lind could approach a patron about supporting
22 the proposed bill.

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24 The second order of old business was the final GREB workgroup report and
25 resolution to be submitted to SBE prior to year-end, 2015. Members discussed the
26 report and suggested changes to fine tune the document for presentation. Members
27 discussed using the reference of general registrar in the final report document to be
28 presented as: general registrar/director of elections. Mr. Judd *moved that the*
29 *change be inserted throughout the document to reflect the change except where*
30 *constitutionally prohibited.* Mr. Lind seconded the motion and the members
31 unanimously approved the motion. Co-Chair Jensen suggested that the resolution
32 contain actions of weight to create a document that will be utilized in the future for
33 guidance and consulted for consideration in the development of policy.

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35 Members discussed the language incorporated in the resolution and report and
36 suggested and opted for stronger affirmative verbiage. Mr. Haake stated that the
37 language referencing the localities and the state requires defining regarding their
38 responsibilities, duties, and role in the election process. Mr. Howard stated that the
39 statements regarding the funding must be address in the final report and the
40 staffing level of the general registrar's office is directly related to the funding. Mr.
41 Howard addressed the staff study and how the use of volunteers has assisted the
42 general registrar's office and has ultimately assisted the election process and
43 elections days of the past. Mr. Thomas stated that a standard for staffing the general
44 registrar's office should be established and suggested that the workgroup would be
45 willing to continue its work in order to assist in the implementation of legislative
46 changes in the most effective and manner possible. Members decided to add the

47 suggestion of continue workgroup participation and formulation to future
48 establishment of a workgroup similar to the current GREB Workgroup charge in the
49 resolution. Ms. Gunter suggested that the budget issues should be addressed as a
50 priority prior to addressing additional issues. Co-Chair Jensen suggested that a list
51 of action items be added to the report to correlate to each of the seven tasks listed in
52 the resolution charged to the workgroup.

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54 Members discussed the presentation of the final report to SBE on December 16,
55 2015. Co-Chair Jensen suggested that having a general registrar and an electoral
56 board member present the final report at the SBE meeting. Co-Chair Jensen stated
57 that the changes the general registrars' offices have experienced over the years
58 could be included in the presentation to demonstrate the need to further address
59 the issues at hand. Members discussed the budget and the financial support
60 required to address the findings of the workgroup. Mr. Haake moved that the last
61 sentence on page 11 of the final report be removed. Mr. Judd seconded the motion.
62 Board Members cast the following votes: Co-Chair John Hager-Nay, Co-Chair Jean
63 Jensen-Yes, William Bell - Yes, Renee Andrews - Yes, Bill Thomas - Yes, Robin Lind -
64 Nay, Tracy Howard-Yes, Barbara Gunter -Yes, Larry Haake-Yes, and Charles E. Judd -
65 Yes. The motion passed eight to two with objection votes casted by Co-Chair Hager
66 and Mr. Lind.

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68 Members discussed the state funding mechanisms for voter registration and
69 elections for the localities (section three) objective in the final report. Suggestions
70 for concise and appropriate verbiage were reviewed. Members discussed the role
71 between state and local funding and how this issue is tied directly to providing
72 services to the voters. The budget bill and appropriations act was discussed as it
73 relates to the administration of elections. Mr. Howard discussed the challenges faced
74 by election offices within the commonwealth and how success of future elections
75 depends on the support of the state and the localities. Mr. Judd suggested adding the
76 statement: Failure is not an option, while supporting the voters of the
77 commonwealth this can only be achieved by adequate funding and support to the
78 administration of elections both statewide and locally. Co-Chair Jensen inquired if
79 all the suggested changes had been presented to the workgroup members to
80 incorporate into the final report. Workgroup members reported that all the
81 suggested changes had been discussed. Mr. Haake stated that the draft final report
82 would include the accepted changes and be presented to members before being
83 presented to SBE on December 16, 2015. Members planned the presentation style
84 and the presenters for the SBE meeting. Co-Chair Hager and Co-Chair Jensen stated
85 that they will introduce the final presentation.

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87 Co-Chair Jensen asked if there was additional business and there was none. Co-Chair
88 Jensen open the floor to public comment. General public comments and questions
89 were received by workgroup members.

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91 Co-Chair Jensen asked if there were any further comments and there were none.
92 Co-Chair Jensen thanked workgroup members for their efforts and dedication to the

93 charge of the GREB workgroup and acknowledged that this meeting was the final
94 meeting of the group. Mr. Lind moved *that the workgroup adjourn*. Co-Chair Hager
95 seconded the motion and the workgroup unanimously approved the motion.

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97 There being no further business, the GREB Workgroup adjourned at 1:00PM.

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101 Co-Chair Jean Jensen

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106 Co-Chair John Hager

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