**State Board of Election Supervisors Meeting Minutes**

**January 7, 2016**

The January 7, 2016 meeting of the State Board of Election Supervisors was called to order at the State Capitol, Baton Rouge, Louisiana in House Committee Room 3 at 9:00 a.m.

Chairman, Secretary Schedler, called the meeting to order, and Patricia Daigle was acting secretary.

The following members were present: Tom Schedler, Secretary of State; Angie Rogers, Commissioner of Elections; Jacques Berry, Lt. Governor’s Office; Rick McGimsey, Attorney General’s Office; and Angie Quienalty, Registrars of Voters Association; Robin Hooter, Clerks of Court Association; and Richard Traina, Governor’s Office

Public comment cards were submitted by the following:

Kyle Ardoin, First Assistant, Secretary of State

Debbie Hudnall, Executive Director, Clerk of Court’s Association

Stacy Ryan, West Baton Rouge Registrar of Voters

Stephanie Patrick, Advocacy Center of Louisiana

Chairman Schedler called for adoption of the minutes of the 2015 meeting. Ms. Rogers made the motion for approval of the minutes and Robin Hooter seconded the motion. Without objection, the minutes from last year’s state board meeting were approved.

Chairman Schedler opened up nominations for Re-election of chairman and vice chairman. Mr. McGimsey nominated Secretary of State, Tom Schedler for chairman and was seconded by Mr. Berry. Mr. McGimsey nominated Angie Rogers, Commissioner of Elections for vice chairman and was seconded by Mr. Berry.

Chairman Schedler, presented the recommendations for the Omnibus bill.

**NUMBER: 1**

**EXPLANATION: Authorizes the secretary of state to develop and conduct a program to pilot new voting technology and equipment for future advancement in elections.**

Ms. Rogers moved to approve item number 1 and Ms. Quienalty seconded the motion. Item number 1 was approved.

**NUMBER: 2**

**EXPLANATION: Corrects the citation in R.S. 18:18(A)(7) to reference voting machines as defined by R.S. 18:1351.**

Ms. Rogers moved to approve item number 2 and Mr. McGimsey seconded the motion. Item number 2 was approved.

**NUMBER: 3**

**EXPLANATION: Amends the statute implementing the National Voter Registration Act (NVRA) to mirror the language of the NVRA and make the statute consistent with rules adopted by the secretary of state for mandatory voter registration agencies.**

A copy of the proposed amendment was submitted to the members.

Lani Durio, NVRA Coordinator for the Secretary of State was present and explained the proposed amendment in detail.

Ms. Hooter expressed concern regarding instances that the agencies have not sent the voter registration applications in a timely manner, mostly with the Department of Motor Vehicles. Ms. Durio provided that the employees are being provided training.

Ms. Rogers advised that should there be any problems with specific agencies that Ms. Durio be notified so that training and direction can be provided.

Mr. Berry moved to approve item number 3 and Ms. Quienalty seconded the motion. Item number 3 was approved.

**NUMBER: 4**

**EXPLANATION: Requires the registrar of voters to transfer a voter’s registration information to the voter’s new parish of residence upon receipt of an address confirmation card from the voter confirming that the voter has permanently moved outside the parish. The address confirmation card will be changed for the voter to provide the registration information.**

**Provides that the registrar of voters shall cancel a voter’s registration upon receipt of an address confirmation card from the voter confirming that the voter has permanently moved outside the state.**

Mr. McGimsey moved to approve item number 4 and Ms. Hooter seconded the motion. Item number 4 was approved.

**NUMBER: 5**

**EXPLANATION: Requires the chairman of the parish executive committee of a recognized political party to submit the name of each officer of the committee to the secretary of state within 5 business days of the election of the officers and within 5 business days of the election of an officer to fill a vacancy for the secretary of state to confirm representation on the parish boards of election supervisors by the Democratic and Republican Parties.**

Ms. Rogers moved to approve number 5 and Ms. Quienalty seconded the motion. Item number 5 was approved.

**NUMBER: 6**

**EXPLANATION: Deletes the requirement to have the notice of candidacy witnessed by two persons who are registered to vote on the office the candidate seeks and allows the notice of candidacy to have two witnesses for a notice of candidacy that is not executed before a notary public. This makes it easier for candidates to execute notices of candidacy to qualify to run for office.**

Ms. Rogers made a motion to approve item number 6 and Mr. Traina seconded the motion. Item number 6 was approved.

**NUMBER: 7**

**EXPLANATION: Deletes the reference to the refund of qualifying fees provided in R.S. 18:501, as the refund of qualifying fees was deleted from R.S. 18:501 by Act 383 of the 2013 Regular Session of the Louisiana Legislature effective on June 18, 2013.**

Ms. Rogers made a motion to approve item number 7 and Mr. McGimsey seconded the motion. Item number 7 was approved.

**NUMBER: 8**

**EXPLANATION: Parish governing authorities establish precinct boundaries and no precinct shall contain less than 300 registered voters unless they meet limited exceptions as approved by the secretary of state or the parish governing authority is responsible for 100% of the election expenses for the precinct in all elections (with no sharing of costs with any jurisdiction on the ballot). Precinct boundaries are frozen for a four year period for redistricting purposes (1/1/2019 -12/31/2023), with an exception for redistricting, allowing a parish governing authority to divide a precinct into 2 or more precincts. The proposed amendment requires the parish governing authority to notify the secretary of state in writing prior to the adoption of any proposed precinct division and to receive a report of the election expenses expected from secretary of state resulting from the proposed precinct divisions.**

Ms. Hooter moved to approve item number 8 and Ms. Rogers seconded the motion. Item number 8 was approved.

**NUMBER: 9**

**EXPLANATION: The deadline to submit precinct changes and annexations to the secretary of state is presently the 5th business day prior to the opening of qualifying. This proposed amendment moves the deadline to the 10th business day prior to the opening of qualifying and includes the standard time deadline of 4:30 p.m. to provide a reasonable amount of time for the Department of State and the registrars of voters to accurately implement the precinct changes and annexations in ERIN prior to qualifying. The proposed amendment also provides that a precinct shall not be changed, no precinct shall be established or altered, and no annexation shall be implemented during the period commencing on the 10th business day prior to the date the qualifying period opens and ending on the date of the general election.**

Mr. McGimsey moved to approve item number 9 and Mr. Berry seconded the motion. Item number 9 was approved.

**NUMBER: 10**

**EXPLANATION: Requires the addresses of candidates who have the same surname who are running for the same office to have their addresses printed on the ballot so the candidates can be distinguished and the voters will know which candidate they are voting for.**

There was discussion among the board and Mr. Ardoin as well as Ms. Hudnall addressed the committee with comments and concerns.

Mr. Berry made a motion to remove item number 10 from the recommendations of the board and Mr. Traina seconded the motion. Item number 10 was removed from the recommendations of the board.

**NUMBER: 11**

**EXPLANATION: Addresses the issue when a candidate qualifies unopposed and is subsequently disqualified in an objection to candidacy to provide that an anticipated vacancy exists so a special election to fill the vacancy can be called by the governing authority.**

Mr. McGimsey made a motion to approve item number 11 and Mr. Berry seconded the motion. Item number 11 was approved.

**NUMBER: 12**

**EXPLANATION: Due to the changes in Act 410 of the 2015 Regular Session of the Louisiana Legislature, the deadline to call a proposition for bond, debt and tax elections sometimes falls after the deadline for the registrar of voters to assign voters in the Election and Registration Information Network (ERIN) system as provided in R.S. 18:532.1. This proposed amendment moves the deadline from 46 days to 54 days prior to the general election to provide a reasonable amount of time for the registrars of voters to assign voters in ERIN for the election.**

Chairman Schedler made a motion to amend item number 12 to include R.S. 18:58 and Mr. McGimsey seconded the motion.

Mr. McGimsey made a motion to approve item number 12 as amended and Ms. Rogers seconded the motion. Item number 12 was approved as amended.

**NUMBER: 13**

**EXPLANATION: Due to the changes in Act 410 of the 2015 Regular Session of the Louisiana Legislature, the deadline to call a proposition or question election sometimes falls after the deadline for the registrar of voters to assign voters in the Election and Registration Information Network (ERIN) system as provided in R.S. 18:532.1. This proposed amendment moves the deadline from 46 days to 54 days prior to the general election to provide a reasonable amount of time for the registrars of voters to assign voters in ERIN for the election.**

Chairman Schedler made a motion to amend item number 13 to include the change to R.S. 18:58 and Ms. Hooter seconded the motion.

Ms. Rogers made a motion to approve item number 13 as amended and the motion was seconded by Ms. Quienalty. Item number 13 was approved as amended.

**NUMBER: 14**

**EXPLANATION: Adds an additional method, other than pencil, for a voter to mark the paper ballot with a pen containing black or blue ink. Also requires the ballot to have instructions on how to correct the ballot before it is cast and counted, including obtaining a replacement ballot, if the voter is unable to change the ballot or correct the error if marked by pen.**

Ms. Quienalty made a motion to approve item number 14 and Mr. Traina seconded the motion. Item number 14 was approved.

**NUMBER: 15**

**EXPLANATION: Adds a time deadline of 4:30 p.m. to the present deadline to request a recount, which is the last working day prior to the date of the recount occurring on the 5th day following the election.**

Mr. McGimsey made a motion to approve item number 15 and Ms. Rogers seconded the motion. Item number 15 was approved.

**MISCELLANEOUS RECOMMENDATIONS (TITLE 33)**

**NUMBER: 16**

**EXPLANATION: Updates the provisions relating to submitting a proposition to the voters for approval to dissolve a municipality to follow the current law in Title 18 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950 for other proposition elections.**

Stacy Ryan, Registrar of Voters submits a recommendation to the board members. The request is to have fax requests be handled the same as hand delivered.

Ms. Quienalty made a motion to put Ms. Ryan’s recommendation in the omnibus bill and add an effective date of upon Governor’s signature on Stacy Ryan’s recommendation and Mr. Traina seconded the motion.

Ms. Rogers made a motion to approve item number 16 and Mr. Traina seconded the motion. Item number 16 was approved.

The board took up the next item on the agenda which was discussion of House Concurrent Resolution Number 185 of the 2015 Regular Session.

Ms. Rogers made a motion to put HCR 185 in the omnibus bill and add an effective date of upon Governor’s signature and Mr. McGimsey seconded the motion. Ms. Quienalty made a motion to approve recommendation as amended and Ms. Rogers seconded the motion. This item was approved as amended.

There was discussion on the possibility of presenting in a separate bill, having available to disabled voter an electronic ballot, giving the voter the ability to keep their vote private.

Stephanie Patrick with The Advocacy Center addressed the board

Ms. Rogers moved for adjournment and Mr. McGimsey seconded the motion.

The meeting of the State Board of Election Supervisors adjourned at 10:20 a.m.