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Benton County Election Commission

2007 MAR 01 AM 9:57

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MARY L. SLINKARD
CO. & PROBATE CLERK
BENTON COUNTY, ARK

John M. Brown, Jr.
Chairman

Russell B. Odell
Member

Lynn Chinn
Member

James McCarthy
Coordinator

February 22, 2007 Minutes

Present: John M. Brown, Lynn Chinn, Russell Odell and James McCarthy
Media: Gary Lookadoo, Daily Record; Scarlet Sims, Morning News

John Brown called the meeting to order at 10 AM on February 22, 2007. January 30, 2007 minutes were present and approved with the following clarification:

- Gravette School district #20 Special Millage Election will be printed by ES&S.
- Volunteer Fire Department Highway 84 Election will be printed locally.

Announcements:

- + Trucking companies notified the Election Office the ES&S Ivtronic machines are reroute to our office.
- + Communication: As part of follow up of our meeting January 30, 2007, the Election Commission November General Election information is updated on the Benton County's Web Site.

Old Business

1. Proposed Precincts 51 and 61 number changes: Rather than changing all precincts from 50 through to 85, a new proposal was presented: Change Precinct #84, War Eagle to #51; Change Precinct #85, Bland Chapel to #61. There are no boundary changes. The following impact on voters in Benton County:

<u>Precinct Numbers</u>	<u>Inactive and Active Voters</u>	<u>Active Voters Only</u>	
84 to 51	862	693	Numbers are from 11/2006
<u>85 to 61</u>	<u>1436</u>	<u>813</u>	
Totals	2,298	1,436	

Further discussion is needed at our next meeting. Follow up: Russell Odell will update the Clerk's Office and James McCarthy will review this proposal with the ES&S Company.

2. Statement from State Election Commission, Ruth Raines, Director of Compliance: Regarding: Janet Lasater complaints about the November 2006 General Election: "Based upon review of the above referenced (complaint) response, the matter appears to have been addressed, corrected and handled at the local level, requiring no further action of the Board at this time". Benton County Election Commission plans no further follow up at this time. As far as the Election Commission knows, there are no more outstanding election complaints concerning the November 7, 2006 General Election.

3. Automatic Auditing: The Commissioners agreed to pursue the idea of Automatic Auditing proposal by creating a criteria for Automatic Auditing: Applies only to candidates; Voting Margin; Auditing begins after Provisional Ballots are included in totals, Auditing is *not* a "recount" which is left for candidates to request, etc. This new procedure will serve as a check and balance on County Ballot Canvassing Procedures.

4. Election Commission Facilities Needs: With the early arrival of our new Ivtronic machines John Brown will inform the Quorum Court Facilities Committee that needs are urgent.

New Business:

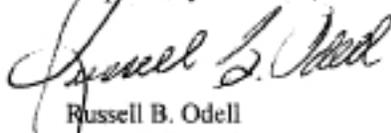
1. Benton County Election Commissioners signed two documents: Ballot Certification and Order for Precincts: April 10, 2007 Gravette School District #20 Special Millage Election. (enclosed)

2. Discussion on Run Off Elections: November 2007 estimate (not confirmed numbers) (a) Number of Voters casting votes = 3,110; Cost to Benton County \$25,000. Observation: The Candidate winning in the Run Off Election often has a lower vote total than the General Election totals. This is a State Legislature issue to address. However, Benton County Election Commission can make its review known to our representatives.

3. Next meeting, tentative date: March 7, 2007 at 10 AM.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectively submitted,



Russell B. Odell
Election Commissioner, Secretary

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