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Benton County Election Commission
Minutes
November 2, 2009

Chairman, Bill Williams, opened the meeting at 9:32 a.m.

Present: Bill Williams, Chairman
Timothy Hutchinson, Secretary
E. J. Miller, Member
Helen Peltier, Election Coordinator
Kathy Mahmens, Staff

Others present: Mary Kincy from the Benton County clerical pool.

Media: Tabatha Hunter - Benton County Daily Record

The Coordinator presented the Bethel Heights 12/8 timeline. Paper Ballots are available 11/3 and the city has approved timeline.

Coordinator presented the Bella Vista 12/8 timeline and discussed that Bella Vista is working on getting back on timeline and that the timeline has not been approved by Bella Vista yet and that final revisions are due 11/2 and will be emailed to Bella Vista then. Also, a discussion on early voting at Sugar Creek polling place and does it need to be opened same hours as County Clerk? Commissioner Williams will confirm and give information to Coordinator.

Discussion on losing a week due to the Thanksgiving Holidays and advance processes are in place to accommodate. Early voting for the 12/8 election begins 12/1 and ends by 12/7.

Coordinator will prepare language for resolution on how to handle specific issues. She will get back to the commission.

Chairman Williams attended the Arkansas Election Commission in Little Rock last week. The Benton Election County Commission is a member if of the Arkansas Election Commission Communications Committee. The state Election Commission is an excellent place to network and share ideas and the cost of membership is $200.

Chairman Williams presented a Payback Analysis on investing in 200 Direct Record Electronic Voting Machines. There was a discussion on benefits of voting machines and the benefits of security and education to voters as well as financing versus direct purchase. The machines are necessary to reduce long term costs, improve quality and improve voter's confidence and execute faster elections. The machines are available now for half price.

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Respectfully submitted, Timothy Hutchinson, Secretary
Prepared by Betty Crawford, Benton County clerical pool

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