

BENTON COUNTY ELECTION COMMISSION

John M. Brown, Jr.
Chairman

Russell J. Anzalone
Secretary



Robbyn Tumey
Member

Kim Dennison
Election Coordinator

Office (479) 271-1049 - Fax (479) 271-5749
kmdennison@co.benton.ar.us or srose@co.benton.ar.us

MINUTES OF THE BENTON COUNTY ELECTION COMMISSION

March 13, 2012

Commission members present: John Brown, Jr. and Russell Anzalone

Others present: Christine Southard, Kim Dennison, Sharon Rose, Suzanne Jessup, and Gwen Millager

Media: Tom Sissom, Benton County Daily Record

New Business:

- A. Discussion of the Preferential Primary Election to be held on May 22, 2012: Chairman Brown stated that there is an order to change the polling location Precinct 48 from the Bethel Heights Fire Station to the Bethel Heights City Hall because of the parking situation at the Fire Station. Chairman Brown made a motion that Precinct 48 Bethel Heights Fire Station be moved to the Bethel Heights City Hall. Commissioner Anzalone seconded the motion. Motion carried by voice vote.

Chairman Brown asked for a review on information input into the portal for ES&S. Kim Dennison, Election Coordinator, handed out a copy of the information that has put into the portal. Kim stated that she would like for the commissioners to review the handouts for any additions or corrections before the final form is sent to ES&S for processing. Christine Southard explained the information for Commissioner Anzalone and how ES&S takes this information and programs the ballots. Christine stated that approximately 204 machines will be distributed for the Preferential Primary Election. Chairman Brown stated that would leave sixty (60) machines at the commission office. Kim stated that the 204 machines include the machines for early voting.

Chairman Brown reported that Commissioner Anzalone contacted Iberia Bank on Walton Blvd and Eighth Street to use their facilities for an early voting location. Christine asked Commissioner Anzalone if he had looked at the facilities. Commissioner Anzalone stated he is going to the Iberia Bank after the meeting and asked Christine what is the necessary requirements. Christine stated that it would have to be (1) internet accessible; (2) the poll sheriff would need to be able to lock the ballot box and PEB's in the conference room; (3) tables; and (4) handicap parking.

Christine stated that the commissioners should consider having an early voting location at Prairie Creek because of the distance voters have to travel into Rogers or Bentonville to vote. Chairman Brown stated that the commission would talk to the Prairie Creek Association to consider being an early voting site. Christine asked Chairman Brown if the commissioners would like to go through the list with the number of machines that each precinct would be receiving; because once the information is submitted to ES&S the media will be programmed. Chairman Brown stated that he is concerned that two (2) machines would not be enough at Precinct 21, St. Bernard's Catholic Church in Bella Vista. Chairman Brown requested three (3) machines at Precinct 21.

Christine stated that Precinct 22, New Life Christian Center is one of the largest precincts, and the room that is used is nice but there is a lighting issue. She asked if there is a way to get additional lighting. Christine suggested moving a couple of lamps into the room for additional lighting. Sharon stated that she would call the church to see if additional lighting would be possible.

Kim stated that the color stripping on the ballots was discussed at the last meeting and she reported that ES&S charges 2¢ per ballot. Chairman Brown stated that he wanted to wait on the stripping at this time. Kim reported that there are several ballot splits; Precinct 30 has four (4) ballot splits and that the fourth ballot split is in the annexation to Bella Vista which has three (3) homes with no registered voters. Kim stated it will be on the Ivotronics, but asked the commissioners if they wanted to order paper ballots for this precinct. Kim stated that even though there are no registered voters at this time, there is still time for someone to register. Christine stated that there would be a split and a ballot layout prepared. Kim stated Precinct 33 was another split with one (1) house in that area and the resident is not a registered voter. Chairman Brown responded that the Ballot on Demand would be able to print ballots if needed.

Kim reported that the sheriff and poll worker training dates have been set and letters will be mailed to them. Chairman Brown stated that he has reserved the auditorium at the Extension Office for each Saturday in April. He suggested having a morning and afternoon session with a limit of 70 individuals. Christine stated that the State will reimburse Benton County for two (2) training sessions by state certified trainers. Christine asked Chairman Brown if the Extension Office was available at other times. Chairman Brown responded that he reserved the room for each Saturday in April and if other dates were needed, then they would have to be reserved if the room is available. Christine suggested reserving the room for each Wednesday as a backup date from 8:00 A.M. to 11:00 A.M. Chairman Brown stated that he would talk with the Extension Office.

Kim reported that the Gravette School District Special Election billing would be completed by the end of the week, and that she is working on updating the Sheriff's Manuals and completing the Poll Worker Application which will be posted on Benton County's website.

Chairman Brown asked how many absentee ballot requests have been received. Kim responded approximately 200 and approximately 25 federal ballots. Commissioner Anzalone asked if something could be printed in the newspaper or a PSA for family members who have relatives in the military notifying them of the election and absentee ballot voting. Chairman Brown asked Tom Sissom with the Benton County Daily Record if he could write something in his article. Tom responded that he would see what he could do.

Old Business:

- A. Employment application for Poll Workers to be placed on the website: Chairman Brown stated the employment application had been discussed earlier in the meeting.

Public Comment:

Suzanne Jessup asked if the commission was going to stay with ES&S or change to Absolute Print Solutions for the ballot printing. Chairman Brown responded that the commission had concerns with changing vendors this close to the Preferential Primary Election and decided to stay with ES&S at this time. Suzanne stated that the printing contract with ES&S had expired and asked if this contract was extended for the Preferential Primary election. Chairman Brown responded that ES&S did not say they would not do the printing, but if there was an issue, the commission could change.

Adjournment:

Chairman Brown made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Anzalone. The meeting was adjourned at 10:50 A.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Russell J. Anzalone, Secretary
Prepared by Sharon Rose
Benton County Election Commission