

MEETING OF THE
COMMISSIONERS OF ELECTIONS
HELD ON TUESDAY, JANUARY 19, 2010
AT 1:30 P.M.
42 BROADWAY, 6th FLOOR COMMISSIONERS' ROOM
NEW YORK, NY 10004

PRESENT: President Julie Dent

Commissioners Araujo, Barrera, Schacher, Sipp, Soumas, Stupp

Marcus Cederqvist, Executive Director
Pamela Perkins, Administrative Manager
Steven H. Richman, General Counsel
John Ward, Finance Officer
Dorothy Delayo, Director, Personnel
Valerie Vazquez-Rivera, Director, Communications and Public Affairs
John O'Grady, Chief, Voting Machine Technician
Troy Johnson, Coordinator, Candidate Records Unit
Tom Sattie, Associate Staff Analyst, Candidate Records Unit
Rosanna Rahmouni, Coordinator, Election Day Operations
Rachel Knipel, Coordinator, Language Assistance Program
Stephen Thompson, HAVA Training Specialist, Election Day Operations
Mirang Cho, Administrative Assistant, Election Day Operations
Ellen Giwa, Administrative Assistant, Election Day Operations
Juan Polanco, Administrative Assistant, Election Day Operations
Khadijah Overstreet, HAVA Training Specialist, Election Day Operations
Rose Ham, Korean Translator, Election Day Operations
Mona Huang, Senior Systems Analyst, Electronic Voting Systems
John Naudus, Senior Systems Analyst, Electronic Voting Systems
Daniel Lavelle, Supervisor, Phone Bank
Michael Kinara, Associate Director & Project Manager, Gartner
Steven B. Denkberg, Counsel to the Commissioners

GUEST: Adrienne Kivelson, League of Women Voters
Mary Lou Urban, NYCLWV
Jerome Koenig
Marjorie Shea, WCC
Jose Adames

Chyann Sapp, VAC
Jim Robbins, NYVV
Rima McCoy, CIDNY
Teresa Hommel, wheresthepaper.org
Alan Flacks, Member of NY County Democratic Committee
Rima McCoy, CIDNY

President Dent called the meeting to order at 1:40 P.M.

The Coordinator of Election Day Operations presented the 2010 Poll Site Flow and Generic Procedures. Ms. Rahmouni distributed a detailed report to the Commissioners. She reported that the Poll Worker Procedures Workstream conducted three (3) mock poll site exercises during August and October to further refine the poll site flow and develop detailed generic procedures. As a result of the mock poll site exercises, the Poll Worker Procedures Workstream and the Executive Steering Committee for the new Poll Site Voting System agreed that removing the Scanner Table from the poll site flow provided advantages such as:

1. Regulated voter traffic as the number of lines were reduced;
2. Simplified the voting process by removing an extra step;
3. Reduced number of inspectors, tables and supplies needed at the poll site; and
4. Prevented the possibility of voters circling the scanner letter on the voter cards by themselves.

Ms. Rahmouni stated that the guiding principles remain the

same with the exception of the scanning table removal. She summarized the guiding principles to the Commissioners. Ms. Rahmouni's staff demonstrated the proposed 2010 mock poll site flow and procedures to the Commissioners. Commissioner Stupp inquired if there will be markings on the floor at the poll sites. Ms. Rahmouni replied yes. Commissioner Araujo inquired who will be collecting the privacy sleeves at the poll sites and what procedure will take place if a voter does not want to use the privacy booth. Ms. Rahmouni replied that she plans to have the privacy sleeves in the privacy booths and then the poll worker at the scanner will collect and place them back in the booths. Ms. Rahmouni stated that a voter has the right to not use the privacy booth. Commissioner Schacher was concerned that it may cause confusion at the poll site. Mr. Cederqvist stated that the Poll Worker Procedures Workstream will look into that issue.

President Dent recognized Jerome Koenig for brief comments regarding the Board's plan to use two (2) scanners in each poll site even if there is only one (1) Election District.

President Dent requested that the public hold any questions, concerns, ideas, or statements until the end of Ms. Rahmouni's presentation.

Ms. Rahmouni reported on the sample generic voting process voter handout, the preliminary ED/AD table inspector responsibilities, the preliminary inspector at the privacy booths/BMD(s) responsibilities, and the proposed 2010 citywide inspector totals. Commissioner Stupp inquired how and when a voter gets their voter card. Ms. Rahmouni replied that a voter receives their card at the ED/AD table when they sign in at the poll site. The procedure has not changed. President Dent inquired how many ballots a voter is allowed if they are not satisfied with their voting choice and they made an error and want to void the ballot. Ms. Rahmouni stated that a voter is allowed three (3) ballots without a Court Order. Commissioner Araujo inquired if there are minimum measurements between the privacy booths at the poll sites. Ms. Rahmouni stated no. The General Counsel added that it is poll site specific and if there is extra space the booths can be spread out. The Administrative Manager stated that it is limited by the amount of available space at the poll site and it might not be possible to have set measurements. President Dent inquired if Ms. Rahmouni's staff had the opportunity to go to the poll sites and set-up to get an idea of the space. She suggested for the team to visit two (2) poll sites. Ms. Rahmouni reported that the Poll Site Readiness Workstream has been working on that issue. Commissioner Soumas inquired if the Chief and Deputy Chief Clerks of each borough office have weighed in on

these issues. Ms. Rahmouni replied yes and that they helped create the “Guiding Principles.” Mr. Cederqvist added that the Chief and Deputy Chief Clerks have a committee regarding this project and they made a lot of significant changes.

President Dent opened the floor for brief comments from Adrienne Kivelson, a member of the public, who suggested that the privacy booths should be turned around so no one can see a voter mark their ballot.

President Dent recognized Marjorie Shea for brief comments regarding where the ballots go to at the closing of the polls.

President Dent recognized Jerome Koenig for brief comments concerning placing ballots in an envelope at the closing of the polls.

Commissioner Stupp inquired if the police will take the two (2) memory cards at the closing of the polls. Mr. Richman replied that one (1) memory card will remain in the voting system.

President Dent thanked Ms. Rahmouni and her team for doing a wonderful job on the presentation.

Commissioner Stupp inquired if the emergency ballots will be counted in a bi-partisan fashion at the closing of the polls. Mr. Richman stated that under New York State Election Law, all ballots must be counted and entered on the Return of Canvass by the poll workers before the police take them at the closing of the polls.

Commissioner Schacher moved to table the minutes of January 5, 2010. Commissioner Barrera seconded the motion, which was adopted unanimously.

The Executive Director presented the HAVA update. He reported that in the coming weeks many workstream presentations will be scheduled for the Commissioners since the new voting system has been selected. Mr. Cederqvist also reported that the Voting Machine Facilities are currently being upgraded and April 1, 2010 is the expected move-in date for the 11th floor office space at the Executive Office. He noted that he distributed to the Commissioners a copy of the draft letter addressed to the Office of Management and Budget regarding the February and March 2010 Special Elections. He requested approval from the Commissioners to send the letter to OMB. Commissioner Schacher moved for Mr. Cederqvist to send

the letter to OMB. President Dent seconded the motion, which was adopted unanimously.

The Coordinator of the Candidate Records Unit distributed to the Commissioners a copy of the draft Notice to All Candidates for the February 9, 2010 Special Election for Member of Assembly, 24th Assembly District, and requested approval to send it out. Commissioner Araujo moved to send out the Notice to All Candidates. Commissioner Stupp seconded the motion, which was adopted unanimously.

President Dent recognized Jerome Koenig for brief comments concerning the failure of the Board to combine Election Districts in the Special Election. Commissioner Stupp replied that there are no plans to consolidate. She stated that the Republican Party of Queens County has considered it, discussed it, and decided against it. One reason is because they have no knowledge that there will be a low voter turnout in February and if the poll worker staff is reduced at the poll sites there is greater opportunity for errors and inaccuracies. Commissioner Stupp stated that the Republican Party of Queens Party would rather have the work done right and put the money at the front end so that they are not in a situation where they might be in account and spending the funds afterwards.

Commissioner Araujo replied that he had a difference of opinion and feels that they should combine. He stated that he discussed this issue with Commissioner Stupp on numerous occasions and she held steadfast to her position, so they will respect that at this point.

The Finance Officer presented the Vacancy Report dated January 19, 2010.

President Dent moved to adjourn the meeting, which was seconded by Commissioner Schacher. The motion was adopted unanimously.

The next stated meeting of the Commissioners is scheduled for Tuesday, February 2, 2010 at 1:30 P.M.