

Board of Elections Committee Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, September 8, 2020

Meeting Attendees: Election Commissioners Toombs & Wahls

August Minutes approval by William Standinger and second by Loretta Sullivan

Financial Update/Budget:

YTD Budget Report provided

Old Business:

Election Inspector recruitment efforts very successful: 172 trained, ~40 more scheduled to attend this week. Current newspaper and WBNG have net a waiting list of prospective workers to train.

HAVA CARES grant reimbursement –Documentation for claims is in progress. Completion of this has taken a back seat to the flood of absentee ballot requests.

Completion of the Cybersecurity Remediation Plan with input from our IT Director is submitted to NYSBOE.

New Business:

The NYSBOE Online absentee portal provides requests three times per day. All applications require bi-partisan review within the office. This new portal has created a significant backlog of absentee ballot requests for voters that do not feel comfortable going to their poll site for the November General Election. It is unprecedented for us to have 2000 requests for an absentee ballot nearly 60 days prior to the election.

A New Election Law for accessible electronic absentee ballots must provide to voters such ballot within two days of request, once such ballots are available. The PDF's will be sent to the yet to be determined vendor. The NYSBOE has approved four vendors capable of producing these ballots.

Executive Order 202.58 required that all active and inactive voters within each county of NYS be sent a mailer containing comprehensive information of the

voter's options on how or where to vote this November based on the pandemic. Cost per card by our vendor NTS for file processing and print charges is twenty-eight cents per card to approximately 33,962 voters for a card print cost of roughly \$9,509.36. These cards were mailed to households reducing the postal cost to an estimate of around five thousand dollars.

The office will request recruitment from each political party and with legislative approval ask department heads consider job sharing with the BOE. Additionally, we are requesting to hire two bi-partisan, temporary staff to help keep up with absentee work and election prep as soon as possible. Workstations will be set up to work in close proximity with the staff. These temporary staffers will be trained to use portions of the voter registration programs necessary to complete their duties. It is uncertain whether the Governor will modify further Election Laws that create further unfunded mandates and work load. The increased duties for BOE staff post General Election also requires consideration.

Resolutions:

Late file for two bi-partisan temporary staff through the election certification process into late November.

Late file requesting authorization to apply to the Center for Tech and Civic Life (CTCL) a COVID-19 Response Grant for all U. S. local election jurisdictions beginning September 8, 2020. Funding of five thousand dollars or more may be approved to cover some of the ongoing expenses because of Executive Orders regarding the General Election.