

MINUTES OF THE GREB WORKGROUP

MEETING

AUGUST 22ND, 2019

MCGUIREWOODS CONFERENCE ROOM

CANAL PLAZA, RICHMOND

The GREB Workgroup convened at 10:00AM on Thursday, August 22nd, 2019 in the McGuireWoods conference room, Richmond, Virginia.

Present: John Hager, Kate Hanley, Al Ablowich, Lisa Jeffers, Robin Lind, Cris Watkins, Michele White, Bill Bell, Clara Belle Wheeler, Walt Latham, Barbara Tabb and by phone Barbara Gunter.

Attending from the public: Carol Nagle, LWV-PWC as well as a representative from the LWV of Fairfax County, Deb Wake, Mark Coakley and Bill Jenkins.

Co-Chair Hager announced Tracy Howard was resigning from the GR/EB Workgroup. Co-Chair Hager asked Co-Chair Hanley, Robin Lind and Lisa Jeffers to have an AdHoc group to discuss a replacement if we felt it necessary.

Minutes from the July 23rd, 2019 meeting were approved unanimously.

The Commissioner of ELECT, Chris Piper introduced Dan Burns; VERIS Project Manager. Chris and Dan gave us an outline presentation on the VERIS RFP Project. Dan gave a detailed step by step presentation on the project plan, scope, data collection, project goal and engaging with the localities. The General Assembly had included input from the GR/EB workgroup. The Department of ELECT will keep in contact with the GR/EB workgroup on progress and updates. After all data is collected, it will be decided whether to replace VERIS or to rebuild. Most likely, no major changes to the system until 2022 at the earliest. Commissioner Piper reported after the Department emailed the VERIS survey to the field that only 90 replies have been received. He stressed the importance of GR's and EB's completing the survey by August 28th, 2019. Al made the motion the GR/EB Workgroup approve the ELECT process of the VERIS RFP Project, Robin seconded, motion carried unanimously. This will be continued on the agenda of each meeting until project is completed.

Bill Bell has developed another mail survey. This survey will encompass a college voter and the use of our Election Officials. Discussion was held about the collection of the data from the survey since the earlier survey only captured one component of the USPS system. The survey should be conducted between September 8-21.

Michele White has created an election expense template that will capture all the data of what an election costs. Robin and Michele presented a rough draft letter explaining the need for this data. Discussion ensued about who we would be sharing this information, what the purpose of

said information and how this information would be used. Michele made a motion to give another draft letter about how much does an election cost, email it to the group for approval, motion was seconded, motion passed unanimously.

Barbara Gunter gave her report on the reimbursements of GR's salaries she had requested from the Department of ELECT. She gave the report by locality, population, salary and supplements received by the locality. She does this yearly and is not asking the group to act on any of the information. Michele White surveyed the GR's to find out if everyone received the 6% salary increase given by the General Assembly. She did not get all responses however what she did receive is all over with varied responses of some GR's getting the 6% and some getting 3% and some getting no increase. Discussion ensued about GR salaries, EB members being invested in the GR's to help with getting more money and MOU's. Robin made the motion to have Michele resend her questionnaire to the GR's again and also include the EB members asking if they received the 6% or if they didn't, and do you have an MOU with your locality. Motion seconded and passed.

Legislation on reorganization of the SBE discussion was led by Robin Lind. Robin proposed and made the motion that the GR/EB Workgroup adopt a recommendation for the wording in **House Bill 1620 (State Board of Elections; membership; appointment of Commissioner of Elections.**

Increases the membership of the State Board of Elections from three members to five members and increases the terms of Board members from four years to five years. Representation shall be given to each of the political parties having the highest and next highest number of votes in the Commonwealth at the preceding gubernatorial election, with three Board members being of the party of the Governor. Terms are initially staggered. The bill also grants to the Board the authority to appoint the Commissioner of Elections, subject to confirmation by the General Assembly, and to remove the Commissioner of Elections. The appointment or removal of the Commissioner shall require an affirmative vote of four of the five Board members. The bill has a delayed effective date of January 1, 2020. This bill is identical to **SB 1455.**) Motion was seconded, motion passed with one nay. * Special note: see attachment of other code section.

Next meeting will be Wednesday, October 2nd, 2019 at 10:00AM at the McGuire Woods office building.

Meeting was adjourned at 12:45PM.