

RI STATE BOARD OF ELECTIONS

MINUTES OF MEETING

SEPTEMBER 14, 2004

The Rhode Island State Board of Elections reconvened at 7:30 p.m. A quorum included Chair Roger Begin, Vice Chair Thomas Iannitti, Commissioners Judith Bailey, John Daluz, Frank Rego and Raymond Xavier. Acting Executive Director George Bowen, III and Counselor Raymond Marcaccio were in attendance, also.

The purpose of the 7:30 p.m. meeting was to continue with the certification of mail ballots cast in the federal, state and local primaries being held today. However, before resuming the process, the Board asked for an update on the implementation of provisional ballots in the local communities, today.

Acting Director George Bowen offered that there were some problems with the use of the ballot. He demonstrated the procedure when one votes a provisional ballot and remarked that some communities (i.e. Cranston) did encounter problems. The Board was informed that several (provisional) ballots were not segregated, that is, placed in the appropriate envelope for future determination by the local board, and, that contrary to poll worker training instruction, some workers allowed voters to feed provisional ballots into the scanner. Concerned, the Members discussed ways to prevent such problems from occurring in November. Colored paper, hiring additional poll

workers to stand at the scanners and coding the provisional ballots with an identifying mark that would cause the ballot to be rejected by the scanner were several of the recommendations made by the Board. The Board vowed to make sure that today's problems with provisional ballots would not be encountered on November 2nd.

Before taking up the matter of certifying mail ballots, the Board discussed and entertained a motion concerning RIGL 17-15-34, that is, the final date to file recount requests/protests with the Board of Elections regarding primary voting. Commissioner Raymond Xavier made a motion to extend the deadline to request a recount or file a protest from Wednesday, September 15, 2004 at 4:00 p.m. to Thursday, September 16, 2004 at 4:00 p.m.. Commissioner Bailey seconded the motion. The motion carried without opposition.

The Board certified 956 mail ballots from 7:55 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. The total number of ballots reviewed for the September 14, 2004 primaries during the 9/13 and 9/14 sessions was 2,669.

At 9:00 p.m., Chair Begin declared that the certification process of mail ballots had been completed. With this, the Board and staff took a ten-minute break before returning to begin the process of tabulating the valid mail ballots.

ATTEST:

Frances A. Keating

Coordinator, Special Projects