

R. I. STATE BOARD OF ELECTIONS
MINUTES OF MEETING
September 13, 2011

The Rhode Island State Board of Elections convened at 3:43 PM at the Rhode Island Board of Elections a quorum included, Acting Chairman Frank Rego, Commissioners William West, Richard DuBois, Florence Gormley, Susan Farmer and Richard Pierce. Executive Director Robert Kando and Board legal counsel Raymond Marcaccio were also in attendance.

First order of business: A moment of silence was observed on the passing of long time Board of Elections Employee Chief Auditor Hank Johnson.

Next order of business: Motion to approve the minutes of the meeting held on June 29, 2011 and August 24, 2011, by Commissioner Gormley and seconded by Commissioner Pierce and passed unanimously.

Next order of business: The Board took public comment on the current voter registration form that allows a new registrant to write-in the name of the political party of the registrant's choice or to list unaffiliated, unlike the former form which listed each political party and allowing the registrant to check his/her party selection or unaffiliated.

Secretary of State A. Ralph Mollis addressed the Board and supported returning to the past format and listing each party on the registration form to ensure that each registrant was informed of his/her choices. Kenneth Block, Chairman of the Rhode Island Moderate Party also supported the change, stating that new registrants may not be aware that the Moderate Party was an available choice. Edwin Pacheco, Chairman of the Democratic Party, similarly noted that it was just good policy to have each party listed and that the form should be changed.

Kenneth McKay, Chairman of the Republican Party expressed concerns related to training of social workers who act as registration agents under the National Voter Registration Act. Executive Director Robert Kando responded to Mr. McKay that training had been provided and that new employees are also trained.

After a brief discussion, Commissioner Pierce moved to post the voter registration rules and regulations for hearing at a future date that would comply with the notice requirements for amending regulations, seconded by Commissioner Farmer and passed unanimously.

Next order of business: Discussion and possible vote on the method(s) of campaign finance fines. Ric Thornton, Campaign Finance Director, noted that fines owed to the Board now exceed one million dollars and that the Campaign Finance Division has tried several methods of collection, including letters, filing suit in Superior Court, and referring fines to the Office of the Attorney General. There was a discussion on accruing campaign finance fines and what type of efforts should be made to collect the fines.

R. I. STATE BOARD OF ELECTIONS
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Page 2

After a broad ranging discussion, it was agreed that the Board of Elections must make greater collection efforts and that the staff would meet with its legal attorney, Ray Marcaccio and develop a collection plan that would be presented to the Board at its next meeting.

Next order of business: Vote to elect a new chairperson and vice-chairperson of the Board of Elections. Commissioner Gormley nominated Acting Chairman Rego as Chairman, seconded by Commissioner DuBois and voted unanimously. Commissioner West nominated Commissioner Pierce as Vice-Chairman, seconded by Commissioners DuBois and Farmer, and passed unanimously.

Next order of business: At 4:42 PM Commissioner Gormley moved to adjourn the meeting, the motion seconded by Vice Chairman Pierce and passed unanimously.

Andreza Skipworth