

**R. I. STATE BOARD OF ELECTIONS
MINUTES OF MEETING
November 20, 2012**

The Rhode Island State Board of Elections convened at 3:45 PM at the Rhode Island Board of Elections, a quorum included, Vice-Chairman Richard Pierce, and Commissioners Susan Farmer, William West and Richard DuBois. Executive Director Robert Kando and legal counsel Raymond Marcaccio were also in attendance

First order of business: Commissioner Farmer made a motion to certify the November 6, 2012 election, seconded by Commissioner West and passed unanimously.

Next order of business: A post-election workshop was conducted. Executive Director Robert Kando engaged the Board in an open discussion of the 2012 election. Among the topics was the number of precincts where lines were unacceptably long. He mentioned that the Juanita Sanchez polling location which had long lines, had less than 1,300 voters cast ballots and that the delays seemed to stem from the 3 page bi-lingual ballot that had 5 sides and was time-consuming to read and vote if the voter had entered the voting booth without previewing the ballot in advance. He also mentioned that the room chosen for voting was not set-up according to the Board of Elections diagram, and that the voter lists were not properly divided and there seemed to be an insufficient number of poll workers.

Mr. Kando also mentioned that the Board received more complaints related to the precinct optical scanners than past years which he attributed to multiple page ballots overwhelming aging voting equipment, noting that it seems to be time to replace the current system with a new generation of equipment. He also noted that this was a presidential election with the second highest voter turn-out for the state and that it coincided with re-districting which traditionally results in voter confusion since all voters are assigned new voting districts.

Commissioners Farmer, West, DuBois and Vice-Chairman Pierce then engaged Director Kando with a open series of questions in a roundtable discussion that included questions relating to the failure rate of voting equipment, the proper method to split voting lists, the problems of poll worker recruitment and the use of high-school and college students as poll workers, the use of electronic poll books and the strategic placement of reserve election supplies to allow for rapid replenishment on Election Day. At the conclusion of the discussion, Vice-Chairman Pierce commended the staff for its outstanding elections effort.

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John Marion of Common Cause addressed the Board and voiced his concerns regarding shorter polling hours, the breakdown of voting equipment, and the delivery of ballots, the division of poll books, improved signage and more capable poll workers.

At 4:20 PM Commissioner West motion to adjourn was seconded by Commissioner DuBois, and passed unanimously.

Andreza Skipworth