



# Governor's Commission on Disabilities Election Assistance Committee Minutes

**Tuesday, December 2nd, 2014 2:00 - 3:30 PM**

John O. Pastore Center, 41 Cherry Dale Court,  
Cranston, RI 02920-3049

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**Attendees:** Rory Carmody (Chairperson); Kate Bowden; Regina Connor; Grace Pires; Robert Rapoza; Miguel Nunez; Lorna Ricci

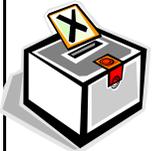
**Guests:** None

**Staff:** Christopher DeGrave



**2:00 Call to Order and Acceptance of the Minutes, Rory Carmody, Chair**

Chair calls the meeting to order at 2:10pm  
Introductions of Committee Members & Guests



**MOTION: To accept the minutes of the previous meeting as *presented*.**

***Motion moved by: Regina Connor***  
***Seconded by: Grace Pires***  
***Passed- Unanimous Vote***

## Action Items:



**2:05 General Election Action Review, Rory Carmody, Chair**

**Purpose/Goal: To review our 2014 Election efforts, what worked, what did not?**

Discussion:

- Thanks to polling place surveyor volunteers (RIGCD Commission, EAC Committee Members, RI Disability Law Center & Volunteer Advocacy Agencies )
- Technician Training Recap
  - GCD Staff Trained over 50 of the election technicians
  - Well received and well worth our time to participate
- Polling-Place Inspection (General Election Day) Survey Data Review
  - Top Issues: Disability Parking Signage, AutoMark Issues/ Functionality, Polling-Place Entrance Signage
  - 200+ locations inspected between primary & general election 2014
- Complaint Review & Follow-up
  - Several complaints made to talk radio AM channel- no official complaints made to BOE concerning accessibility issues
  - Report of issues/ problems/ inspection concerns to be drafted and forwarded to BOE and local Board of Canvassers.
- RI Disability Law Center (K. Bowden) shared a successful story of mental health/ social worker advocacy for use of the mail ballot system for a voter who was unable

	<p>to make it to the polls.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ 70 BOE Technicians in 2014 (verses approx. 40 in past elections) led to greater presence in the polls and quicker resolution of issues. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Future state purchase of new voting machines including AutoMark devices on the radar for BOE.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

	<b>Potential MOTION: None at this time.</b>
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	<b>2:15 Polling Place HAVA Grant- Payment/ Budget Update, C. DeGrave</b>
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	<p><b>Purpose/Goal: To discuss and review the payments and processing of the 2014 HAVA grants as awarded.</b></p> <p><b>Discussion:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Processed Grants Update &amp; Awarded Totals <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ \$211,549 distributed to over 28 communities</li> <li>○ 126+ Locations Improved through HAVA funds</li> <li>○ Major Improvements: Physical Access (Walkways, ramps), Disability Parking (Signage &amp; Striping), Door Hardware (Handles &amp; Levers)</li> </ul> </li> <li>➤ Project Inspection Results, Updates &amp; Photos- A majority of the projects were complete prior to the primary election. <b>All projects</b> were complete prior to General Election 2014.</li> <li>➤ Potential for future awards with remaining funds to include possible mini-grants for signage.</li> <li>➤ Only \$22,688 HAVA funds remaining for the 2016 election cycle including construction and staff-time.</li> </ul>
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	<b>MOTION: None at this time.</b>
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	<b>2:50 EAC Action Plan, Christopher DeGrave, GCD Staff</b>
	<b>Purpose/Goal: Discuss &amp; review the committee action plan for the future of the EAC</b>
	<b>Discussion:</b>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Project Gaps <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Future funding allotment (HAVA expiring in 2016)</li> <li>○ Letters to federal govt. in support of a HAVA program extension</li> </ul> </li> <li>➤ Next Steps prior to 2016 Election <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Staff time to report/ summarize ADA survey data and contact communities concerning deficiencies identified during the primary and general elections.</li> <li>○ Continued Poll-Worker/ Technician/ BOC Training</li> <li>○ Potential for mini-grants for communities (Signage &amp; small purchases)</li> <li>○ RIGCD staff re-inspection of problematic locations and NEW polling locations for 2016.</li> </ul> </li> <li>➤ Election &amp; Access Committee Reformulation Discussion <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Reduces chance of canceled meetings due to lack of quorum</li> <li>○ Keeps members involved with various projects</li> <li>○ Incorporates similar mission of both committees into one</li> <li>○ Potential for future grant awards with remaining funds</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
	<p><b>MOTION#1:</b> To formally contact all communities with reported/ documented issues to advise on a corrective action plan and to offer potential for HAVA grant reimbursement for structural or other accessibility purchases.</p> <p><i>Motion moved by: Lorna Ricci</i>  <i>Seconded by: Regina Connor</i>  <i>Passed- Unanimous Vote</i></p> <p><b>MOTION #2:</b> To table and review the potential of combining the Accessibility and Election Accessibility Committee as the scope of the new committee will increase to include election accessibility, public access to facilities (Title II &amp; III), disability parking and construction. Vote to accept or deny to follow in 2015.</p> <p><i>Motion moved by: Regina Connor</i>  <i>Seconded by: Lorna Ricci</i>  <i>Passed- Unanimous Vote</i></p>
	<p><b>3:15</b>     <i>Agenda for the Next Meeting, Rory Carmody, Chair</i></p> <p><b>Purpose/Goal:</b> To set the agenda for the next meeting.</p> <p><b>Discussion:</b> The Election Assistance Committee - meeting recommendation is to update all members by email and have the next meeting once the building construction/ renovations are completed. Potential for February 2015**</p>

	<p>➤ <i>Lorna Ricci graciously offered an accessible meeting space at her office at Ocean State Center for Independent Living (OSCIL).</i></p> <p><u>Future Agenda Topics:</u> <b>None at this time**</b></p>
	<p><b>3:30</b>    <i>Committee Adjournment, Rory Carmody</i></p> <p><b>MOTION: To adjourn.</b></p> <p><b><i>Motion moved by: Regina Connor</i></b> <b><i>Seconded by: Kate Bowden</i></b> <b><i>Passed- Unanimous Vote</i></b></p>