

Board of Elections Committee Meeting Minutes  
Tuesday, August 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2021

**Meeting Attendees:**

Election Commissioners Toombs & Wahls; Legislators Balliet, Mullen, Standinger, and Sullivan; Budget Officer Jackson Bailey

July Minutes approval: First by Legislator Sullivan, second by Legislator Standinger, approved.

**Financial Update/Budget:**

2021 YTD Budget Report attached.

2022 Departmental Budget presented; projected expenses are down \$10,380 from 2020 original budget, up \$19,975 from 2021 original budget. Increases on some lines made in anticipation of new legislation.

**Old Business:**

Annual Election Inspector Training in Progress

Cybersecurity Remediation Grant Claim submitted for \$31,594.95. Still \$46,066.78 remaining to expend/reimburse.

**New Business:**

Street Finder transfer to new software program postponed until various address issues have been resolved, as new software will connect addresses with GIS data points. For example some trailer parks have no assigned street address, just mailboxes for each lot; Glenmary Dr vs Glen Mary Dr; etc.

New Cybersecurity Regulations from NYS Board of Elections (sent with agenda) will impact entire county since BOE is interconnected, IT can better explain details if necessary.

Propositions for GE21 Ballot

- 5 Statewide Proposals; Two would directly and significantly impact BOE operations:
  - No-Excuse Absentee Voting: Authorizes ballot by mail by removing cause for absentee ballot voting.

- Same-Day Voter Registration: Removes ten day advance voter registration requirement.
- Local Propositions: Newark Valley: Remove elected highway superintendent and make it appointed position; Richford: Allowing retail cannabis dispensaries within the Town of Richford.

#### New Legislation

- Absentee Applications and Deadlines: Electronic absentee applications allowed thru end of year, postmark date for ballot is day *of* election thru end of year; BOE must *receive* applications requesting absentee ballot by mail not later than 15 days before election (previously applications had to be *mailed to* BOE by seven days before).
- Number of Voters per Election District: up to 2,000 (previously 1,150), will affect redistricting and number of election inspectors required at certain poll sites.
- Online OR In-Person Election Inspector Training: authorizes online election inspector training at discretion of county BOE; however, hands-on training for election workers is imperative and any “online” portion would cover only what we currently mail out and have inspectors read.

#### Pending Legislation

- Early Voting Expansion: Would require us to have polls open on weekends for min. 8 hrs (currently 5 hrs) each day.
- Change Canvass Process for Absentee, Military, Special, and Affidavit Ballots: Intended to speed up reporting of results, would allow for counting absentees prior to Election Day... BOE will need more staff to be able to comply.
- Electronic Absentee Ballot Application Transmittal System: Would permanently establish an electronic absentee ballot application and transmittal system through which voters may apply for and submit an absentee ballot application online.
- Online Absentee Ballot Tracking System: Would provide for establishment of an online absentee ballot tracking system statewide.

New State Aid/Capital Grants (expect resolutions next month)

- Early Voting Expansion (EVE) Grant: Tioga County awarded \$17,694.07 State Aid for allowable expenses in 2021.
- Technology Innovation and Election Resource (TIER) Grant: Tioga County awarded \$50,356.46 Capital funding for allowable expenses from April 2021 thru January 2023.
- Need to set up meeting to plan expenses.

Commissioners to attend NYS Election Commissioners' Association Summer Conference in Albany from Aug 30-Sept 2.

**Personnel:**

None

**Resolutions:**

None