

STATE BOARD OF ELECTION SUPERVISORS

February 1, 2024

MEETING MINUTES

Call to Order:

An in person meeting of the State Board of Election Supervisors was held on February 1, 2024 in House Committee Room 3 at the State Capitol. Chairwoman Landry, called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. with Patricia Daigle as acting secretary.

Attendees:

The following members were present: Secretary of State Nancy Landry, Chair; Sherri Hadskey, Commissioner of Elections; Gena Gore, Governor Appointee; Ms. Robin Hooter, Clerk of Court's Association; Joe Bishop, Police Jury Association; Erin Day, Attorney General Designee; and Shanika Olinde, Registrar of Voters Association.

The following members were absent: Vickii Melius, Lieutenant Governor's Designee.

Also in attendance were Lani Durio, and Jennifer Bollinger with the Louisiana Secretary of State's Office.

Approval of Minutes:

Ms. Hooter made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 23, 2023 meeting. Ms. Hadskey seconded the motion. With no objection, the minutes were approved.

New Business:

Ms. Hooter made a motion to nominate Sherri Hadskey, Commissioner of Elections as vice chair of the State Board of Election Supervisors. Mr. Bishop seconded the motion. Ms. Hadskey was elected as vice chair of the board.

Lani Durio, Deputy Commissioner of Elections, Secretary of State, presented the Omnibus recommendations to the board:

1.) Add requirement in R.S. 18:110(D) for a signature on the written statement of a registrant requesting to have his registration canceled.

Ms. Hooter made a motion to approve item number 1 and Ms. Hadskey seconded the motion. Item number 1 was approved.

2.) Clarifies that an application to vote absentee by mail and the information contained therein is not public record until the voter has returned his absentee ballot and it is marked as accepted by the registrar.

Ms. Hooter made a motion to approve item number 2 and Ms. Hadskey seconded the motion. Item number 2 was approved.

3.) Eliminates the requirement in R.S. 18:173(B) for death notices from the parish health officer because they are duplicative of LDH's death report in R.S. 18:173(C), and removes the requirement to confirm obituary data with the office of vital records because the registrars of voters have no practical way to confirm obituary data.

Ms. Hooter made a motion to approve item number 3. Ms. Hadskey seconded the motion. Item number 3 was approved.

4.) Revises R.S. 18:193(E) to reflect current practice. The secretary of state's office performs this action in the voter registration database to remove inactive voters who have not confirmed their address and have not voted for a period of two regularly scheduled federal general elections.

Ms. Olinde made a motion to approve item number 4. Ms. Hadskey seconded the motion. Item number 4 was approved.

5.) Item number 5 was omitted from the recommendations.

6.) Prevents disclosure of the votes cast for a candidate that passed away, was disqualified, or was ordered by a court to withdraw but whose name is still on the ballot. Also prevents disclosure of votes cast in a race that was canceled due to a candidate passing away, being disqualified, being ordered by a court to withdraw, or withdrawing from the general election but whose name is still on the ballot.

Ms. Hooter made a motion to approve item number 6. Ms. Hadskey seconded the motion. Item number 6 was approved.

7.) Changes the date of a second general election in R.S. 18:512(C) in the case of a tie vote in the general election.

Ms. Olinde made a motion to approve item number 7. Ms. Gore seconded the motion. Item number 7 was approved.

8.) Item number 8 was omitted from the recommendations.

9.) Updates the procedure in R.S. 18:572 for clerks of court and commissioners-in-charge to return the secretary of state (S-19) envelope to the secretary of state's office after election night. This is necessary to ensure that the secretary of state's office receives the S-19 envelope and prevents mail theft.

Ms. Hadskey made a motion to approve item number 9. Mr. Bishop seconded the motion. Item number 9 was approved.

10.) Updates method of promulgating official results for candidates other than state candidates in R.S. 18:574(E) so that promulgation of election results for those candidates is accomplished by publishing the official results on the secretary of state's website.

Ms. Hooter made a motion to approve item number 10. Ms. Olinde seconded the motion. Item number 10 was approved.

11.) The deadline in R.S. 18:1280.21(C) for parties to notify the secretary of state's office that its bylaws allow for non-affiliated voters to participate in that party's presidential preference primary is currently seven days prior to the opening of qualifying. This deadline is insufficient for the secretary of state to train election workers and to program the voter registration and election database to allow non-affiliated voters to participate. This amendment will change the deadline to sixty days prior to the opening of qualifying to ensure that the secretary of state's office has sufficient time to prepare the proper training materials and to make necessary programming changes to the election prior to the start of qualifying.

Ms. Olinde made a motion to approve item number 11. Ms. Gore seconded the motion. Item number 11 was approved.

12.) Item number 12 was omitted from the recommendations.

13.) Amends C.C.P. Art 4552 to require the curator to deliver a judgment of interdiction to the registrar of voters of the parish in which the interdict resides.

Ms. Olinde made a motion to approve item number 13. Ms. Hooter seconded the motion. Item number 13 was approved.

14.) Prohibits a commissioner who has been removed for cause by the parish board of election supervisors from serving as a commissioner in any future election.

Ms. Hooter made a motion to approve item number 14. Ms. Hadskey seconded the motion. Item number 14 was approved.

15.) Technical amendment to R.S. 18:1406(C) to correct a citation to a statutory section. R.S. 18:1406(C) cites to R.S. 18:1408(D), but R.S. 18:1408(D) is now R.S. 18:1408(C) pursuant to Act 128 of the 2020 Regular Legislative Session.

Ms. Olinde made a motion to approve item number 15. Ms. Hooter seconded the motion. Item number 15 was approved.

16.) Technical amendment to R.S. 26:584(B)(4) regarding petitions for wet/dry proposition elections. R.S. 26:584(B) provides the language of the five propositions that must be included in the petition, and R.S. 26:588(A) provides the language of the give propositions as they must appear on the ballot. The issue is that the language of the proposition four is not consistent in the petition and on the ballot, so this amendment will correct the wording of proposition four as it appears in the petition to make it consistent with the ballot wording.

Ms. Hooter made a motion to approve item number 16. Ms. Hadskey seconded the motion. Item number 16 was approved.

Adjournment

There being no further business, Ms. Hadskey made a motion to adjourn. Ms. Hooter seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 10:34 a.m.