

JULY 27, 2007

STATE BOARD MEETING  
151 WEST STREET, SUITE 200, ANNAPOLIS, MD 21401

Attendees: Robert L. Walker, Chairman  
Bobbie Mack, Vice Chairman  
Andrew V. Jezic, Member  
David McManus, Member  
Charles Thomann, Member  
Linda Lamone, Administrator  
Mark Davis, Assistant Attorney General  
Ross Goldstein, Deputy Administrator  
Donna Duncan, Director, Election Management  
Mary Wagner, Voter Registration Director  
Jared DeMarinis, Candidacy and Campaign Finance Director  
Michael Kortum, Chief Information Officer  
Joseph Torre, Director, Voting Systems & Procurement  
Nikki Trella, Election Reform Director  
Jaimie Jacobs, Election Reform Deputy Director  
Roger Stitt, Voter Registration Division  
Paul Aumayr, Voting System Division  
Karen Simpson, Deputy, Candidacy and Campaign Finance Division

Also Present: Michael Berta, Save Our Votes  
Robert Ferraro, Save Our Votes  
Mary Kiraly, MD Election Integrity Coalition  
Stan Boyd, Save Our Votes

### **DECLARATION OF QUORUM PRESENT**

Chairman Walker called the meeting to order at 2:32 p.m. and declared that there was a quorum present.

### **INTRODUCTION OF NEW BOARD MEMBERS**

Mr. Walker introduced David J. McManus and Charles Thomann as the new members of the State Board of Elections. Mr. McManus and Mr. Thomann gave introductory statements and expressed their pleasure with being appointed.

### **APPROVAL OF THE MAY 24<sup>th</sup> BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

Mr. McManus made a motion to approve the minutes, and Mr. Thomann seconded the motion. The minutes of the May 24, 2007, board meeting were approved unanimously.

### **ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA**

An orientation for the new board members was added to the agenda immediately before the Administrator's Report.

STATE BOARD MEETING  
151 WEST STREET, SUITE 200, ANNAPOLIS, MD 21401

## **ORIENTATION FOR NEW BOARD MEMBERS**

Mr. Goldstein provided the new Board members with an overview of the agency. He explained that the agency has jurisdiction over the conduct of federal, State, and county elections (including Baltimore City) and that Maryland elections are governed by federal law (National Voter Registration Act (NVRA) and the Help America Vote Act (HAVA)), the Election Law Article of the *Annotated Code of Maryland*, regulations established by the State Board (Code of Maryland Regulations, Title 33), policies and guidelines established by the State Board, and advice from the Office of the Attorney General. Mr. Goldstein discussed the responsibilities and introduced personnel in the agency's seven divisions.

Mr. Goldstein offered the following important facts about election in Maryland:

1. Maryland currently uses a direct recording electronic touchscreen voting system. There is legislation requiring a return to an optical scan system by the 2010 elections, pending funding by the Governor in the fiscal year 2009 budget.
2. During the 2006 election, Maryland implemented the electronic pollbooks which are used to quickly and efficiently check-in voters on election day.
3. A constitutional amendment to remove the legal impediment to early voting will be on the ballot during the 2008 General Election. If the amendment passes, early voting will have to be implemented for the 2010 elections.
4. There is currently federal legislation pending that, if passed and signed into law, would significantly impact the 2008 elections. Provisions include paper-based voting systems, defining the paper ballot as the official ballot, mandatory hand counting of ballots before certification of elections, early voting for federal offices, no excuse absentee voting for federal offices, etc.

Mr. Goldstein also noted that the agency's biennial meeting is scheduled for October 19, 2007, at the Doubletree Hotel in Annapolis. This meeting is required under State law, and all members of the local boards, counsel, and election directors must attend.

Mr. Goldstein referred the Board members to the handout entitled Web Overview and highlighted various components of the agency's website. He noted that the University of Maryland Baltimore County hosts the campaign finance database, polling place locator, and enhanced candidate list. In response to a question from Ms. Mack, Mr. Goldstein responded that the website includes a link to the Federal Election Commission.

## **ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT**

### **1. Personnel & Administration**

#### Model Bylaws

At the MAEO Conference, Mark Davis spoke about the need for each local board of elections to have bylaws that govern the board's activities and conduct and establish the roles and responsibilities of the members and the election director. Since only one local board has bylaws, there was a request that SBE provide model bylaws that each local board can customize and adopt. A copy of the model bylaws and the cover memorandum that explains which sections can be customized and which sections are pursuant to State law or board policy and therefore cannot be customized were provided to the Board members. These bylaws will be a useful tool for organizing the work of the local boards and provide the most leeway for the political activities of board members.

STATE BOARD MEETING  
151 WEST STREET, SUITE 200, ANNAPOLIS, MD 21401

### FY08 Budget Reductions

As part of the Administration's cost containment efforts, all State agencies have been advised of specific reductions. As a result, SBE must cut \$100,000 from the FY08 budget and has also been directed to eliminate the *per diem* payments to State Board members. However, members of the State Board will continue to receive mileage/parking reimbursements.

Ms. Mack asked how much savings results from eliminating the *per diem* payments, to which Ms. Lamone responded \$6,500 per year. Ms. Mack inquired as to whether eliminating the *per diem* was a general request or a specific request. Ms. Lamone responded that it was a specific request and that the \$100,000 reduction was mostly in salaries. Mr. Walker noted that it was critical to fill vacancies. Ms. Mack inquired as to the amount of vendor support the agency has, and Ms. Lamone responded that most of the vendor support is for the local boards. Mr. Walker asked what the fiscal year 2009 target was, and Ms. Lamone responded that the target was provided the day of the meeting and that there would be a briefing on the fiscal year 2009 budget at the August meeting.

### Current Election Recruitments

The SBE personnel office is very busy managing and supporting several election position placements throughout the State:

- Baltimore City currently has three positions and is in the process of filling the election director position.
- Anne Arundel County recently filled one position, and an announcement of the new election director is expected soon.
- Two positions are currently open in Carroll (including the election director) and Howard Counties and one is open in Worcester County.
- Kent and St. Mary's Counties are interviewing for election directors.

Mr. Walker asked who sets the salaries for the election directors, and Ms. Lamone responded that the general salary range is based on the number of registered voters. She further explained that she makes a specific salary recommendation to the State Board, and the members of the State Board approve the specific salary.

## **2. Meetings**

### MWCOG Meeting

Mary Heath attended the Metro Washington Council of Governments (MWCOG) meeting on June 22, 2007. This is a group of election officials that meets several times throughout the year. John Greiner from Montgomery County's Office of Management and Budget discussed performance measures for election officials. Mr. Greiner presented extensive information on how to measure specific elements within different programs. Ms. Heath and Sara Harris, Deputy Director for the Montgomery County Board of Elections, agreed to present voter education information for the next meeting in September.

### Attorney General's Task Force on Voting Irregularities

On July 9<sup>th</sup>, the Administrator and staff briefed the Attorney General's Task Force on Voting Irregularities on several election administration issues. During this briefing, various technologies were presented and staff members were introduced. Mr. Walker came to welcome the Task Force and pledge the Board's cooperation and resources. The Task Force was primarily interested in problems that occurred during the 2006 Gubernatorial Election. Specifically, they wanted in-depth

STATE BOARD MEETING  
151 WEST STREET, SUITE 200, ANNAPOLIS, MD 21401

information on issues surrounding election judge recruitment and training, the authority that SBE has over local boards to ensure compliance, the allocation of voting units, late opening of polling places, strategies for limiting polling place lines, and whether the poll books have proven to be a successful tool and whether they will continue to be utilized. The briefing was well received.

Mr. Walker requested a list of the Task Force members, and Mr. Jezic inquired as to who is serving as the Task Force Chair, to which Ms. Lamone responded that Sherrilyn Ifill is the Chair. Mr. Walker asked when a report could be expected, and Ms. Lamone responded that it is expected in spring 2008.

### **3. Voter Registration**

#### Software Release

The scheduled software release for MDVOTERS (Maryland's statewide voter registration system) went into production on July 16, 2007. The primary upgrade was to the Election Worker portion of the application. The next release is scheduled for August 20, 2007, and will focus on absentee and provisional voting, as well as additional reports, followed by a final release before the 2008 Presidential Election on November 26, 2007, focusing on post-election reports. "Go To" training sessions were scheduled over two days to allow the users to learn the changes in the application. Over 130 users participated in the training.

Ms. Lamone explained that "Go To" sessions are offered at two different dates and times after each release and are web-based, interactive sessions. Mr. Thomann inquired as to whether a Board member could attend these sessions, to which Ms. Lamone responded that board members were welcome to attend. In response to a question, Roger Stitt noted that he would check on the number of available log-in codes.

#### Voter Merge

The local boards of elections recently concluded a two-week "merge voter" project. This entails identifying those voters who have duplicate records in MDVOTERS and consolidating the duplicate records into one surviving record. Currently, only 106 potential duplicate voter records appear in the system. This number reflects possible duplicate voters, which the local boards investigate to ensure they are in fact duplicate records. All jurisdictions except for Queen Anne's County completed the merge within the allotted two-week timeframe. The privilege for Queen Anne's County to perform the merge was extended to Monday, July 16, 2007. Based on the recent success of the voter merge, no date has been scheduled to perform this task before the Primary Election in February. Ongoing auditing will be performed to monitor the number of duplicate records. Mr. Walker asked whether the 106 duplicate records were dispersed statewide, to which Mr. Stitt responded that they were.

#### MVA Comparison Reports

When citizens complete transactions at MVA, one of the questions they are asked is if they would like to register to vote. Their response is captured in the MVA database at that time. Periodically, SBE runs a comparison to identify individuals who responded that they wanted to register to vote but are not found in MDVOTERS. The results of the database comparison are sent to the local boards who are encouraged to send out voter registration applications to those individuals not found in MDVOTERS. Other transactions captured by MVA, such as changes of addresses and a change of name, are run against the voter registration database and provided to the local boards for follow-up.

STATE BOARD MEETING  
151 WEST STREET, SUITE 200, ANNAPOLIS, MD 21401

#### **4. Help America Vote Act**

Ms. Lamone explained that the Help America Vote Act passed after the 2000 election and includes seven mandatory provisions, including voting system and voter registration system requirements.

##### Voluntary Voting System Guidelines (VVSG)

The Act requires that the U.S. Election Assistance Commission (EAC), which was created under the Act, work with National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) to develop voting system guidelines. Based on recent information, it appears that NIST will not be delivering to the EAC its draft of the next iteration of the Voluntary Voting Systems Guidelines (VVSG) until August. (It was previously expected in July.) Ms. Lamone noted that election officials expressed concern that the expected guidelines were too technical.

Once the EAC receives this draft version, they will format it for publication in the *Federal Register*, and a public comment period will begin. The EAC's Standards Board (made up of 2 representatives from each state and territory – one state representative and one local representative) and the Advisory Board, entities both created under the Act, will have to review and provide comment on the draft guidelines. This version of the VVSG is expected to be approximately 650 pages, most of which will be new material. After several rounds of public comment and final adoption by the EAC, these guidelines will be the standards against which voting systems will be tested.

Mr. McManus asked whether the guidelines will be used by state and local election officials. Ms. Lamone responded that election officials as well as vendors will be using the guidelines and that the guidelines are expected to require major changes by the vendors.

##### Election Assistance Commission Standards Board

The EAC's Standards Board recently released two draft manuals, *Best Practices on Recruiting, Retaining & Training Pollworkers* and *College Pollworker Guide*, for comment by the Standards Board's members. As the names of the documents suggest, these documents offer election officials best practices for recruiting and training election judges in general and college students in particular. Ms. Trella, Maryland's State representative on the Standards Board, compiled from various staff members comments on the draft report and submitted the comments to the EAC for consideration. The draft reports and comments by the Standards Board members are available at [www.ebp4.us/document-review/standards-board-meeting-room](http://www.ebp4.us/document-review/standards-board-meeting-room). Ms. Lamone noted that the reports provided generally useful information and that many of the suggested practices have already been implemented in Maryland.

##### Federal Legislation

Ms. Lamone noted that there are three bills pending before the U.S. Congress, one of which was introduced on July 25<sup>th</sup>. All of the bills are very different and are moving slowly. Ms. Lamone reported that a hearing was held on July 25<sup>th</sup>, and it appeared that the members were receptive to the statements made by election officials.

##### Election Judges' Manual and Training

Ms. Lamone explained that the State develops the election judges' manual and identifies where local boards can customize to reflect county-specific procedures. Mr. Thomann noted that this manual is an invaluable document for election judges.

Election judges' training began in Baltimore City the week of July 16<sup>th</sup>. As of July 17<sup>th</sup>, over 900 election judges (approximately 30% of the election judges needed for the election) had signed up for

STATE BOARD MEETING  
151 WEST STREET, SUITE 200, ANNAPOLIS, MD 21401

a training class. The University of Baltimore has the contract to conduct the training and is using a website to assign election judges to classes. Class size is limited, and when the class is full, the class is closed and another class opens up.

The first chapters of the 2008 election judges' manual will be posted to the on-line library the week of July 23<sup>rd</sup>. Once they are posted, the local boards can begin customizing the chapters and submitting them for approval. Ms. Lamone explained the on-line library, and Mr. Goldstein referred board members to the website overview document for additional information.

## **5. Candidacy and Campaign Finance Division**

As of July 18, 2007, only 7 candidates have officially filed for office in the 2008 Presidential Election.

The Division proceeded with a mass mailing to all active committees to make them compliant with the changes in the law from the 2007 session of the General Assembly. The mailing included the *Affidavit of Designation*, where a committee designates an election in which it will participate, the *Campaign Finance Newsletter*, and for treasurers, the latest version of ELECTrack EFS. Under a new law, committees can designate the elections in which they will be participating, and they make this designation on the *Affidavit of Designation*.

Additionally, the Division has updated the file format specifications for electronic filing from outside vendors. The changes in the file format reflect the legislative changes, all of the improvements made to ELECTrack EFS as well as addressing the importation problems that occurred in the 2006 election. Currently, Kurt Snyder is working with the vendors on receiving test files.

On July 17, 2006, Mr. DeMarinis conducted a training seminar in Baltimore City on the reporting requirements and responsibilities for Chairman and Treasurers. The seminar focused on the basics of campaign finance compliance, electronic filing as well as a general overview of election law. Mr. DeMarinis reported that less than ten people attended the training, but Mr. Thomann noted that it was very informative.

## **6. Voting System**

The Voting System Division is finalizing the *Conducting the Election Guide* used by the local boards to prepare for the 2007 Baltimore City Mayoral and 2008 Presidential Elections. The *Conducting the Election Guide* is a document that provides instructions to the local boards on ballot proofing, logic and accuracy (L&A) processing, canvassing procedures, and election day activities. The *Guide* also contains checklists and forms used by the local boards to prepare and execute the election. Prior to each election cycle, the Division reviews this document.

The Division is ordering the election supplies for each local board of elections to prepare for the upcoming 2007 Mayoral and 2008 Presidential Elections. The supplies include signs for each precinct, envelopes for absentee and provisional ballots, batteries for encoders, polling place posters, "I Voted" stickers, etc.

Diebold has qualified a local printer to print absentee ballot envelopes and ballots. The qualification certifies that the absentee ballots printed will be processed correctly by the voting equipment. The first print job will be for the Baltimore City Mayoral Primary Election.

STATE BOARD MEETING  
151 WEST STREET, SUITE 200, ANNAPOLIS, MD 21401

Ms. Mack asked whether the printer has the capability, to which Mr. Torre responded that they did. Mr. Thomann inquired as to whether the State oversees the physical security of the ballot, and Mr. Torre responded by providing an overview of the security measures in place at the facility. Both Mr. Torre and Ms. Lamone noted that the printer does other high security print jobs for the federal government. Ms. Mack asked whether this contract was bid or sole source, to which Mr. Torre responded that he invited four printers to respond, and only one responded. The printer is charging the same amount as the agency would pay if Diebold printed the ballot under the current contract. Mr. Torre reported that the State, Diebold, and the printer are building the specifications to print ballots, and once the specifications are built, the contract can go out for bid. Mr. Torre noted that his goal is to have no less than two printers and hopes to have four local printers but explained the significant risks a printer takes by agreeing to print ballots. In response to a question about the value of the contract, Mr. Torre noted that the contract was worth \$32,000. Mr. Thomann asked who pays for the ballots, and Ms. Lamone responded that the State pays and then bills the counties. In response to a question from Mr. McManus, Mr. Torre stated that the printer is DigitalInk located in Dillsburg, Pennsylvania.

The 2007 Baltimore City Mayoral Primary Election ballot has been created and delivered to Baltimore City. Baltimore City finished proofing the ballots, and the audio ballot is being proofed by the City. Baltimore City Board of Elections is on schedule and will begin Logic and Accuracy testing on the voting equipment in August.

#### **7. Electronic Pollbooks**

Software testing of ExpressPoll version 2.1.1 has been satisfactorily completed by SBE. The state of Georgia has also tested and certified the software. The statewide upgrade process commenced July 9<sup>th</sup>, with Baltimore City, Harford, Queen Anne's, Kent and Caroline Counties completed as of July 20<sup>th</sup>. The State is on schedule to finish the upgrades by early September. The local boards could either perform the upgrade themselves or have Diebold do it for them. Of the 24 local boards, 22 chose to do the upgrades themselves, with SBE providing training and technical assistance. Post-election maintenance for the electronic pollbooks has been integrated into the upgrade process to minimize the overall effort.

The electronic pollbooks have two cords, one to power the pollbook itself and one to power the printer. Previously, the cords looked the same, but if the pollbook power cord was inserted into the printer, it caused the printer to smoke due to the higher voltage. Diebold has designed a modification to the electronic pollbook printers that securely attaches the printer's power cord to the printer. This will prevent the possibility of inadvertently plugging the electronic pollbook power supply into the printer. The modification has been completed for Baltimore City and will be performed for all jurisdictions at no cost to the State. Mr. Thomann noted that he was very happy with the electronic pollbooks, and Mr. Torre noted that election judges will like the electronic pollbooks even more because of the more simplified software.

An electronic pollbook training database and resource file for the Baltimore City Mayoral Primary Election have been created and distributed to Baltimore City for election judges' training.

#### **8. Information Technology**

##### Training & Certification

In an effort to maintain the highest of technical standards, the IT Division has completed the following training: Natasha Walker – Adobe Illustrator II and Adobe Indesign II. Mr. Lamone noted that, if funding is available, employees are encouraged to attend trainings.

STATE BOARD MEETING  
151 WEST STREET, SUITE 200, ANNAPOLIS, MD 21401

#### Web Accessibility

SBE is looking to procure a resource to assist with modifying the website, so the results and relevant tables are made accessible for the upcoming Baltimore City Elections. Ms. Lamone noted that it is not easy to update existing tables to make them accessible.

#### Technical Upgrades

Ms. Lamone noted that the agency's Oracle Database server is scheduled to be replaced with a new server that has the required warranty and support for the next 4 years. Initial planning for the implementation is ongoing, and the server should be in place and fully operational by the end of August 2007. SBE, with assistance from our vendor, Computer Science Corporation (CSC), is testing a new harvester system design for the Electronic Filing System (EFS) reports sent in electronically via the FTP protocol. The new system will utilize the SFTP protocol which is a secure way/protocol for transferring files electronically. Preliminary tests are being conducted on a test system before the solution will be implemented on the production environment. Implementation is aimed to be completed by the end of August 2007. Ongoing code review of changes made previously to allow for a direct lookup of voter registration information in preparation for putting that functionality into a new release of the Etrack or Electrack application software.

#### New Actions

Ms. Lamone noted the following new actions: (1) proceed with Oracle database server migration; (2) proceed with development and testing of the SFTP Harvester implementation; (3) the IT Division is providing annual security and IT assist visits to all LBEs with individual visits to each county. The assists are due to conclude by the end of July. Mr. Walker asked if there were any findings to the visits, to which Mr. Kortum responded that these visits were in preparation for an annual audit.

### **ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL'S REPORT**

Mr. Davis provided an overview of various litigation activity.

In *Maryland Green Party v. Maryland Board of Elections*, the challenge was to the two-tiered procedure for ballot access arising out of the 2000 election. To form a political party, the party was required to submit a petition of 10,000 signatures, and if a candidate from that political party wanted to run for office, the candidate also needed to submit a petition. The Court of Appeals ruled in 2003 that the two-tiered procedure was unconstitutional, and the Court of Special Appeals subsequently ruled that the Green Party is a "prevailing party" authorized under federal law to receive attorneys' fees. Current litigation surrounds whether the plaintiffs are entitled to attorneys' fees. The Green Party is seeking \$800,000 in attorneys' fees based on approximately 2,100 hours of work at \$400/hour. The State is suggesting one-fifth of that amount and challenging the hourly rate and the reasonableness of the hours. Mr. Walker asked how the payment of attorneys' fees is appropriated, to which Ms. Lamone responded that the Attorney General's Office makes a request to the Board of Public Works. Mr. McManus asked if the "prevailing party" issue had been appealed, to which Mr. Davis responded that it was but the Court of Appeals denied the writ of certiorari.

In *Hufnagel v. State Board of Elections*, the Green Party and its candidates challenged SBE's decision to deny them ballot access in the 2002 election for the same reason as in the 2000 election. This case was filed before the Court of Appeals issued its decision in *Maryland Green Party v. Maryland Board of Elections* declaring the ballot access provisions unconstitutional. The Court of Special Appeals recently issued an unreported opinion affirming the lower court's dismissal of the Green



STATE BOARD MEETING  
151 WEST STREET, SUITE 200, ANNAPOLIS, MD 21401

Party's complaint. The Green Party is trying to obtain attorneys' fees in this case based on the award of attorneys' fees in the *Maryland Green Party v. Maryland Board of Elections*.

In a related case to *Maryland Green Party, Stysley v. Carroll County Board of Elections* also involves an attorneys' fee petition. Using the same attorneys as in *Maryland Green Party*, the Green Party filed a petition seeking \$145,605 in attorneys' fees.

In *Nader for President 2004 v. SBE*, the lawsuit related to whether a signature by a registered voter could be accepted on a petition if the voter signed the petition in a county other than the county in which the voter was registered. The Court of Appeals recently issued an opinion explaining its decision, and the State settled the plaintiff's fee petition for \$9,050 (an average hourly rate of \$162).

Mr. Davis noted that *Schade v. SBE* has been stayed until the General Assembly approves next year's budget and that the discovery phase of this litigation has been very time-consuming. Mr. McManus inquired as to the impact of the funding being approved, to which Mr. Davis noted that the plaintiffs would either voluntarily dismiss or defendants would move to dismiss based on the case being moot.

In *Schaefer v. Lamone and Rayburn*, the plaintiff challenged the placement of candidates on the ballot, specifically that the alphabetical arrangement denies him equal protection. A decision is expected. In *Vovak v. Duncan*, a candidate for U.S. Senate in the 2006 Republican Primary Election sued to have his nickname ("The Wig Man") included on the ballot. An appellate decision is expected.

Lastly, Mr. Davis reported that he prepared an Attorney General's opinion on absentee ballot oaths (oath of an absentee voter should track the language in the *Constitution of Maryland*) and drafted an Attorney General's opinion on administrative contributions. In response to a question from Mr. McManus, Mr. DeMarinis explained that administrative contributions are contributions not used for election-related purposes and fall outside the contribution limits. Mr. Thomann inquired about Mr. Davis' written statement that he drafted a memo reaffirming previous advice that 17 year olds could not vote in a primary election as a result of the decision of the Court of Appeals in *Lamone v. Capozzi*. Mr. Davis responded that the statute was not clear and that prior practice had permitted 17 year olds to vote in primary elections.

#### **APPROVAL OF ABSENTEE VOTING FORMS**

Ms. Trella noted that the General Assembly's Administrative, Executive, and Legislative Review Committee approved on July 26, 2007, the emergency regulations amending the deadline to mail an absentee ballot. Ms. Trella explained that the absentee voting forms being presented for approval (2007 Absentee Ballot Application, 2008 Absentee Ballot Application, 2007 Instructions to Absentee Voter, 2007 Late Absentee Ballot Application, 2008 Late Absentee Ballot Application, 2007 Instructions for Voter Receiving Ballot by Fax, and 2008 Instructions for Voter Receiving Ballot by Fax) were based on the forms used in 2006 and were updated to reflect changes in law and regulation.

Mr. Walker noted that the Baltimore City Board of Elections' website was not included on one of the forms, to which Ms. Trella noted that it would be added. Ms. Mack made a motion to approve the absentee voting forms. Mr. McManus seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

JULY 27, 2007

STATE BOARD MEETING  
151 WEST STREET, SUITE 200, ANNAPOLIS, MD 21401

### **WAIVER OF CAMPAIGN FINANCE REPORT LATE FEES**

Mr. DeMarinis provided an overview of the determining factors in granting or denying waiver requests.

The Board reviewed the requests for late fee waivers from the following campaign finance entities and the State Administrator's recommended action:

1. Citizens for Alicia Darensbourg – grant request for waiver
2. Citizens for Richard Smith – grant request for waiver
3. Committee to Elect Dave Tritt – grant request for waiver

The Board also reviewed the requests for reconsideration from the following committees and the State Administrator's recommended action:

1. Friends of Stephen George for State Senate District 40 – grant waiver
2. Citizens Supporting (Dana) Dembrow – grant waiver
3. Citizens for Charles J. White – grant waiver
4. District 21 Democrats Leadership Slate – deny waiver

In response to a question from Mr. McManus about Citizens for Charles J. White, Mr. DeMarinis explained that the initial evidence did not justify the granting a complete waiver but the committee subsequently supplied new evidence to justify the waiver. Mr. McManus had a similar question about Friends of Stephen George, and Mr. DeMarinis explained that the initial rejection was based on a failure to file the campaign finance report and, until a committee files the late report, a waiver will not be granted. Mr. DeMarinis noted that the committee filed the report and presented evidence justifying the granting of the waiver.

Mr. Thomann made a motion to accept the State Administrator's recommendations, and the motion was seconded by Mr. McManus. Mr. Jezic abstained from voting on the request for reconsideration for the District 21 Democrats Leadership Slate. Except for Mr. Jezic's abstention for the request for reconsideration for District 21 Democrats Leadership Slate, the motion passed unanimously.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

There was no old business.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

There was no new business.

### **SCHEDULING OF NOVEMBER MEETING**

The next meeting of the State Board will be held on Thursday, August 23, 2007, at 2:30 p.m.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. McManus made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Thomann seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 4:05 p.m.