

COMMITTEE ON ELECTIONS
ASSEMBLY
NEVADA LEGISLATURE

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The Committee on Elections met on Thursday, March 22, 1973, with only Chairman Foote and Assemblymen Crawford and Vergiels in attendance. The other members were unable to attend because other Committees on which they were serving were still in session. No formal action could be transacted due to the fact there was not a quorum. However, out of courtesy to the guests who appeared, it was felt the Committee members present should listen to what the guests cared to contribute. These notes are prepared for informational purposes for those members who were unable to be present. Discussions started at 4:30 P.M.

GUESTS: Carol Brenenberger, League of Women Voters
Bobbie Howard, Secretary of State
W. D. Swackhamer, Secretary of State
Stan Colton, Clark County Registrar of Voters

1. AB 409

Mr. Colton: This is simply to ensure we have better training and people working at the polls. Not to say the ones now working aren't qualified, but a lot don't attend election schools. Clark County used 1700 people in the general election of 1972. Of those 1700, only 900 attended the election board school, which means 800 were technically unqualified and should not have served except under the emergency clause. So this law would provide for the appointment of a chairman by the Election Department and the chairman could go into the precinct from which they are appointed and we would give them names as reference or information. We could also get names and have glossaries filled out regarding their qualifications and, based on the chairman's recommendations after a personal interview, we would make our appointments from our office. That way, there would be some sort of inview by some people on the board - there would also be a capability factor and, therefore, no reflection on the Board as far as the administration of the polling procedures are concerned and the chairman would also be responsible for the people working on her board to attend the school.

Chairman Foote: Do you feel you will be able to find people who are willing to be chairmen?

Mr. Colton: Yes. We probably went through 3500 names and it is supposed to be legally returned to our office in 5 days. This way would cut out that factor but we would know in advance the people would be accepting the appointments. This could all be pre-planned rather than waiting up to the last minute before the election to get it done. It could be an on-going thing year after year and not worry about a major loss of a precinct person. We would have some input we would not otherwise know about.

Assemblyman Crawford: How many are on the board?

Mr. Colton: Three on each board per precinct. If we have a large precinct of, say, 4 machines, we would have it split down the middle and two separate boards with 8 people.

Assemblyman Crawford: What does the school consist of?

Mr. Colton: We hold the school 3 weeks before the election. 158 There is an afternoon class which starts at 1 in the afternoon and runs to about 4 or 5, and then a 7 o'clock class. This is to train the people on the voting machines and the law. We have a lot of volunteers and some senior citizens and they make pretty good workers. But some people have worked for years and might have had a stroke, etc. since they last worked and might be willing to work but are not able to, even though they want to, and it creates technical problems in the polling places.

2. AB 408

Mr. Colton: If this doesn't pass, I don't care. I asked for this to be put in here so if someone comes along and says, "What gives your office authority?" I can say it is right there. It says registrar of voters may hire a deputy of registrar, and he shall do what I tell him to. They are to be performing a non-partisan service but they aren't always performing in a non-partisan manner. They are giving 10¢ for every name produced by the deputy registrar. In Las Vegas, if it is under 10 affidavits we don't pay them, if it is over 10 affidavits we do pay them. These people are technically working from the clerk's office as an extension for these names but at 10¢ a name they can tell us to go -----.

As a deputy registrar they have to perform as a non-partisan. There was a situation in Las Vegas when a person from one party refused to register people from another party. As a representative of the registrar of voter, they would have to register these people. This legislation arose from the County Fiscal Officers meeting which was held in September in Elko and all the county clerks got together and it is their combined feeling. So is it not my particular legislation, or of Washoe County, but of the county clerks of Nevada of 17 counties. Vaughn Smith is a strong advocate of this.

3. AB 285

Mr. Swackhamer read section (f) and his proposed amended wording as well as Mr. McCloskey's proposed amended wording. Assemblyman Vergiels asked that both of these wordings be typed up and presented to the Committee for its consideration.

Mr. Colton: There is one correction that should be made. On 293.590 it says "any entrance to a polling place" and on 590.592 it is "the entrance to a polling place." Each one should be "any entrance. It is to protect the voter from any harrassment in any entrance or regress and (2) to protect the people who live in vicinities who have vans pulling up to block their driveways and saying "vote for me." Also, to get the parking lots of the cities available for the voters.

4. Mr. Colton asked about AB 11 and Chairman Foote advised him it was held up on the Chief Clerk's desk pending amendments. They have put it back in the list for the small counties. Mr. Colton asked it it says "shall" in the small counties and "may" in the large counties. Chairman Foote advised him that it did.

5. Mr. Swackhamer: One of the things I would like to ask about is the ballot pamphlets. Mrs. Ford gave me a list of people who have these. I will be glad to turn it over to the Committee but would like to have them back after you have reviewed the information. Two out of three replies we got back have stopped publishing these already.

Chairman Foote accepted the material Mr. Swackhamer had received and promised it would be returned to him as soon as it had been studied.

6. Mr. Colton advised the "reasonable fee" could be considerably higher than the 15¢ or 10¢ a name and advised the "reasonable fee" scared him. Chairman Foote advised him there was some question on this. Mr. Colton stated in Las Vegas he was told if the papers had been running this information as a display ad and charged for the amount of space it takes up in the paper the price would be considerably higher but since they are restricted to 10¢ a name they will do it for that, but if it is open they will not do it for 10¢ a name. He advised some of these small communities pay as high as \$1400 to have the constitutional things published. He advised he didn't pay that much in Las Vegas but these counties did and it is highway robbery.
7. Mr. Colton asked about AB 42⁷ and was advised it passed the Assembly today.
8. Mr. Colton asked which bills died in Committee. He was advised as follows: AB 9, AB 48, AB 51, AB 235, and AB 251.
9. Mr. Colton asked if any were unsurmountably held up. He was advised the one about legislative expenditures. He was also advised that on AB 189 the Senate has an amendment they put on it which took out gross misdemeanor and made it a misdemeanor. Chairman Foote advised we haven't concurred with that yet.
9. Meeting broke up at 5 o'clock.

Notes respectfully submitted by
Marion Smith
Assembly Attache

msf

ELECTIONS COMMITTEE
GUEST LIST
3-22-13

NAME	ORGANIZATION	REPRESENT.
Carol L. ...	League of Women Voters	
Bobbie ...	Secretary of State	
Wm ...	" " "	

ASSEMBLY

AGENDA FOR COMMITTEE ON ELECTIONS

Date 3/22/73 Time 4 - 5 Room 328

<u>Bills or Resolutions to be considered</u>	<u>Subject</u>	<u>Counsel requested*</u>
AB 408	Enables county clerks to provide rules regulating deputy registrars of voters.	
AB 409	Enables county clerk to delegate initial selection and training of members of election boards to chairmen.	
AB 512	Implements 1972 constitutional amendment relating to initiative.	

*Please do not ask for counsel unless necessary.