

NEVADA LEGISLATURE
ASSEMBLY

162

57TH SESSION

COMMITTEE ON ELECTIONS
MINUTES

DATE: Tuesday, March 27, 1973

ATTENDEES: Foote, Chairman
Gojack, Vice Chairman
Crawford
Ford
Vergiels

ABSENCES: Huff (in committee)
Smith (in committee)

GUESTS:	<u>NAME</u>	<u>ORGANIZATION REPRESENTED</u>
	Mrs. W. B. Humphrey	Republican National Committeewoman
	Bobbie Howard	Secretary of State
	Carol Brenenberger	League of Women Voters
	Mary Lou Whitaker	Self
	E. L. Grotegut	Washoe County Democratic Party
	Ken Haller	Washoe County Democratic Party
	W. D. Swackhamer	Secretary of State

Meeting was called to order by Chairman Foote at 4:15 P.M.

1. AB 189

This bill, which permits an early inventory of the ballot boxes, was passed out of the Elections Committee but was returned from the Senate with an amendment on line 1, page 1. Chairman Foote read the Senate amendment and asked the Committee if they concur or not concur with the Senate amendment. Action taken as follows:

Bill No. AB 189 Date: February 1, 1973
Sponsor: Mr. Banner
Subject: Permits an earlier inventory of absentee ballot boxes.
Committee Action: Assemblyman Ford moved the Elections Committee
Date: 3/27/73 concur with the bill as amended by the Senate.
Seconded by: Assemblyman Crawford

Committee Vote:	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Excused</u>	<u>Absent</u>
Foote	X	-	-	-
Gojack	X	-	-	-
Crawford	X	-	-	-
Ford	X	-	-	-
Huff	-	-	-	X
Smith	-	-	-	X
Vergiels	X	-	-	-

Disposition: Concur with Senate amendments to bill.
Date: 3/27/73

2. AB 545

Chairman Foote advised she was asked to introduce this bill by Mrs. Humphrey, who was in the audience and asked to comment on the bill.

Mrs. Humphrey advised she was questioned why she was elected such a short time before election and they wished they could start their job in the odd numbered year. The election laws say "in the year" (293.130). Mrs. Humphrey read this law. She advised: "The change in 293.133, the number of delegates -- people are always wanting a large representation so the point was the number of registered people following the general election, which is the party's highest registration at any time. ... What happens is on 130, it says "second Tuesday in April in each year in which the general election is to be held." 140 says "in a year in which the election is held." If that phrase could be moved down to follow "the first Tuesday in April", the point is you could start your county convention processes at any time instead of waiting until the general election year. The Republicans said they wanted this and voted on it and I was elected to see if it could be done. Amendments in these two parts that seem to be in conflict -- the man who wrote this up advised me it seemed a simple amendment: Section 1 of 490 so that the phrase "in each year in which the general election" go after "April" in the third line. Then following that, the state convention in 293.150, after the first line and a half "each year in the general election to be held" would be moved to follow "the second Tuesday in May" -- that would set the whole thing up. Yet, it is meant to be permissive and may be others won't like it. We tried it two years ago and couldn't get it worked out so this is not a quick thing.

Assemblyman Ford: I think the concept is true. I've worked in trying to get people involved in their precinct meetings and I believe if we could get people started earlier and could get some flexibility, that would be a good idea.

Mrs. Humphrey: As far as the law goes, a party could set one day for the elections all over the state, but that would be up to the party.

Mr. Haller: On line 5, "at the time of the last general election"-- are you allowing people to represent people who are no longer registered voters?

Mrs. Humphrey: In the election code, an up to date list is a matter of record in the Secretary of State's office.

Mr. Swackhamer: At least we would be able to get a number.

Chairman Foote: It used to be "the number of votes cast for Congress" so this is more easily understood.

Action taken as follows:

Bill No. AB 545 Date: March 8, 1973

Sponsor: Miss Foote (by request)

Subject: Changes permissible meeting times for precinct political conventions.

Committee Action: Assemblyman Gojack made motion to amend and Do Pass

Date: 3/27/73 on 545.

Seconded by: Assemblyman Ford

Committee Vote:	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Excused</u>	<u>Absent</u>
Foote	X	-	-	-
Gojack	X	-	-	-
Crawford	X	-	-	-
Ford	X	-	-	-
Huff	-	-	-	X
Smith	-	-	-	X
Vergiels	X	-	-	-

Disposition: Amend and Do Pass

Date: 3/27/73

3. Bill No. SB 308 Date: February 22, 1973

Sponsor: Senator Blakemore

Subject: Limits number of candidates whose names appear on general election ballot for board of hospital trustees.

Committee Action: Assemblyman Gojack made motion Do Pass.

Date: 3/27/73

Seconded by: Assemblyman Vergiels

Committee Vote:	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Excused</u>	<u>Absent</u>
Foote	X	-	-	-
Gojack	X	-	-	-
Crawford	X	-	-	-
Ford	X	-	-	-
Huff	-	-	-	X
Smith	-	-	-	X
Vergiels	X	-	-	-

Disposition: Do Pass

Date: 3/27/73

4. AB 553

This bill reduces the age of eligibility for candidates for state legislature to age 18 years.

Chairman Foote: I am opposed to this because anyone has to be 25 for Congress of U. S. and just because we have given 18 year olds the right to vote doesn't mean he should come here. You could have a high school kid leaving his classes to come into the Legislature.

Mr. Swackhamer: I would be 1,000% in agreement with Miss Foote. I think it is a bad bill.

Assemblyman Ford: Due to the lawsuits when the people thought they could run and found out they couldn't, this is why I requested it.

Assemblyman Gojack: A young girl did run and was defeated, and I think the reason was because of her age. I think it would take a fantastic person to get elected at age 18.

Mr. Haller: One thing that bothered me in Washoe County -- there were a large number of young people working and in researching the NRS you would have to be an attorney to find out they couldn't vote. That seemed to be unfair.

Mr. Swackhamer: Why don't you put it out as an amendment to be age 21?

Action taken:

Bill No. AB 553 Date: March 9, 1973
 Sponsor: Committee on Elections
 Subject: Reduces age of eligibility for candidates for state legislature.
 Committee Action: Assemblyman Ford moved Do Pass.
 Date: 3/27/73
 Seconded by: Assemblyman Crawford

Committee Vote:	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Excused</u>	<u>Absent</u>
Foote	-	X	-	-
Gojack	X	-	-	-
Crawford	X	-	-	-
Ford	X	-	-	-
Huff	-	-	-	X
Smith	-	-	-	X
Vergiels	X	-	-	-

Disposition: Do Pass. Date: 3/27/73
 Chairman Foote advised she is opposed. She thinks it is a bad bill and will file a minority report and see if she can get others.

5. AB 408

Chairman Foote advised this bill enables county clerks to provide rules regulating deputy registrars of voters and advised she would entertain a motion to "Do Kill" on that bill.

Assemblyman Ford: I thought this was a good bill and would like to hear what others say.

Mr. Haller: I am bitter about this because of misadventures in Brown's office in Washoe County. Democratic registrars have been rather sadly treated.

Assembly

COMMITTEE ON ELECTIONS MINUTES

Tuesday, March 27, 1973

Page 5

Mrs. Humphrey: I feel this is redundant. The county clerk may make these appointments. He has leeway there if there are people he doesn't feel are the right one. I have been a registrar for years and we do all these things. He trains them well. I think it is redundant.

Action taken:

Bill No. AB 408 Date: February 26, 1973
Sponsor: Mr. Banner (by request)
Subject: Enables county clerks to provide rules regulating deputy registrars of voters.
Committee Action: Assemblyman Vergiels made motion to postpone
Date: 3/27/73 indefinitely.
Seconded by: Assemblyman Crawford

Committee Vote:	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Excused</u>	<u>Absent</u>
Foote	X	-	-	-
Gojack	X	-	-	-
Crawford	X	-	-	-
Ford	-	X	-	-
Huff	-	-	-	X
Smith	-	-	-	X
Vergiels	X	-	-	-

Disposition: Indefinite postponement. Date: 3/27/73

Assemblyman Ford: I would like to make an explanation. I was present in a Clark County delegation and several people there in the delegation said, "Well, why couldn't we have you write it in the law?" Over 500 registrars are on the books in Clark County. Some didn't turn the books in, didn't do it accurately, etc. There was a legitimate concern and if he had this law he could point to rules and regulations and could turn down anyone who wanted to be a registrar if he didn't feel they were qualified.

Mrs. Humphrey: In Washoe they have shut us off after election. You bring your books in and you go take the training again if you do it.

Chairman Foote: Mr. Colton advised at the last meeting he was willing for us to kill the bill.

Assemblyman Ford: OK.

6. AB 409

Chairman Foote advised this was the bill Stan Colton felt would give him proper people to be on the election board.

Assembly

COMMITTEE ON ELECTIONS MINUTES

Tuesday, March 27, 1973

Page 6

Action taken:

Bill No. AB 409

Date: February 26, 1973

Sponsor: Mr. Banner (by request)

Subject: Enables county clerk to delegate initial selection and training of members of election boards to chairmen.

Committee Action: Assemblyman Crawford made motion to Do Pass.

Date: 3/27/73

Seconded by: Assemblyman Vergiels

Committee Vote:	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Excused</u>	<u>Absent</u>
Foote	X	-	-	-
Gojack	X	-	-	-
Crawford	X	-	-	-
Ford	X	-	-	-
Huff	-	-	-	X
Smith	-	-	-	X
Vergiels	X	-	-	-

Disposition: Do Pass.

Date: 3/27/73

7. AB 512

Chairman Foote advised this bill makes the law conform with what the constitutional amendment did last week. Action taken as follows:

Bill No. AB 512

Date: March 6, 1973

Sponsor: Committee on Elections

Subject: Implements 1972 constitutional amendment relating to initiative.

Committee Action: Assemblyman Crawford made motion to Do Pass.

Date: 3/27/73

Seconded by: Assemblyman Vergiels

Committee Vote:	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Excused</u>	<u>Absent</u>
Foote	X	-	-	-
Gojack	X	-	-	-
Crawford	X	-	-	-
Ford	X	-	-	-
Huff	-	-	-	X
Smith	-	-	-	X
Vergiels	X	-	-	-

Disposition: Do Pass.

Date: 3/27/73

Assembly

COMMITTEE ON ELECTIONS MINUTES

Tuesday, March 27, 1973

Page 7

8. AB 316

Chairman Foote advised this bill changes name of county clerk's register to registrar of voters' register. Action taken as follows:

Bill No. AB 316

Date: February 16, 1973

Sponsor: Mr. Demers

Subject: Changes name of county clerk's register to registrar of voters' register.

Committee Action: Assemblyman Ford moved "Do Pass."

Date: 3/27/73

Seconded by: Assemblyman Vergiels

Committee Vote:	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Excused</u>	<u>Absent</u>
Foote	X	-	-	-
Gojack	X	-	-	-
Crawford	X	-	-	-
Ford	X	-	-	-
Huff	-	-	-	X
Smith	-	-	-	X
Vergiels	X	-	-	-

Disposition: Do Pass.

Date: 3/27/73

9. AB 317

Assemblyman Ford read the bill and stated she believed there were some suggested corrections on this. It was suggested we have initiative and referendum included. Assemblyman Ford stated she believed it was suggested claims should not be sent to the Secretary of State because they couldn't pay anyway.

Mr. Swackhamer: No, if this bill is passed, I would like it passed right away so we can make allowances for it.

Assemblyman Ford: This is also included in 366. It might be a good idea to hold it until the next meeting.

Chairman Foote: But this is a concurrent referral. It has to go to Ways and Means.

Assemblyman Ford: Why don't we go ahead and Do Pass so we can get it to Ways and Means so the subject can be there and I'll try to get something on 366 Thursday so we can get it out.

It was decided to re-refer to Ways and Means.

10. BDR 20-1992*

This bill separates the offices of Registrar of Voters in Washoe County. It was approved for Committee Introduction.

Assembly

COMMITTEE ON ELECTIONS MINUTES
Tuesday, March 27, 1973
Page 8

169

11. AB 758

This bill concerns writing in the names of candidates.

Mrs. Humphrey: Is that regarding the existing law? Because there is no write-in now.

Mr. Swackhamer: With the present law it says you cannot make any legible mark on your ballot. I think the write-in has been based on this ever since. This just makes it specific.

Mrs. Humphrey: If you are going to have punch cards, where would you write in on it?

Mr. Haller: We would have a problem in Washoe because it was not stated.

Action taken:

Bill No. AB 758 Date: March 21, 1973
Sponsor: Messrs. Crawford, Bennett and Mrs. Ford
Subject: Prohibits write-in voting.
Committee Action: Assemblyman Ford moved "Do Pass."
Date: 3/27/73
Seconded by: Assemblyman Vergiels

Committee Vote:	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Excused</u>	<u>Absent</u>
Foote	X	-	-	-
Gojack	X	-	-	-
Crawford	X	-	-	-
Ford	X	-	-	-
Huff	-	-	-	X
Smith	-	-	-	X
Vergiels	X	-	-	-

Disposition: Do Pass

Date: 3/27/73

12. AB 662

Assemblyman Ford: I still don't see where it does too much to change the registration. Also wonder if it violates the one-man, one vote thing.

Mr. Haller: Three delegates is ridiculous.

Mrs. Humphrey: In Lyon County, they would have lost 4 or 5 delegates. Everyone came in short. In Storey, they were getting their minimum of three on this other.

Assemblyman Ford: I will talk to Dini and Getto to see what they had in mind if you want to postpone this.

It was decided to wait until Assemblyman Ford could report back to the Committee.

Assembly

170

COMMITTEE ON ELECTIONS MINUTES

Tuesday, March 27, 1973

Page 9

13. ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made by Assemblyman Crawford to adjourn. Motion was seconded by Assemblyman Vergiels. Meeting was adjourned at 4:55 P.M.

Minutes respectfully submitted by
Marion Smith
Assembly Attache

ms

ELECTIONS COMMITTEE

GUEST LIST

3-27-73

NAME	ORGANIZATION REPRESENTED
Alice M. B. Humphrey	Republican National Committee
Dorrie Howard	Society of State
Carol Cronenburger	League of Women Voters
Mary Jane Whitaker	Self
Ed. Crisquit	Wake County Democratic Party
Ken Miller	" " "
Wm. Sullivan	Sec of State

ASSEMBLY

AGENDA FOR COMMITTEE ON ELECTIONS

Date 3/27/73 Time 4 - 5 Room 328

<u>Bills or Resolutions to be considered</u>	<u>Subject</u>	<u>Counsel requested*</u>
AB 545	Changes permissible meeting times for precinct political conventions.	
SB 308	Limits number of candidates whose name appear on general election ballot for board of hospital trustees.	
AB 553	Reduces age of eligibility for candidates for state legislature.	

*Please do not ask for counsel unless necessary.