

Assembly

Election Committee Minutes  
April 1, 1975

Tuesday, 8:00 a.m.  
Room 336

Members Present:	Mr. Demers
	Mr. Sena
	Mr. Heaney
	Mr. Vergiels
	Mrs. Wagner
	Mr. Young

Members Absent:	Mr. Chaney
-----------------	------------

Guests:	Representing:
Donald Klasic	Attorney General
Robert Weise	Assemblyman
David Howard	Washoe County
Edmond G. Psaltis	Washoe Co. Teachers Assoc.
Elizabeth Lenz	Washoe Co. School Trustee
Barbara Swanson	Washoe Co.
Jan Hunt	Northwest Reno Improvement Assoc.
Robert Benkovich	Assemblyman
Pam Wilcox	Self
Jerry Whitehead	Washoe County School Board
Bob McQueen	Washoe County School Board
Marvin Piccolo	Washoe County School District
Wm. Swackhamer	Secretary of State

Mr. Demers called the meeting to order at 8:03 a.m. He announced the first order of business would be A.B. 437.

Mr. Klasic spoke on A. B. 437 explaining that it provides criminal penalty for bribing electors. The purpose of the bill is to make it a felony to bribe electors. Presently, there is no law to stop bribery.

Mr. Demers announced the next order of business would be A. B. 431. Mr. Weise spoke as the introducer of this bill. It is to create school trustee election districts in Washoe County. This bill is concerned with the re-districting of the two multi-districts. It would boil down to an East West split in Reno. The purpose of the bill is to eliminate confusion. The purpose of the bill is not to lose any members of the school board. Another purpose of the bill is to eliminate voting of two officials i.e. county commissioner. A map was shown to the visitors and to the committee showing the breakdown of the districts in Washoe County. Mr. Weise stated that the economic distribution would also be better for the election districts.

David Howard spoke in favor of the bill. He addressed the committee as to the mechanics of the bill. Presently, there are 38 different ballot styles. This bill would reduce the ballot structure from

Elections Committee  
April 1, 1975

-2-

38 to 20 and there would be less confusion. It would also decrease the cost from 15 to 20 percent. Mr. Howard stated he would like to see this bill definitely pass.

Mr. Psaltis stated he agreed with Mr. Weise's bill, but there is a problem running at large. He said he would be in favor of a 5 man district; however, if 5 is too small, you could go to 10 and it would be the same as the Assembly Districts. He felt that with a 10 man board, they could meet more frequently and perhaps break up into a fact finding board. As far as 10 members voting, there would not be that big of a problem. He stated there is nothing magical about the number 7 for he suggested the number should be either 5 or 10.

Mrs. Lenz spoke and said she would like to speak on the number of school board members required. She stated nationally, there are very few large school districts. Clark County operates with a 7 member board. She stated she had served with a 12 member board and it is sometimes awkward. However, 5 is too few. We would like to have a trustee represent a district as we can appreciate Mr. Howard's problems with the smaller districts. The map was again shown with the breakdown of districts.

Mrs. Wagner inquired what the number is in other states. The answer was that in most districts, there are 7 members and in smaller districts, there are 5 members.

Mr. Weise stated that the districts should be broken down as follows:  
District F: 23, 24, 25, 27 and 28  
District G: 26, 29, 30, 31 and 32

Mr. Piccolo stated that only the larger districts are in the East, and he stated he was against the committee approach, as the great bulk are either 5 or 7 members.

Ms. Swanson felt that more members of the school board would be a better measure. She didn't feel we should have large districts however, she felt different numbers should be encouraged.

Mrs. Wagner asked if she would like to see the number 10 used. She answered, "yes". She felt it would work and that we should have a change. Mr. Heaney inquired why she felt the board should be larger as by this change, different laws must be changed. Ms. Swanson felt there was no real representation with the present number and that 10 would better serve the people.

Ms. Hunt agreed that a 10 member board would be much better. By using 10, it would give more adequate representation. In this way, more people can run as these are not paid offices. Also, the smaller a district, the more a person will want to run. It is important that the school board give representation to the constituency. 7

## Assembly

Elections Committee  
April 1, 1975

-3-

127

is not the ideal number. She agreed with Mr. Weise's bill, however what she is saying is that she would like to see the number 10 used.

Mr. Benkovich stated that he was in favor of the pairings as listed in the bill.

Mrs. Wilcox stated that she was a parent and also active in the community. She stated that she was for the 10 member board. She felt it was a "red herring" when it became too big as she felt no one would run when the district was too big.

Mr. Whitehead stated he was not in favor of Mr. Weise's bill as it is written. He felt that 5 members was not enough; however, there is a good reason why 10 members is too big and cumbersome. He felt that Mr. Weise's presentation was reasonable.

Mr. McQueen stated that school board members feel that 7 members are ideal.

Mr. Demers announced the next bill to be considered was A.B. 434 which was introduced by Mr. Young.

A.B. 434 provides for election of members of state grazing boards. Mr. Young summarized his bill as follows: The bill changes the election procedures from the old Taylor Grazing Act in which State Boards were the same as those elected under Section 18 of the Taylor Act. It sets up new provisions to be elected under the supervision of the County Clerks in the counties of the Bureau of Land Management Headquarters. Mr. Demers agreed to hold this bill for further clarification.

The next bill to be taken up was A.B. 441.

Mr. Benkovich stated that this bill is identical to S.B. 355 which is presently in the Senate. The purpose of this bill is to decide who is a registered voter. This bill allows the County Clerk to provide a list of qualified people. It was stated that on page 2 of the bill, lines 15-19 is a poll tax.

Mr. Howard stated that the precinct lines are not clear. There is also a constitutional problem that says you must register before any election. The tax of 15¢ comes from the county. There is a problem of people who live outside of the area; also they cannot use a standard form. There should be eligibility that is put out in the polling areas.

Mr. Heaney stated there was confusion because many people who have summer homes in Crystal Bay--61% of them live in California.

Mrs. Wagner inquired if there would be a solution to this problem. Mr. Howard said there are two answers to the problem. First, you

## Assembly

Elections Committee  
April 1, 1975

-4-

128

should require an affidavit of eligibility. The second answer would be to physically move the election polling area in Sun Valley to let them vote in the water district.

Mr. Swackhamer stated from the audience that he wanted to introduce some housekeeping parts of the election. He also stated they would be presented in a package.

Mr. Demers stated that the committee agreed to introduce BDR 25-811. The chairman stated that the committee would meet at 12:30 in connection with the following bills: A.B. 431, A.B. 434, A.B. 437, A.B. 441, A.B. 445, SJR 14, A.B. 398, A.B. 416 and hold A.B. 410.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:35 a.m.

---

The next meeting took place at 12:40 p.m. with all 7 members of the committee present. The following action took place on the following bills and resolution:

- S. J. R. 14 - It was moved to pass by Mr. Sena and seconded by Mrs. Wagner. All members voted "aye" for the bill.
- A. B. 437 - It was agreed to pass as amended unanimously.
- A. B. 441 - Indefinite postponement because the Senate has the identical bill.
- A. B. 431 - A motion was made to adopt the bill as amended and the motion was seconded by Mrs. Wagner. All members were in favor of the bill. Mr. Heaney moved that the bill be passed as amended. All members voted "aye".
- A. B. 398 - The motion was made by Mrs. Wagner to adopt the bill and seconded by Mr. Heaney. All members voted "aye". It was moved by Mr. Heaney to adopt the bill as amended. It was seconded by Mrs. Wagner.
- A. B. 410 - Moved to pass by Mr. Heaney and seconded by Mr. Demers. All members voted "aye" to pass the bill.
- A. B. 445 - It was agreed to hold this bill until next Tuesday when the introducer Mr. Hickey would be present.
- A. B. 294 - The motion was made to adopt the bill as amended by Mr. Young. Mr. Sena seconded the motion. Mr. Swackhamers amendments will be added.

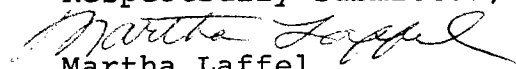
The meeting adjourned at 1:35 p.m.

Attachments:

Draft A.B. 294

Mr. Swackhamers Ltr.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Martha Laffel  
Assembly Attache

ASSEMBLY

AGENDA FOR COMMITTEE ON ELECTIONS

8:00-9:30

124

Date April 1, 1975 Time 2:30-1:00 Room 336

Bills or Resolutions to be considered	Subject	Counsel requested*
A.B. 431	Creates school trustee election districts in Washoe County.	
A.B. 434	Provides for election of members of state grazing boards.	
A.B. 437	Provides criminal penalty for bribing electors.	
A.B. 441	Requires persons voting in general improvement district elections to register with county clerk or registrar of voters.	
A.B. 445	Eliminates requirement for runoff election for nonpartisan candidate who receives a majority of the votes cast for the office in the primary election.	
S.J.R. 14	Proposes constitutional amendment to eliminate certain restrictions on the right to seek elective office.	

ACTION TAKEN AT 3/25/75 MEETING

✓ A.B. 398	Held pending clarification
✓ A.B. 406	Killed
✓ A.B. 410	Held pending clarification
✓ A.B. 416	Held pending clarification
✓ A.B. 463	Amend and do pass
✓ A.B. 336	Amend and do pass

\*Please do not ask for counsel unless necessary.

STATE OF NEVADA  
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

(Mrs.) BOBBIE HOWARD  
CHIEF DEPUTY

RUSSEL W. BUTTON  
DEPUTY  
129 \*



CARSON CITY, NEVADA 89701

March 25, 1975

To: Hon. John Vergiels  
From: Wm. D. Swackhamer  
Subject: Elections

" The Secretary of State shall have the authority to interpret statutes and rules and regulations, and give directions necessary to standardize and make effective the administration of the provisions of this article. "

The above is taken (not verbatim) from the election laws in West Virginia.

I think that this language would be appropriate for several of the bills before the legislature.