

2011 NASS Winter Conference
NASS Voter Participation Committee
Sunday, February 13, 2011
9:00 AM – 10:40 AM
Washington, DC

Members Present:

Hon. Mark Ritchie, MN – Interim Chair
Hon. Ken Bennett, AZ
Hon. Debra Bowen, CA – By Proxy
Hon. Kurt Browning, FL
Hon. Brian Kemp, GA
Hon. Tom Schedler, LA
Hon. Robin Carnahan, MO
Hon. John Gale, NE
Hon. Al Jaeger, ND
Hon. Ross Miller, NV
Hon. Linda McCulloch, MT
Hon. Ralph Mollis, RI –By Proxy
Hon. Tre Hargett, TN
Hon. Jim Condos, VT
Hon. Sam Reed, WA

NASS Staff:

Ms. Leslie Reynolds, NASS Executive Director
Mr. John Milhofer, NASS Policy Analyst

Roll Call

Secretary Ritchie called the meeting to order at 9:05 AM.

Committee Business

Consideration of NASS Partnership Renewal

Secretary Ritchie announced that there was a NASS partnership renewal submission from the Nonprofit Voter Engagement Network (NVEN). He noted that NVEN has worked with NASS on efforts to update the NASS Can I Vote website.

ACTION ITEM

On consideration of the partnership renewal request from the Nonprofit Voter Engagement Network, Secretary Reed moved to renew the partnership. Secretary Condos seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Analysis of Voter Turnout, Voter Registration, and Early Voting in the 2010 General Election

Secretary Ritchie introduced Dr. Michael McDonald, Associate Professor at George Mason University. Dr. McDonald's presentation included the following points:

- Voter turnout in 2010 was 40.9%
- Over the last 30-40 years, northern states have the highest voter turnout rates
- In presidential elections, turnout for young people is twice the rate of midterm elections
- Early voting in 2010 was around 20-25%, a decline of about 5% from 2008
- The website www.publicmapping.org allows people to draw district boundaries

Update on the Pew State Election Website Assessment Project

Secretary Ritchie introduced Kim Alexander, President of the California Voter Foundation. She said that they have been working on the project over the last year. Her presentation included the following points:

- The objective of the project is to review information on state election websites
- The process involved a survey to states, review of site content, sharing results, and a follow up
- Forty-nine of fifty one states offer an online polling place lookup tool
- Forty-one states websites provide a voter registration status tool
- Twenty-nine state website provide absentee ballot status
- Tips for web sites include using common terms and linking directly to informative tools
- They are in the process of writing the study results which will be published later this year

Implications of Photo Identification Laws for Election Officials and Secretaries of State

Secretary Ritchie introduced Ms. Tova Wang, Senior Democracy Fellow at Demos. Ms. Wang's comments included the following points:

- At least 10 states are in the process of passing restrictive voter identification laws
- All of the bills in this legislative session involve government issued photo ID
- Some states are considering bills that are more restrictive than the laws in Georgia and Indiana
- Implementing photo ID laws could cost states millions of dollars in difficult economic times
- Costs include poll worker training, outreach, signage, and additional staff time
- Even if cost wasn't an issue, photo ID bills will have a damaging impact on voters
- Students, elderly, disabled, and minority voters are less likely to have photo identification

Georgia's Implementation of Photo Identification for Voting

Secretary Ritchie introduced Georgia Secretary of State Brian Kemp to talk about Georgia's experience implementing photo identification for voting. His presentation included the following points:

- In 2006, Georgia passed a law requiring voters to present photo identification
- Georgia provides a free Voter ID card for individuals that do not have photo ID
- Since 2006 Georgia has issued 23,899 Voter ID Cards
- If a voter does not have photo identification they can vote a provisional ballot
- Photo ID implementation included significant education and outreach

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MEETING MINUTES

- Outreach efforts included mail inserts, PSAs, advertising, and reminder phone calls
- Georgia has spent approximately 773 thousand dollars to implement its voter ID system

The meeting adjourned at 10:45 AM.