



Governmental Affairs Policy Committee

ACTION PACKET

**Wednesday, February 17, 2010
8:30 AM - 12:00 PM
Webster Hall, 212 Knott Building**

**Larry Cretul
Speaker**

**Robert C. "Rob" Schenck
Chair**

COMMITTEE MEETING REPORT
Governmental Affairs Policy Committee

2/17/2010 8:30:00AM

Location: Webster Hall (212 Knott)

Summary:

Governmental Affairs Policy Committee

Wednesday February 17, 2010 08:30 am

HB 57 Workshopped

HB 131 Workshopped

HB 213 Workshopped

HB 339 Workshopped

HB 407 Workshopped

HJR 493 Workshopped

HB 625 Workshopped

HB 681 Workshopped

HB 835 Workshopped

HB 869 Workshopped

PCB GAP 10-02 Favorable

Yeas: 11 Nays: 0

Committee meeting was reported out: Wednesday, February 17, 2010 2:13:08PM

COMMITTEE MEETING REPORT
Governmental Affairs Policy Committee

2/17/2010 8:30:00AM

Location: Webster Hall (212 Knott)

Attendance:

	<i>Present</i>	<i>Absent</i>	<i>Excused</i>
Robert Schenck (Chair)	X		
Kevin Ambler	X		
Thomas Anderson			X
Oscar Braynon II	X		
James Frishe	X		
Doug Holder	X		
Paige Kreegel	X		
Rick Kriseman	X		
Debbie Mayfield	X		
Charles McBurney	X		
Scott Randolph	X		
Kenneth Roberson	X		
Kelly Skidmore	X		
Totals:	12	0	1

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COMMITTEE MEETING REPORT
Governmental Affairs Policy Committee

2/17/2010 8:30:00AM

Location: Webster Hall (212 Knott)

PCB GAP 10-02 : Governor's private secretary

Favorable

	<i>Yea</i>	<i>Nay</i>	<i>No Vote</i>	<i>Absentee Yea</i>	<i>Absentee Nay</i>
Kevin Ambler			X		
Thomas Anderson			X		
Oscar Braynon II	X				
James Frishe	X				
Doug Holder	X				
Paige Kreegel	X				
Rick Kriseman	X				
Debbie Mayfield	X				
Charles McBurney	X				
Scott Randolph	X				
Kenneth Roberson	X				
Kelly Skidmore	X				
Robert Schenck (Chair)	X				
Total Yeas: 11		Total Nays: 0			

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2/17/2010 8:30:00AM

Location: Webster Hall (212 Knott)

Workshop

Department of State's legislative package on elections

Appearances:

Kurt Browning, Secretary of State (Lobbyist) (State Employee) - Information Only

Department of State's legislative package

Department of State

500 S. Bronough Street

Tallahassee FL 32399-0250

Phone:850-245-6500

Discussion of other elections issues

Appearances:

Kraig Conn (Lobbyist) - Information Only

Election Issues

Florida League of Cities

301 S. Bronough St. Ste. 300

Tallahassee FL 32301

Phone:850-222-9684

Ron Labasky (Lobbyist) - Information Only

Election Issues

Florida State Association of Supervisors of Elections

214 S. Adams Street

Tallahassee FL 32302

Phone:850-222-7206

HB 131:

Workshopped

Appearances:

Kurt Browning, Secretary of State (Lobbyist) (State Employee) - Information Only

Elections

Department of State

500 S. Bronough Street

Tallahassee FL 32399-0250

Phone:850-245-6500

HB 213:

Workshopped

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COMMITTEE MEETING REPORT
Governmental Affairs Policy Committee

2/17/2010 8:30:00AM

Location: Webster Hall (212 Knott)

HB 339:

Workshopped

Appearances:

Brian Griffiths, Senior Program Analyst (General Public) - Proponent

Elections

Federal Voting Assistance Program

1155 Defense Pentagon

Washington DC 20301

Phone:703-588-1584

Eric Sherman, Department of Defense State Liaison (General Public) - Proponent

Elections

Deputy Under Secretary of Defense, Military Community and Family Policy

8929 Spring Harvest Lane West

Jacksonville FL 32244

Phone:904-537-6273

Kate Viar, Officer of Campaigns (General Public) - Proponent

Elections

PEW Charitable Trusts

901 E. Street

Washington DC 20004

Phone:202-540-6324

Kurt Browning, Secretary of State (Lobbyist) (State Employee) - Information Only

Elections

Department of State

500 S. Bronough Street

Tallahassee FL 32399-0250

Phone:850-245-6500

Paul Lux, Supervisor of Elections (General Public) - Information Only

Elections

Self/constituents

196 Villacrest Drive

Crestview FL 32536

Phone:850-225-7096

HB 407:

Workshopped

Appearances:

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COMMITTEE MEETING REPORT
Governmental Affairs Policy Committee

2/17/2010 8:30:00AM

Location: Webster Hall (212 Knott)

Michael Richards, Election Administration Manager (Lobbyist) - Proponent
Student Voter Education
Project Vote
3458 Courtland Blvd.
Deltona FL 32738
Phone:407-259-1179

Susan Gill, Citrus County Supervisor of Elections (General Public) - Information Only
Student Voter Education
Florida State Association of Supervisors of Elections
120 N. Apopka Ave.
Inverness FL 34450
Phone:352-341-6750

HB 57:

Workshopped

Appearances:

Susan Gill, Citrus County Supervisor of Elections (General Public) - Information Only
Early Voting
Florida State Association of Supervisors of Elections
120 N. Apopka Ave.
Inverness FL 34450
Phone:352-341-6750

HB 625:

Workshopped

HB 681:

Workshopped

Appearances:

Michael Richards, Election Administration Manager (Lobbyist) - Information Only
Challenging a Person Desiring to Vote
Project Vote
3458 Courtland Blvd.
Deltona FL 32738
Phone:407-259-1179

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Location: Webster Hall (212 Knott)

HB 835:

Workshopped

HB 869:

Workshopped

HJR 493:

Workshopped

Appearances:

Eric Draper, Ex. Director (Lobbyist) - Information Only

Election of Members of Governing Boards Possessing Authority to Adopt Millage Rates

Fl. Audubon

2507 Callaway Rd. #103

Tallahassee FL 32303

Phone:850-224-7546

Jan Gorrie, Attorney (Lobbyist) - Opponent

Election of Members of Governing Boards Possessing Authority to Adopt Millage Rates

Safety Net Hospital Alliance of Florida

401 E. Jackson St.

Tampa FL 33602

Phone:813-222-8139

Noah Valenstein, Attorney (Lobbyist) - Information Only

Election of Members of Governing Boards Possessing Authority to Adopt Millage Rates

Everglades Trust

215 S. Monroe

Tallahassee FL 32301

Phone:850-222-6550

Sam Bell (Lobbyist) - Information Only

Election of Members of Governing Boards Possessing Authority to Adopt Millage Rates

1298 Millstream

Tallahassee FL 32312

Phone:850-222-3533

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2/17/2010 8:30:00AM

Location: Webster Hall (212 Knott)

Tim Stanfield, Asst. General Counsel (Lobbyist) - Proponent

Election of Members of Governing Boards Possessing Authority to Adopt Millage Rates

Florida League of Cities

301 S. Bronough

Tallahassee FL 32302

Phone:702-3692

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Texas Signing Ceremony

Partnership Progress through FY 09

Governors, legislators and other leaders are making a difference for military families.

Care of the Guard and Reserve: The National Governors Association survey shows states are offering over 1,470 benefits designed to support their Guard and Reserve members as they deploy and return from deployment.

Education: The Interstate Compact was enacted by 26 states in its first two years, and this momentum has led to even stronger current interest among the state policymakers.

Unemployment compensation for military spouses: Thirty-five states now expressly grant unemployment compensation eligibility to spouses who leave employment because of a military move, more than tripling the number since 2004.

Consumer protection for Service members and their families: Twenty-eight states agree to either enforce the federal regulation or prohibit payday and vehicle title loans.

What You Can Do to Help

State Policymakers: Visit our website to learn more about our 10 Key Issues and to see what other states are doing. In addition, we will be pleased to provide assistance; our contact information is on our website.

School Officials: Contact us to learn more about the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children.

Service Members, Families: Help inform policymakers and other leaders in your state and community about the barriers you face.

Non-Profit Organizations: Contact us to discuss how we can work together to meet common goals.

Business and Community Leaders: Open employment opportunities to returning veterans – particularly those that are severely wounded, ill or injured, and also to military spouses.

Please visit our website for additional information on the 10 Key Issues and for our contact information at www.USA4MilitaryFamilies.org.

*Serving Active Duty, Guard, Reserve
and Their Families.*

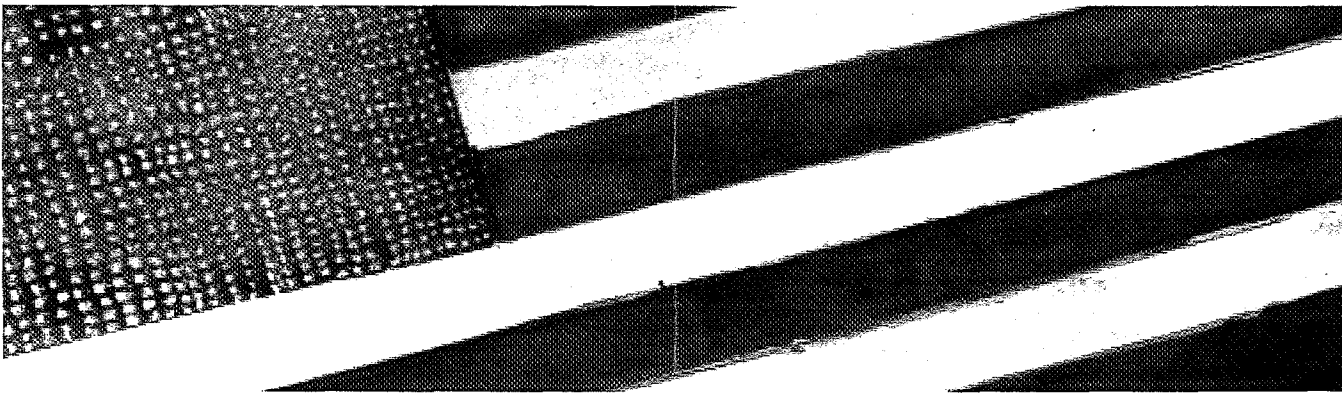
As of December 2009

Department of Defense State Liaison Office



www.USA4MilitaryFamilies.org





What Makes Military Life Different

Military families share the same hopes, dreams and needs as all American families: jobs, stable finances, and a good education for their children. However, unlike other American families, they go wherever the military needs them, often on very short notice.

State Assistance is Essential

The Federal government is a good employer – providing health care, housing and other benefits, but many of the issues that impact military families like supporting spouse careers, education and consumer protection can best be addressed in state policy or by leaders in local communities.



Colorado signing ceremony

We Offer a Way to Help

We want to engage with community leaders, non-profit associations, and especially state policymakers about the needs of military members and their families.

Through this state–military partnership, we seek to remove unnecessary barriers to the quality of life of military families. This will increase retention and improve the readiness of our nation’s armed forces.



10 Key Issues

- 1 Increase key support Guard and Reserve Members and their Families.
- 2 Ensure deployment separation does not determine child custody decisions or impact visitation rights.
- 3 Increase access to quality, affordable childcare for military families.
- 4 Minimize school disruption for military children during their frequent transitions between school systems and the deployment of their military parent(s) through state participation in the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children.
- 5 Enhance opportunities for portable careers for military spouses through improved processes for licensing and certification.
- 6 Expand unemployment compensation eligibility for military spouses when they must leave employment due to the reassignment of their military member.
- 7 Promote state enforcement of the DoD predatory lending regulation.
- 8 Improve absentee voting for military members and their families.
- 9 Ensure state laws comport with DoD rules on the disposition of Service member’s remains
- 10 Support or enhance centers of influence which assist in strategic foreign languages that support the economic and national security interests of the United States.

JULY 2009

Making the Election System Work for Military and Overseas Voters

The Pew Center on the States supports policies, practices and technology to improve the accuracy, convenience, efficiency and security of U.S. elections. Pew's Military and Overseas Citizen Voting Initiative aims to remove the obstacles facing military and overseas citizens to ensure they can exercise their right to vote—no matter where they may be around the world.

Millions of Americans—uniformed service members, their spouses and dependents and overseas civilians—are ensured the right to vote in federal elections under the federal Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (UOCAVA). Americans overwhelmingly want the system to work well for military and overseas voters. A bipartisan Tarrance Group/Lake Research Partners poll found 96 percent of Americans believe it is important that these voters have an opportunity to vote in U.S. elections. The poll also shows that 81 percent of Americans favor creating a uniform national set of rules for military and overseas voters. However, UOCAVA relies on states for implementation, resulting in a patchwork of state absentee ballot laws and procedures that present impediments to overseas voters.



Obstacles to Overseas Voting

Problems arise for military and civilian overseas voting at every step of the process, from maintaining accurate registration rolls for a highly mobile population, to casting ballots and ensuring the votes are counted to providing information to navigate the complex process of requirements and deadlines.

Earlier this year, Pew issued "No Time to Vote: Challenges Facing America's Overseas Military Voters." The report found that 25 states and the District of Columbia provide

insufficient time for overseas military voters to vote and have their votes count. Pew identified three major factors in various state absentee voting laws and procedures that impede military and overseas voters from voting: relying partially or entirely on mail delivery for the voting process; mailing absentee ballots later in the election calendar and closer to Election Day; and imposing earlier deadlines for returning completed ballots.

The current election system relies on antiquated methods and fails to leverage new technology that has significantly enhanced other aspects of our lives. When combined with inconsistent state laws and absentee ballot procedures, states too often fail to allow overseas voters sufficient time to vote, provide the voting information they need or locate them accurately. As a result, too many do not get a say in our democracy.

A Complex System to Navigate

Military and overseas voters find it difficult to access information needed to properly register and request ballots. The U.S. Department of Defense's Federal Voting Assistance Program (FVAP) produces the annual Voting Assistance Guide, a 460-page instruction manual that details the state-by-state procedures governing all these steps. Although Voting Assistance Officers are assigned to assist military personnel with the process, their assistance is limited by regulations and time constraints, leaving these voters to navigate obstacles with little guidance.

Moreover, military voters face a variety of state laws regulating how to request, complete and submit

an absentee ballot. A unit of 50 overseas soldiers and contractors could theoretically all have different registration deadlines, balloting options, voting eligibility rules, mailing timeframes, and/or submission deadlines based on their state of residency and when they last voted.

Most overseas voters are also unaware of the Federal Write-in Absentee Ballot (FWAB), a readily available alternative ballot that serves as a backup measure for voters who do not receive their local absentee ballot in time. Although it is universally accepted by states and available for download online, it is seldom used or promoted by states. In addition, states are required to accept the FWAB for federal races, but approximately half accept it for all state and local races as well.¹

The Result of a Broken System

Based on a survey of seven states by the Congressional Research Service, an average of 27.95 percent of military and overseas ballots in the 2008 election were returned as undeliverable, lost, or rejected.² One state in the survey, West Virginia, counted less than 40 percent of UOCAVA ballots.³ Many voters also give up on the process because they do not receive their information or ballot in time and are unaware of alternatives such as the FWAB.

Even those voters from states with enough time to vote are often only able to do so by faxing or e-mailing their completed ballots, raising concerns about privacy. As a result, many voters must compromise the secrecy of their vote or risk identity theft in order to return their ballot on time. Additionally, e-mail ballots could

¹ In a survey of state election officials, Pew found that 28 states accept the FWAB for all state and local elections, including those not occurring during a federal election. Additionally, 33 states accept the FWAB for all state and local elections occurring during a federal election. These numbers are not complete because two states did not respond to the survey.

² "Lost" ballots, as defined by the Congressional Research Service, are ballots mailed out but never returned.

³ "Information for the Upcoming Senate Rules and Administration Committee Hearing on the Uniformed and Overseas Absentee Voting Act," Congressional Research Service, May 11, 2009.

increase the risks to the integrity of the election system by allowing unsecure, unverifiable means of submitting completed ballots.

Commonsense Reforms

Although Pew's "No Time to Vote" reported that 25 states and the District of Columbia should improve their absentee ballot procedures to give UOCAVA voters enough time to vote, *all* states could significantly improve their voting process for military and overseas voters. The Pew Center on the States is engaged in a multi-year initiative to advance short and long-term solutions. We are working with the states and a wide array of partners to advance commonsense reforms to make the election system work better for Americans around the world who defend our country and represent its ideals. Those key reforms include the following:

Send Ballots Earlier and Faster

States should print and mail ballots earlier in the election cycle to allow enough time to compensate for any potential delays later in the process. Furthermore, if states would expedite the mailing of ballots through existing mail methods (military mail and postal service), many states would provide voters with sufficient time to vote. Additionally, transmitting blank ballots electronically does not risk voters' privacy while improving the process in all states, especially the 16 states and the District of Columbia that do not currently provide enough time to vote.⁴

Build More Time into the Voting Process

States should allow a minimum of 45 days for ballot transit time (from the date of sending the ballots out to

the deadline for receiving them back) and eliminate the notary requirement. Twenty-two states do not follow FVAP's guideline to allow a minimum period of 45 days for ballot transit time. Furthermore, locating acceptable overseas notaries (required by eight states for UOCAVA ballots) costs valuable time in remote locations and could easily be replaced with a self-administered oath, as per FVAP recommendations.⁵

Increase Awareness and Expand the Use of the FWAB

The FWAB currently serves as a safety net for UOCAVA voters who request an official absentee ballot, but either do not receive it or lack the time to return it. Voters can download the FWAB online but many are unaware of its availability. Although the FWAB is accepted by all states, some states elect to accept it only for federal offices or only from uniformed military service members. The states would better serve voters by increasing awareness of the FWAB, making it available to all UOCAVA voters and accepting it for federal, state and local offices.

Develop a Model Law for States

With Pew's support, the Uniform Law Commission (ULC) is drafting a model law for states to eliminate unnecessary procedural requirements and build in at least 45 days for delivery and return of overseas ballots. The goal is to produce a Uniform Military and Overseas Voter Act with consistent timelines, requirements and standards for UOCAVA registration, absentee ballot distribution and ballot voting—not to mention improved technology for ballot transmission.

⁴ A December 2008 report, released by the National Institute of Standards and Technology, examined threats to UOCAVA voting systems and found transmitting blank ballots via fax and electronic mail reliable. See Andrew Regenscheid and Nelson Hastings, *A Threat Analysis on UOCAVA Voting Systems*, National Institute of Standards and Technology, December 2008.

⁵ Ibid

⁶ "Overseas Vote Foundation Predicts Unprecedented Overseas and Military Voter Participation," Overseas Vote Foundation, Oct. 27, 2008 (Munich). Available at: [www.overseasvotefoundation.org/files/Unprecedented_Turnout_Predicted%20v5%20\(27.Oct.,2008\).pdf](http://www.overseasvotefoundation.org/files/Unprecedented_Turnout_Predicted%20v5%20(27.Oct.,2008).pdf)

Harness Technology to Streamline the Process

In 2008, Pew joined with the Overseas Vote Foundation (OVF) to provide convenient, online tools, including the Federal Post Card Application (FPCA) and FWAB for military and overseas voters, and also to expand the use of FWAB as a back-up measure. In 2008, 4.75 million visitors (1.25 million in October alone) used the online services, available at www.overseasvotefoundation.org as well as the Web sites of both presidential campaigns, state election officials, corporations and civic groups.⁶ With a model law and added technical capacity, a version of FWAB could be expanded for use in state and local elections, as well.

Develop 21st Century Technology to Inform Voters

Pew's Voting Information Project (VIP), developed in partnership with state and local election officials and Google, Inc., creates standardized feeds of crucial voting data that include polling locations, registration status, and candidate and issue information on the ballot. These freely available sources of official information make the data available to citizens, civic groups, search engines and other organizations that voters use as resources. Such feeds can and should become a foundation for FWAB/State Write-in Absentee Ballot (SWAB) ballot creation tools and other applications to assist military and overseas voters.

Modernize the Voter Registration System

Pew is leading research and design efforts to modernize the voter registration system to allow for automatic updates of voter files with the most current address information. These efforts would simplify the registration and voting process for highly mobile military and overseas voters and require that government maintain complete and accurate voter registration lists so that all eligible voters—and only eligible voters—can exercise the right to vote.

Contact Us

We welcome your advice and participation. For more information on Pew's Election Initiatives, please visit our Web site at www.pewcenteronthestates.org or contact:

Doug Chapin—Director, Election Initiatives

Pew Center on the States
901 E Street NW, 10th Floor
Washington, DC 20004
202-552-2113 | DChapin@pewtrusts.org



The Pew Center on the States (PCS) is a division of The Pew Charitable Trusts that identifies and advances effective policy approaches to critical issues facing states. By researching emerging topics, PCS highlights innovative policy approaches to complex problems for states. When the facts are clear, PCS advocates for nonpartisan, pragmatic solutions.

Election Initiatives seeks to foster an election system that achieves the highest standards of accuracy, convenience, efficiency and security.

www.pewcenteronthestates.org

**2010 FSASE VOTING EQUIPMENT SURVEY
COST OF REPLACING TOUCH SCREENS**

COUNTY	COST OF COMPLIANT EQUIPMENT
Alachua	522,127
Baker	91,632
Bay	430,000
Bradford	120,000
Brevard	846,000
Broward	4,830,000
Calhoun	113,439
Charlotte	500,000
Citrus	471,783
Clay	520,500
Collier	687,500
Columbia	471,000
DeSoto	131,129
Dixie	100,827
Duval	Compliant
Escambia	655,500
Flagler	324,309
Franklin	70,000
Gadsden	250,000
Gilchrist	101,600
Glades	114,053
Gulf	72,000
Hamilton	60,000
Hardee	90,000
Hendry	205,500
Hernando	523,012
Highlands	241,000
Hillsborough	Compliant
Holmes	97,500
Indian River	500,000
Jackson	180,000
Jefferson	125,500
Lafayette	50,000
Lake	1,087,500
Lee	1,250,000
Leon	1,350,000
Levy	275,000
Liberty	70,550
Madison	120,000

COUNTY	COST OF COMPLIANT EQUIPMENT
Manatee	950,000
Marion	1,500,000
Martin	505,500
Miami-Dade	6,965,000
Monroe	253,462
Nassau	175,000
Okaloosa	420,148
Okeechobee	150,971
Orange	1,825,500
Osceola	532,461
Palm Beach	5,300,000
Pasco	1,200,000
Pinellas	Compliant
Polk	1,400,000
Putnam	405,575
Santa Rosa	400,000
Sarasota	Compliant
Seminole	754,853
St. Johns	1,250,000
St. Lucie	722,200
Sumter	589,500
Suwannee	124,725
Taylor	116,797
Union	66,000
Volusia	1,126,400
Wakulla	90,000
Walton	315,000
Washington	226,503

TOTAL	45,014,556
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UNOFFICIAL DISABILITY EQUIPMENT VOTER SURVEY

COUNTY	PRIMARY	GENERAL
1/16/2009		
Alachua	30	72
Baker	25	10
Bay	168	320
Bradford	0	1
Brevard	17	32
Broward	332	1062
Calhoun	34	137
Charlotte	6	8
Citrus	7	13
Clay	4	48
Collier	2	4
Columbia	3	9
Desoto	0	1
Dixie	2	1
Duval	1512	5345
Escambia	68	75
Flagler	1	10
Franklin	0	0
Gadsden	0	28
Gilchrist	0	1
Glades	0	0
Gulf	0	0
Hamilton	0	0
Hardee	0	4
Hendry	0	0
Hernando	0	0
Highlands	1	3
Hillsborough	Automark-Unknown	
Holmes	0	0
Indian River	3	6
Jackson	4	8
Jefferson	0	0
Lafayette	0	0
Lake	20	47
Lee	26	38
Leon	91	352
Levy	3	4
Liberty	1	1
Madison	0	0
Manatee	3	23
Marion	24	67
Martin	8	16
Miami-Dade	1024	1842
Monroe	13	18
Nassau	4	44
Okaloosa	47	82
Okeechobee	1	2
Orange	286	731
Osceola	90	293
Palm Beach	9	45
Pasco	1	22
Pinellas	89	356

COUNTY	PRIMARY	GENERAL
Polk	8	25
Putnam	6	14
Saint Johns	5	11
Saint Lucie	5	16
Santa Rosa	122	212
Sarasota	Automark-Unknown	
Seminole	96	341
Sumter	5	6
Suwannee	0	0
Taylor	16	18
Union	2	1
Volusia	29	144
Wakulla	6	29
Walton	500	776
Washington	1	5
TOTAL	4760	12779



FLORIDA STATE ASSOCIATION OF SUPERVISORS OF ELECTIONS

PO Box 350 | Tallahassee, FL 32302 | Telephone: (850) 599-9120 | Facsimile: (850) 561-6834

Executive Committee 2009-2010

President
Mark Andersen

President-Elect
Gwen Chandler

Vice President
David Stafford

Secretary
Vicki Davis

Treasurer
Lori Edwards

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Jennifer J. Edwards

Board of Directors 2009-2010

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Margie Laramore
Laura Dees
Connie Sanchez
Nita Crawford
Ann McFall
Brian Corley
Bob Sweat
Kay Clem
Lucretia Strickland

General Counsel

Ronald Labasky, Esq.

Executive Assistant

Nanci Watkins

Attached is a Position Paper concerning Section 101.56075, Florida Statutes, which requires all counties in Florida to provide a voting system, which is compliant with the Help America Vote Act by 2012 for persons with disabilities. The Position Paper to extend the implementation date of this requirement until 2016 has been endorsed by the Florida State Association of Supervisors of Elections, the Florida Association of Counties, and various representatives of the disability community. Sixty-five Boards of County Commissioners in the state have approved this Position Paper by resolution or otherwise, requesting an extension of the purchase of this equipment. The estimated cost of \$35 million dollars statewide is significant and presently there is only one vendor and system available for purchase.

Position Paper on Why We Want the Extension to 2016

In 2007 the Florida Legislature, at the request of Governor Charlie Crist and Secretary of State Kurt Browning, voted to make Florida a “paper ballot” state. For thirteen counties in Florida, this 2007 legislation resulted in the second voting system purchase since 2001 (punch cards to touch screens and then to optical scan). Part of the legislation (F.S. 101.56075) required the conversion of the ADA voting equipment to a “paper ballot” based system by 2012. The hope was that by 2012 additional ADA voting systems would be developed and certified in the state.

The Federal 2002 Help America Vote Act (HAVA) required all counties to purchase a voting system for each voting location that would be accessible to persons with any disability. The majority of the counties purchased touch screens with audio ballots. At the time, touch screens were the only certified accessible voting system in the state. Currently, there is only one certified optical scan (paper) system that meets this requirement - the AutoMark. Today sixty-three (63) counties use touch screens and four (4) counties use the AutoMark.

The Florida State Association of Supervisors of Elections has conducted a survey of the counties required to make the voting system change by 2012. The estimated cost will be nearly \$35 million dollars. This does not include existing debt that many counties have incurred from the 2001 and 2007 voting equipment changes. The Association has been working with the disability community on accessible voting equipment since the enactment of HAVA, voter education on the accessible voting systems used on Election Day, and with concerns associated with the 2012 requirement. The disability community is disappointed that development of new technology, especially to encompass all types of disabilities, has not occurred since this legislation passed and that the AutoMark is currently the only “paper based” option available to election officials. Given the choice between continuing to use the touch screens or convert statewide to the AutoMark, the preference is to stay with the current systems in the counties and focus on encouraging voting system vendors and the Department of State to focus on development of a system that would serve persons with any type of disability during the voting process, especially with absentee ballots.

The following believe that due to the economic pressures on Boards of County Commissioners around the state; the operational impact to Supervisors of Elections budgets; the fact that new technology has not developed to allow any person with any disability to vote independently; that an extension of this requirement be delayed from 2012 until 2016.

Florida State Association of Supervisors of Elections
Association Legislative position since 2008

Florida Association of Counties
Included in the 2009 FAC Policy Statement

AAPD - American Association of People with Disabilities
Jim Dickson, Vice President of Organizing & Civic Engagement
Chair, Election Assistance Commissions Board of Advisors

Family Network on Disabilities of Florida

Richard La Belle, Executive Director and member of the State HAVA Plan Committee

disAbility Solutions for Independent Living, Inc.

Julie Shaw, Executive Director and appointee by the Governor to the Florida Independent Living Council and serves as the Advocacy Committee Chair.

Alachua County, Board of County Commissioners

Mike Byerly, Chair
Cynthia Moore Chestnut
Paula M. Delaney
Rodney J. Long
Lee Pinkoson

Baker County, Board of County Commissioners

Michael W. Griffis, Chair
Gordon Crews
Michael Crews
Mark Hartley
Alex Robinson

Bay County, Board of County Commissioners

Jerry L. Girvin, Chair
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Bradford County Legislative Delegation

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Representative Charles Van Zant

Bradford County, Board of County Commissioners

Doyle Thomas, Chair
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Marion County, Board of County Commissioners

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Martin County, Board of County Commissioners

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District 5 Bruno A. Barrerio	District 12 Jose "Pepe" Diaz
District 6 Rebeca Sosa	District 13 Natacha Seijas
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Okeechobee County, Board of County Commissioners

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Note: Pinellas County is one of the four counties using the AutoMark.

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St. Johns County, Board of County Commissioners

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St. Lucie County, Board of County Commissioners

Paula A. Lewis, Chair
Douglas Coward
Chris Craft
Chris Dzadovsky
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Santa Rosa County, Board of County Commissioners

Don Salter, Chair
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