

## League of Women Voters of Newton

### Observer Report Form 3

**Name of Committee & Date:** Board of Election Commissioners, October 6, 2009

**Reported by:** Ellen Glusman, with review by Nancy Criscitiello & Sharyn Roberts (also in attendance from LWVN)

**Members present:** All 4 Commissioners were present: David Mofenson, Fay Cohen, Frances Shaer, Kenneth Hartford

**Members absent:** none

**Other officials present:** Craig Manseau, Executive Director\*; Diane Forgione, Deputy Executive Secretary

#### **Main points on agenda and action taken:**

1. *Call to Order:* meeting begun at 12:05 PM
2. *Roll Call:* All present
3. *Reading & Approval of the Minutes (from meeting of April 29, 2009):* Minutes accepted as prepared
4. *Executive Secretary's Report\** [NOTE: Manseau's position is officially "Executive Secretary" but he has started using the title of "Executive Director" in all references to his work in minutes presented.]
  - a. *Ballot 11/3/2009* – Sample ballots will go onto the website & be mailed today
  - b. *Finance Reports-* ALL required Financial Reports were received on time
  - c. *Polling Site review-* **Winsor Club:** NOT usable as future polling place because of accessibility issues; **St Philip Neri:** NOT usable - no custodian & accessibility issues; **Waban Library:** has accessibility issues but the group working to get the building back in use as a village library is looking for grant money that would be used for making the location usable in the future (and it would be able to hold both precinct polling places now located at Zervas School), **but actual future DATE unknown.**
  - d. *Council on Aging* – through the assistance of Ingrid Kefauver of the LWVN, a Poll Workers recruiting pamphlet has been requested for distribution in their paper, and this action was approved.
  - e. *Election Day 9-15-2009* –
    - i. More VOTE HERE signage will be used in the future, especially noting where entrances for the handicapped are located;
    - ii. Turnout (city-wide) was 29.9%
    - iii. Mofenson raised question about "inappropriate electioneering behavior" by one of the candidates as reported in a polling site. Manseau responded that the Warden of the site acted immediately, having the police officer remove the candidate from the site to a distance of 150 feet, as required by law.

5. *New Business:*
  - a. Upcoming elections (Nov. 3, 2009, Dec. 8, 2009, Jan. 19, 2010)
    - i. The December & January elections will be funded by Massachusetts, not by the city. Currently \$14M has been allocated state-wide for poll workers, police, etc., but more will probably be needed.
    - ii. January election will require that voters requesting Absentee Ballots will have to file NEW requests, since requests are valid Jan. 1 – Dec. 31 of any given year.
  - b. Absentee Ballot rules for Massachusetts remain unchanged so far.
    - i. Can only request an Absentee Ballot for one of 3 valid reasons: will be out of the city between 7 AM – 8 PM on Election Day; Health reasons; Religious belief/holiday.
    - ii. Mail-in Voting is being considered in the State Legislature, with the possibility of a pilot project in a few cities, but the legislation is not expected to pass this year.
    - iii. Showing up in City Hall to vote in person prior to Election Day must be completed by NOON the day before the election.  
HOWEVER: Monday, January 18, 2010, is a legal holiday (Martin Luther King Day), so people will have to appear at City Hall by 5 PM on Friday, Jan. 15, 2010, to vote in person in advance.
    - iv. If bad weather (i.e., snowstorm, icy/cold conditions, etc.) occur on Jan. 19, 2010, only the Secretary of State of the Commonwealth has the power to move/reschedule the election.
  - c. Poll Workers' Appreciation Night: sponsored by the LWVN & already approved by the Election Commissioners, will be held the week of Nov. 16, 2009 (day to be determined soon), 6 PM – 8 PM, in the City Hall Cafeteria. Craig Manseau will confirm day & LWVN will get out the invitations to all poll workers (possibly as a joint mailing with the Election Commission department).
6. *Next Meeting:* Next Board of Election Commissioners Meeting: Tues, Dec. 1, 2009 at Noon (room TBD). Immediately following the adjournment of the meeting, Craig & Dede will stay to meet with LWVN task force (until 1:30 PM) to continue our discussions.