

WEST VIRGINIA -ELECTION CONNECTION-

Your source for Election News from Secretary of State Natalie E. Tennant

Issue 46 – September 4, 2012

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9 Weeks Until Election Day!

On Tuesday, September 4, there will be exactly 9 weeks until the November 6 General Election!

Scytl Will Be Online Blank Ballot Delivery Vendor

From Secretary Tennant:

The Online Voting Pilot Review Committee stressed that vendor participation in the delivery of ballots for UOCAVA voters is desirable because it reduces the burden on you and improves delivery to the voters. West Virginia received an Electronic Absentee Systems for Elections (EASE) grant from the Federal Voting Assistance Program (FVAP) to provide electronic blank ballot delivery to our Military and Overseas Citizens. This grant is effective from the November 2012 General Election until the November 2016 General Election. The vendor for this project, Scytl, was obtained through the statewide procurement process. Some of you used Scytl's online voting system in the 2010 Elections and although we are not able to provide online voting we are able to deliver the blank ballot online.

Scytl is in the process of crafting their system for West Virginia. We will be asking some of you to participate in the User Acceptance Testing (UAT) as your time permits once this process is complete. Scytl will be providing training to you and this office via webinar. Scheduling for this will occur within the next two weeks. We are excited about this process and look forward to working together.

Please contact Layna Valentine-Brown at 304-558-6000 or lbrown@wvsos.com if you have any questions about this project.

Monroe County To Receive Voting Accessibility Grant

Speaking of Layna, she will be in Union on Wednesday presenting a grant to the Monroe County Commission to help make the voting location at the Sweet Springs Rescue Squad more accessible.

The grant, for \$7,160 will fully fund the project, is financed by the VOTE funds from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

The funding will be used to create a concrete handicap parking area and replacing two exterior doors with new doors that have handicap accessible hardware.

Secretary Tennant encourages everyone to examine all of their voting locations and then contact Layna so grant funding can be made available to cover the cost of making voting locations across West Virginia more accessible to all citizens.

Important Dates Coming Up

- **September 5, 2012 (Deadline):** Complete Corrections of Voter Registration (Within 120 days following primary election)
 - o County clerk shall, as evidenced by the presence or absence of signatures on the poll books from the primary election, correct any errors or omissions on the voter registration records resulting from the poll clerks erroneously checking or failing to check the registration records; or shall enter the voting records into the state uniform data system if the precinct books have been replaced with printed registration books. (§ 3-1-34, 3-2-18(d), 3-2-21)
- **September 7, 2012 (Deadline):** Emergency Order to Change Precincts (No later than sixty days before the general election)
 - o Last day for county commission, in case of emergency and with permission of the Secretary of State, to enter an order to consolidate, divide or change the boundaries of any precinct within a county. Within 15 days after such order is issued, the county commission shall publish the order as Class II-0 legal advertisement. Notice must be given one month prior to entering this order – August 7, 2012. (§ 3-1-7(g), 59-3-1 et. seq.)
- **September 11, 2012:** Notice of Number of Sets of Emergency Absentee Voting Commissioners Needed (On or before the fifty-sixth day preceding the election) The county clerk, shall notify the county commission of the number of sets of emergency absentee ballot commissioners which he or she deems necessary to perform the duties. (§ 3-3-5c(b))
- **September 18, 2012 (Deadline):** Election Officials and Alternates Appointed (No later than the forty-ninth day before the election)
 - o The county commission shall appoint the election officials for each designated election board as follows: (1) eligible persons nominated and timely filed by the executive committees as poll clerks, election commissioners; (2) the additional persons selected by the county commission to serve as election commissioners; (3) persons to fill any positions for which no nominations were filed. The county commission shall also appoint emergency absentee voting commissioners. At the same meeting or at a subsequent meeting, the county commission shall appoint the alternates nominated by the executive committees, appoint

additional alternates and determine the number of persons who may be instructed to attend training as alternates. (§ 3-1-30, 3-4-13, 3-4A-14, 3-3-5c)

- **September 18-November 6, 2012:** Election Officials and Alternates Appointed (No later than the forty-ninth day before the election)
 - o The county commission shall appoint the election officials for each designated election board as follows: (1) eligible persons nominated and timely filed by the executive committees as poll clerks, election commissioners; (2) the additional persons selected by the county commission to serve as election commissioners; (3) persons to fill any positions for which no nominations were filed. The county commission shall also appoint emergency absentee voting commissioners. At the same meeting or at a subsequent meeting, the county commission shall appoint the alternates nominated by the executive committees, appoint additional alternates and determine the number of persons who may be instructed to attend training as alternates. (§ 3-1-30, 3-4-13, 3-4A-14, 3-3-5c)
- **September 21, 2012 (Deadline):** Delivery of Absentee Ballots to County Clerk (Not less than forty-six days prior to general election)
 - o Last day for board of ballot commissioners to have printed and delivered to county clerk the official absent voters' ballots. (§ 3-3-11, 3-4-10)
- **September 21 – October 31, 2012 (November 1 for applications received October 31, 2012):** Mail Absentee Ballots (Within one day after the clerk has both the completed application and the ballot. Ballots delivered at least 46 days before election and applications due no later than sixth day before election)
 - o Upon acceptance of a completed application, the county clerk determines whether the requirements have been met and mails official absent voter's ballot(s), envelopes, instructions, and any other supplies required for voting the ballot. If the clerk determines the requirements have not been met, the clerk gives notice that the ballot will be provisional. (§ 3-3-5)

Have an idea?

Is there something that you want to see addressed in the Election Connection? The goal of this newsletter is to keep everyone up to date about challenges facing election officials in West Virginia and to inform everyone about best practices that are being put into place. If you have an idea for a topic, have a question, or if you think there is a subject that election officials around the state would be interested in, please do not hesitate to contact the Secretary of State's Office. You can contact the Elections Division by email at elections@wvsos.com or (304) 558-6000 or Jake Glance directly at jglance@wvsos.com. Your input is appreciated.