

BOARD OF ELECTIONS

Mrs. Charles A. Cardwell, Jr.
CHAIR

J. Eric Elliott
SECRETARY

John A. Redding
MEMBER



Kathie Chastain Cooper
DIRECTOR OF ELECTIONS

FORSYTH COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS BOARD MEETING- DECEMBER 8, 2005

Present: Mrs. Charles A. Cardwell, Jr., Chair
Mr. J. Eric Elliott, Secretary
Mr. John A. Redding, Member

Staff: Mrs. Kathie Chastain Cooper, Director of Elections
Mrs. Laura Gerardi-Dell, Deputy Director of Directions
Mrs. Pamela Johnson, Administrative Assistant

Call To Order

The Chair called the meeting to order at 4:00 PM.

Approval of Minutes- November 18, 2005

Mr. Elliott moved to approve the minutes for November 18, 2005. Mr. Redding seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Public Comment Session

Mr. Elliott stated that the Board of Elections recently attended a meeting where the names of the approved vendors for voting equipment were released. He stated the Board Members and Staff were able to briefly view the equipment. Mr. Elliott listed the vendors and their equipment. Approved for purchase are Diebold Election Systems and Election Systems and Software. Diebold voting systems that are approved include the TSX DRE machine and the AccuVote optical scan machine. Election Systems and Software offers the M100 and M650 optical scan systems, the iVotronic DRE and the AutoMark system.

The Chair asked that each person state their name and address before speaking.

Louis Harris, 2423 Hoyt St., Winston Salem, N.C. stated she was concerned about the cost of DRE voting systems. She also stated she was concerned about voters who are not computer literate. She is against Diebold because the lawsuits against them and the controversy surrounding the lawsuits.

Harold L. Kennedy, Forsyth County Democratic Party, 2205 Meadow Hill Rd., Winston Salem, N.C. asked that the Board not consider Diebold. He cited several articles regarding the controversies surrounding the company.

Nancy Wolfe, Forsyth Democratic Party, 3955 Windsor Place Dr., Winston

Salem, N.C. stated she is against Diebold DRE voting equipment. She stated she has concerns about their credibility. She is also concerned about senior citizens taking an extended time to vote and the ability for DRE equipment to handle the capacity of the precincts. She stated she would like the Board of Elections to consider ES&S optical scan.

Robert Vorsteg, University Neighborhood Association, 3620 Marlowe Ave., Winston Salem, N.C. stated he is against Diebold DRE voting equipment. He stated that optical scan equipment has less problems than DRE equipment. He also stated that optical scan is less expensive and more reliable than DRE.

Philip Dickenson, Winston Salem Voting Rights Coalition, 3720 Kirklees Rd., Winston Salem, N.C. stated that with DRE there is no effective way to do a recount. He is also concerned with the cost of DRE equipment. He stated that optical scan is more reliable than DRE.

Sylvia Pinyan, 4447 Thomasville Rd., Winston Salem, N.C. stated she is concerned with the appearance of the legitimacy of the vendors. She is concerned about the credibility of Diebold. She is for optical scan in regards to cost.

Harold Hairston of the African American Caucus, 3140 Shaftesbury Ln., Winston Salem, N.C. stated there was a 5.7% turnout in the 2005 municipal election. He stated the elderly are the ones who vote consistently and they are intimidated by DRE voting equipment. He states that the elderly have particular trouble with write-in votes when using the DRE. He is concerned about the possible disenfranchisement of voters who are elderly and minorities. He encouraged the Board of Elections to pick the best machine possible.

Other Business

There was no other business.

Adjournment

Mr. Elliott moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Redding seconded and the meeting was adjourned at 4:30 PM.

s:/ Mrs. Charles A. Cardwell, Jr., Chair

s:/ Mr. J. Eric Elliott, Secretary

s:/ Mr. John A. Redding, Member