



WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

ELECTION LAW REVIEW

Room 411 South, State Capitol
Madison, Wisconsin

October 13, 2004
11:00 a.m. - 2:40 p.m.

[The following is a summary of the October 13, 2004 meeting of the Special Committee on Election Law Review. The file copy of this summary has appended to it a copy of each document prepared for or submitted to the committee during the meeting. A digital recording of the meeting is available on our Web site at <http://www.legis.state.wi.us/lc/2004studies.htm>.]

Call to Order and Roll Call

Chair Leibham called the meeting to order. The roll was called and it was determined that a quorum was present.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Sen. Joseph Leibham, Chair; Sen. Jon Erpenbach; Reps. Stephen Freese, Marlin Schneider, and Steve Wieckert; and Public Members Marilyn Bhend, Joyce Buechel, Cindi Hesse, Kevin Kennedy, Kathy Nickolaus, James Troupis, and Mike Wittenwyler.

COUNCIL STAFF PRESENT: Bob Conlin, Senior Staff Attorney; Nick Zavos, Staff Attorney; and Tracey Uselman, Support Staff.

APPEARANCES: Terry C. Anderson, Director, Legislative Council; Representative Steve Wieckert, Co-Chair, Joint Legislative Council; and Kevin Kennedy, Executive Director, State of Wisconsin Elections Board.

Opening Remarks

Terry C. Anderson, Director of the Legislative Council, welcomed the committee and introduced the Legislative Council staff members assigned to work with the committee. He noted that the committee's meetings will be recorded and available on the Internet.

Representative Wieckert, Co-Chair of the Legislative Council, thanked the committee members for their willingness to serve and reviewed the committee's charge.

Introduction of Committee Members

Chair Leibham welcomed all members to the committee and thanked them for their commitment to serve on the committee. Chair Leibham asked each member of the committee to briefly introduce themselves.

Description of Materials Distributed

Bob Conlin gave a brief description of the materials that were distributed to committee members.

Invited Speaker

Kevin Kennedy, Executive Director, State Elections Board, gave a presentation on the Help America Vote Act (HAVA) and took numerous questions from the other committee members. Mr. Kennedy discussed, among other things, the important provisions of HAVA, the types of funds HAVA provides to the state, and the implementation of the statewide voter registration list. There was also a discussion of what would happen if there were a terrorist attack or natural catastrophe on election day.

Discussion of Committee Assignment

The committee discussed which issues need to be discussed at future meetings, including examining the current recount process and any issues that arise during the election on November 2.

Plans for Future Meetings

The committee members discussed meeting on November 17 and 18. Chair Leibham decided to set the next meeting date after having staff contact members regarding their availability.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 2:40 p.m.

NZ:tlu