

# DRAFT

**Minutes of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Vote Commission Meeting  
June 28, 2001  
1:00 p.m.  
Rome, GA**

**Members Present**

Cathy Cox, Secretary of State  
Judge Mike Bracewell  
Rep. Tom Shanahan  
Rep. Buddy DeLoach  
Sen. Billy Ray  
Ms. Linda Beazley  
Ms. Lynn Bailey  
Ms. Kathy Rogers  
Ms. Linda Latimore  
Ms. Gloria Champion  
Mr. Robert Woodruff, representing Mr. Larry Singer  
Ms. Erica Brooks  
Ms. Molly Dye  
Mr. Michael Cartwright  
Ms. Justine Boyd

**Members Absent**

Sen. Jack Hill  
Rep. Mark Burkhalter  
Judge Kenneth Van Horn

**Staff Attendance**

Mr. Bob Ray  
Mr. Michael Barnes  
Ms. Chrissie Rickard  
Mr. Chris Riggall  
Ms. Saralyn Skinner  
Ms. Ann Hicks  
Mr. Tom Mishou  
Ms. Courtney Rivard  
Dr. Brit Williams

**I. Call to Order**

- A. Secretary Cox called the meeting to order at 1:15 p.m. She then asked the Commission members to introduce themselves to the public attending the meeting. Secretary Cox introduced Mr. Michael Barnes and several others in attendance before beginning the meeting.

**II. Review of Previous Meeting Minutes**

- A. Rep. Buddy DeLoach made a motion to accept the minutes from the May Commission meeting. Rep. Tom Shanahan seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

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- B. Ms. Lynn Bailey made a motion to accept the minutes from the June 11 Commission meeting. Judge Mike Bracewell seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

(Both motions were approved in the absence of Ms. Molly Dye, who arrived to meeting later in the day.)

- C. Secretary Cox turned the meeting over to Mr. Barnes.

### **III. Testimony from Local Election Officials using DRE**

- A. Mr. Barnes introduced Mr. Steve Sheely, Vice President of Shorter College. Mr. Sheely welcomed the Commission members and members of the public.
- B. Mr. Barnes then introduced two local election officials from other states who are currently using DRE voting systems within their counties. These officials shared with the Commission their experiences with the DRE equipment they currently use in their counties. The first presentation was from Ms. Lynda Britt from Brunswick County, North Carolina.
1. Ms. Britt began by stating that the transition to DRE in her county was very easy. Ms. Britt indicated that her county's adoption of DRE equipment was prompted by a large new capital investment in upgraded facilities and equipment. She added that some of the highlights of using the DRE equipment was that all age groups adapt to the system, that it facilitates curbside voting for the disabled, that it accommodates multiple ballot styles, its ability to be programmed for multiple languages, and the elimination of overvoting. She stated that each of the units were touch-screens with a stylus and they were also each independent and free-standing. Ms. Britt indicated that storage of the units was relatively simple, and said that the reliability of the equipment she utilizes is very high. Ms. Britt said that the overall county response to DRE was and is favorable, and that the equipment is so popular the public would never allow her to go back to a non-DRE system
  2. Mr. Barnes then introduced Mr. Brad Clark of Alameda County, California. Mr. Clark began by telling the Commission about Alameda County, stating that it was very large and ethnically diverse with 950 voting precincts. Some of the advantages that Mr. Clark pointed out was that there was higher voter turnout at the polls, a "go back screen" to ensure only intentional undervotes, and the elimination of overvotes. He also stated that audio voting for the visually impaired was a wonderful advantage. Mr. Clark indicated that he typically has a very conservative approach towards the adoption of new equipment, and before acquiring DRE machines visited numerous states to learn more about the strengths and weaknesses of the systems.
- C. After the presentations the meeting recessed for a ten-minute break.

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## IV. Review Status of Current State Certification Testing

- A. Mr. Barnes introduced Dr. Brit Williams of Kennesaw State University. In Georgia Dr. Williams is responsible for the testing required by the certification process, evaluating voting equipment to ensure that it meets the standards set forth by the Federal Election Commission, the laws of Georgia and the rules and policies of the Secretary of State.
- B. Dr. Williams began by explaining to the Commission the process of certification that all types of voting equipment must pass to be certified in the state of Georgia. He further explained the process of testing included tests for functionality, maintainability, and reliability. He told the Commission that three of the DRE systems have passed certification testing and the other four were scheduled to be tested within the next couple of months.
- C. Some concerns expressed by the Commission members included how the equipment should be stored, backup batteries for the equipment in the event of power outages, and tampering.

## V. Update on Federal Legislation

- A. Mr. Barnes introduced Mr. Tom Mishou to update the Commission on Federal Legislation regarding elections reform.
- B. Mr. Mishou explained that there were two Senate Resolutions pending that would provide grants/matching grants into the billions of dollars for states to use for elections reform. He stated that there was very little activity in the House of Representatives regarding elections reform.

## VI. Adjournment

- A. Secretary Cox adjourned the meeting at 4:15 p.m.

Prepared by:



Chrissie Rickard

Approved by:



Cathy Cox, Secretary of State