

CTCA Executive Committee
Wednesday, May 27, 2020
11:00 a.m. Conference Call

ATTENDANCE

CTCA Executive Committee: Anna Posniak, President; Patty Riley, First Vice President; Kate Wall, Second Vice President; Dawn Rees Mooney, Secretary; Katie Sandberg, Assistant Secretary; Betsy Barrett, Treasurer; Antoinette Pancaro, Assistant Treasurer
County Vice Presidents: Debbie Halsted, Fairfield County; James Krupienski, Hartford County; Carol Anderson, Litchfield County; Ryan Curley, Middlesex County; Marc Garofalo, New Haven County; Debra Patrick, New London County; Lori Tollmann, Tolland County; Sherri Mutch, Windham County

CALL TO ORDER

The Conference Call was called to order at 11:00 a.m. by President Posniak.

ELECTIONS

President Posniak detailed the roadmap for the August PPP's as follows:

- a new, prepopulated, barcoded AB application will be mailed to every active D/R in the end of June;
- Executive Order QQ allows all voters, without restriction, the option to vote AB due to the existence of COVID-19 without a vaccine;
- elector will sign and mail or deposit application into drop box;
- town clerk will scan barcode and CVRS will display voter's information for town clerk to review/accept;
- mail house will export data at 12 am and mail 8½" x 11" barcoded ballot in flat envelope next day;
- town clerk will scan returned ballot, also in flat envelope;
- CVRS will auto-generate serial number so no overlap with ballots already in office.

She explained that CTCA worked hard to get the most streamline process with the fewest "clicks", and noted that SOTS must be notified of any town with a unique mailing address situation, included college addresses and boroughs. President Posniak then discussed scanners and label printers referencing Taffy Womack's 10/2/2019 email for specifics.

The group discussed numerous potential problems that could result from this process including staffing issues, time requirements, consistency, and voter confidence, and questioned a town's ability to opt out of the ballot mailing process. President Posniak clarified that she doubts opting out would be possible and explained that the plan was designed to work for cities and towns of all sizes. She further noted that she views the PPP as a "test" of this process before November's presidential election and believes if towns could opt out, it would be for all mail house involvement and not specific to mailing the AB's only. She suggested that towns track all issues they encounter with this process for the PPP and then the CTCA can make a formal statement for November.

***A motion was made by Ryan Curley to formally request that SOTS give each town the option to mail their own AB's only to voters for the August 11, 2020 Presidential Preference Primaries; seconded by Marc Garofalo; motion defeated 10/4.**

President Posniak agreed to ask SOTS if opting out is possible, but CTCA will not make a formal statement. She added that the Governor would have to call another Health Emergency to issue a similar executive order for November and shared she has urged SOTS to openly communicate with town clerks.

The following county concerns will be submitted to SOTS to be addressed in the AB roadmap:

- recommended number of ballots to order
- clarification that town clerks can still mail ballots as needed
- can two different ballot styles be ordered – a flat ballot for mailing house use and a folded ballot for town clerk use
- will mailing house have access to CVRS, how will voter data be secured
- how will party enrollment changes be handled, will mailing house mail applications after initial mailing
- will mailing house recognize permanent AB's
- can the mail house mail the AB applications over several days rather than the mailing occurring on one day
- can town clerk manually enter voter ID or override barcode

Marc Garofalo suggested that SOTS schedule a call with town clerks only, rather than jointly with ROVS, since most of the Q & A time on joint calls is devoted to ROV questions. He added that town clerks could submit their questions ahead and then the call could be devoted to answering them. President Posniak encouraged individual clerks to continue to contact SOTS with their questions.

In-depth and detailed discussion of drop boxes followed. Members questioned why drops boxes are needed if AB applications and ballots are postage-paid and discussed security issues surrounding drop boxes. President Posniak explained that drop boxes have been used successfully in other parts of the country and noted that SOTS wanted drop boxes out of concern about Town Hall closures. She further clarified that Town Hall drop boxes cannot be used for ballots because staff other than the Town Clerk will have access. Specifics surrounding installation were questioned and the group agreed that installation within reach of security cameras is recommended.

President Posniak explained that SOTS is ordering PPE kits for polling places to be sent to ROVS who submit emergency plans. She also discussed grant money, noting applications will be sent to municipal CEO's, but shared her concern that the funds will run out and cautioned clerks about spending money with the expectation of reimbursement.

Finally, President Posniak asked the executive board to think about CTCA's stand on "No Excuse Absentee Balloting" noting CTCA has previously supported only "Early Voting". She noted that after this pandemic, momentum will be rising for such a law. She continued by explaining that SOTS is currently paying for postage due to the pandemic, but that will not be the case going forward.

DOG LICENSING

President Posniak reminded the executive board that the dog licensing late fee of \$1/month will not apply until August 1, 2020.

FALL 2020 CONFERENCE

Conference Committee Chair Essie Labrot has contacted President Posniak who asked the group to start thinking about CTCA's 2020 Fall Conference. She explained that the conference is scheduled for one week before AB's become available for the November election and questioned if clerks would be setting themselves up for failure by holding it. She suggested that the group see how things unfold with the virus and vote on holding the conference sometime in June.

EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR TOWN CLERKS

The group discussed holding classes online in a ZOOM-like format, as well as optimal timing for classes, especially for certification classes.

***A motion was made by Carol Anderson adjourn the conference call at 12:41 p.m.; motion passed unanimously.**

Before adjourning, Marc Garofalo thanked President Posniak for handling the burden she faces.

Respectfully submitted,

Dawn Rees Mooney
CTCA Secretary