

Elections Emergency Planning Task Force
November 17, 2015
12:30 PM

Members Present

Secretary Steve Simon, Chair
Debby Erickson, Vice Chair
Major Taylor Cox
Margot Imdieke Cross
Rep. Kelly Fenton
Kevin Reed (designee for Joe Kelly)
Sen. Mary Kiffmeyer
Barret Lane
Lucinda Messman
Rep. Mike Nelson
Gary Poser
Sen. Katie Sieben
Grace Wachlarowicz

Members Excused

Barb Proulx

Secretary of State Steve Simon, Chair of the Elections Emergency Planning Task Force, called the meeting to order at 12:32 PM in Room 200 of the State Office Building.

A quorum was present.

Gary Poser moved approval of the meeting minutes from the October 20, 2015 meeting. THE MOTION PREVAILED.

Julie Strother presented an overview of the revised proposal for emergency planning legislation. Members discussed and provided input on the revised proposal.

Secretary Simon moved the Task Force, as part of its proposed recommendation, adopt the language in the document labeled SC16-4890, the revised emergency plan draft legislation. THE MOTION PREVAILED.

Secretary Simon provided an overview of six different possible approaches for emergency procedures. They are:

- Approach One: No recommended changes.
- Approach Two: Specific tools authorized in law to use at the local level and their use would be at the discretion of the local election officials.
- Approach Three: Specific tools authorized in law to use at the local level when the local jurisdiction declares an emergency.

- Approach Four: Specific tools authorized in law to use upon a declaration of election emergency by the governor or other state official(s).
- Approach Five: Specific tools authorized in law to use upon a declaration of an election emergency by the governor or other state official(s), and specific tools authorized for use at the local level.
- Approach Six: The Secretary of State is authorized in law to develop a set of emergency procedures through rulemaking that can only be used in the case of a declared emergency by the governor or other state officials(s).

Julie Strother presented an overview of how Approach Two and Approach Four could look in statutory language.

Members discussed and provided input on the possible approaches for emergency procedures.

Secretary Simon moved the Task Force adopt as a recommendation in its report to the legislature Approach Two with the caveat that the approach include more stringent guidelines with respect to the extension of polling place hours language. THE MOTION PREVAILED.

Secretary Simon moved the Task Force adopt as a recommendation in its report to the legislature Approach Four, but only that there be a mechanism by which the governor and some other state official(s) could declare an election emergency. THE MOTION PREVAILED.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2:29 pm.

Sally Olson, Commission Assistant