

Minutes

Switzerland County Election Board Meeting

March 12, 2024

1:00pm

In attendance:

Tom Conroy, Election Board Member
Will Johnson, Election Board Member
Karin Dutkiewicz, Switzerland County Clerk
Lisa Fisher, Party Chairman
Cindy Haskell, Election Clerk
Mike Jones, Party Chairman – invited, unable to attend
Gayle Sullivan, Auditor

Topic: Determination of polling locations, dates and times

We were told by the Auditor that it was believed that we had missed the December 31, 2023 deadline to make changes to polling locations. I contacted Dustin Renner, 1st Deputy of the Secretary of State's office who clarified that we were well within our purview to change the locations, dates and times up until the day before the election.

The discussion surrounded around limited manpower and financial resources to the County. The Election Board Members determined to remove two of the previous locations and based their decision based on polling numbers from the previous elections.

At this point, a vote was cast to change the previous locations.

A motion to approve the new hours, dates and locations was made by Will Johnson.

There was no new discussion.

The motion was seconded by Tom Conroy.

Vote was unanimous to approve.

The amended dates, times and locations were sent along with an amendment letter to Brad King, Angela Nussmeyer at the Indiana Election Commission and to Dustin Renner in the Secretary of State's office.

The amendment and letter were sent back to us as our new hours, dates and locations were in violation of the State election law:

Per the Indiana Election Division:

The plan does not comply state law. The early voting locations required the two Saturdays before Election Day must be a vote center location used on Election Day. See page 148 of the 2024 Election Administrator's Manual or IC 3-11-18.1-4(15). Because the East Enterprise Fire Department and Posey Fire Department are not used on Election Day, then they cannot be used as an early voting location. If you added the SwitzCo Technology Center to the two Saturdays of early voting, then using the other two sites would be fine. Otherwise, you would need to add the fire stations as Election Day voting sites to be in compliance with IC 3-11-18.1-4(15).

There is no way of telling how long but according to these IC codes Switzerland County has been in violation of State Election law for some time.

We are rectifying the situation.

There is an Election Board Meeting scheduled for Friday, March 15, 2024 at 11:00am to revise the polling locations, dates and times in order to comply with the State Election law. Polling locations, dates and times will need to be resubmitted to the Indiana Election Commission.

Submitted: March 12, 2024

Karin S. Dutkiewicz

Switzerland County Clerk