

INTERIM JOINT COMMITTEE ON STATE GOVERNMENT

Minutes of the 2nd Meeting of the 2020 Interim

July 28, 2020

Call to Order and Roll Call

The second meeting of the Interim Joint Committee on State Government was held on Tuesday, July 28, 2020, at 10:30 AM, in Room 171 of the Capitol Annex. Senator Wil Schroder, Chair, called the meeting to order, and the secretary called the roll.

Present were:

Members: Senator Wil Schroder, Co-Chair; Representatives Jerry T. Miller, Co-Chair, and Kevin D. Bratcher, Co-Chair; Senators Ralph Alvarado, Denise Harper Angel, Christian McDaniel, Morgan McGarvey, Robby Mills, Michael J. Nemes, Damon Thayer, and Johnny Ray Turner; Representatives John Blanton, Tom Burch, McKenzie Cantrell, Jeffery Donohue, Jim DuPlessis, Joseph M. Fischer, Kelly Flood, Jim Glenn, Derrick Graham, Joe Graviss, Richard Heath, Samara Heavrin, Joni L. Jenkins, Matthew Koch, Derek Lewis, Mary Lou Marzian, Patti Minter, Jason Nemes, Jason Petrie, Attica Scott, Steve Sheldon, James Tipton, Ken Upchurch, Russell Webber, and Lisa Willner.

Guests: John Steffen, Kentucky Registry of Election Finance; Michael Adams, Secretary of State.

LRC Staff: Alisha Miller, Michael Callan, Roberta Kiser, and Peggy Sciantarelli.

Approval of Minutes

A motion to approve the minutes of the June 24, 2020, meeting was adopted without objection.

Kentucky Registry of Election Finance – Update on the Electronic Reporting System

John Steffen, Executive Director, Kentucky Registry of Election Finance, provided an update on the Registry's electronic reporting system. The system is a work in progress that is being improved on a daily basis, but it is taking longer than expected to complete. Developers indicate that the project is more complicated and more detailed than anticipated. The Registry is continuing to work with Kentucky Interactive, the project developers. The new reporting system has been in development for two or three years.

Candidates are able to file their reports now, and that function was available for the 30-day pre-primary report. Second quarter report filings encountered a few "bugs" but were

successful, for the most part. Bringing old data from previous reports into the new system has caused some difficulty and is one of the main obstacles. When the first reports were filed for the 2020 primary, the reports were not initially available online, but Registry staff did a great job providing information to people upon request. The data for the primary reports is online, but that report function and its searchability will be improved.

Mr. Steffen said he believes the new system is good and that the final product will meet expectations. Most candidates and their treasurers have been patient when using the new system. They understand that it is a work in progress, and the Registry is working to get it fully implemented to everyone's advantage. The developers have recently been focusing on committee reports. Most committees are now in production and can file their reports.

Mr. Steffen discussed questions that he received in a letter from Senator Thayer and Representative Jerry Miller. Users currently cannot print reports—an issue that has been raised by others. That feature will be added in the future. Also, in the new system, candidates who raise \$3,000 or less are not required to file reports. The cell phone app is not developed yet but will be ready in the future. However, candidates may still use their cell phones to log into their accounts on the Registry website in order to file a report. Some have been unable to access their cumulative balances. The Registry is trying to resolve that problem, and Mr. Steffen suggested that anyone who encounters this problem should notify his office. The new system has required spousal information for contributors, but that information was only supposed to be required for contributors to statewide candidates. This was a misunderstanding on the part of the developers, and they have been informed to make that change.

Mr. Steffen acknowledged the need for improvements to the new system. It can be tweaked as needed and as laws change but will always be subject to improvement. The Registry welcomes input and feedback, and Registry staff are always willing to work with anyone who has questions about the system.

Mr. Steffen discussed possible legislative changes to consider during the 2021 Regular Session. The statement of intent currently has to be filed with county clerks, the Secretary of State, and also online with the Registry. He suggested that candidates be required to only file the statement electronically with the Registry. He believes county clerks would agree with that change. Any statutory amendment should perhaps include a penalty for noncompliance and would need to clarify that filing of the statement is mandatory.

Mr. Steffen said that legislation sponsored by Senator Thayer two or three years ago was successful in establishing the single \$3,000 threshold for reporting, but it also deleted the post-report filing requirement for candidates raising less than \$3,000. He believes that is not in the best interest of disclosure. When candidates who raise \$3,000 or less in the

primary switch over to the general election—and automatically have up to \$3,000 to bring forward—that money would not be accounted for. He suggested that requiring \$3,000-or-less candidates to file a 30-day post report in the primary would be beneficial to everyone and would enhance accountability.

Senator Thayer thanked Mr. Steffen for his testimony. He also noted that Mr. Steffen is one of his constituents and also serves his country as a lieutenant colonel in the United States JAG Corps. Senator Thayer said that since sponsoring SB 4 (2019 RS), which established mandatory electronic filing, beginning with the 2020 primary, he had been anxious about how the process would work. It is true that the electronic reporting system is a work in progress, but he wants to make sure that the “bugs” are worked out before the 60-day pre-general-election report is due. He thanked Representative Miller and Representative Bratcher and others for their interest, and he thanked Mr. Steffen for addressing concerns that have been raised.

Senator Thayer asked about the manpower and resources of Kentucky Interactive and whether there had been other bidders for the electronic reporting system. Mr. Steffen said there were no other bidders, as Kentucky Interactive already had a master agreement with the state and was available to do the work. He believes Kentucky Interactive was faced with a manpower issue when one of the developers left, which led to a slow start. The intricacies of the project were also more than expected. Kentucky Interactive now has sufficient resources devoted to the project.

Senator Thayer asked whether the public will be able to access the information in a more user-friendly manner than previously. Mr. Steffen said he is confident that reports will be available online as soon as they are submitted by the candidates. A lot was lacking at the beginning of the 2020 primary process, but the reports were available in time for the primary and will continue to be in the future. Senator Thayer thanked Mr. Steffen for that commitment and for the work of Registry staff and the staff of Kentucky Interactive. He said his primary motive for promoting electronic filing and additional reporting was in order to increase transparency, and because he believes the public deserves to have instant access.

Representative Graviss thanked Mr. Steffen for his service and said the Registry has excellent and helpful staff. He asked whether the system requires a person’s name to be listed if they contribute \$100 or less. Mr. Steffen said the system requires the candidate to enter that information so that the Registry can track the origin of the money, but the name of the contributor would not be published.

Representative Miller asked whether there is a penalty for a candidate who decides to spend above the \$3,000 threshold less than 60 days before the general election. Mr. Steffen said candidates would be allowed to change their mind without penalty before the first report is due each cycle—whether it be the 60-day or 30-day pre-report. But if they

exceed the \$3,000 limit and do not timely take the required action, there is a minimum \$500 penalty.

Representative DuPlessis said that he has been filing electronically under the old reporting system. He once received a \$99 donation from someone registered with the opposing political party. Their name had been published, and this caused some problems for the contributor. Mr. Steffen confirmed that the name would not be published under the new system.

There were no further questions, and Senator Schroder thanked Mr. Steffen for his service and for his testimony.

Secretary of State – Overview of the 2020 Primary Election

Secretary of State Michael Adams discussed the 2020 primary and the upcoming November general election. In his opening statement, he said Kentucky's June 23 primary election was a nationally recognized success and had the highest turnout in many years. After two weeks of in-person early voting, there was no spike in COVID-19 cases. That is a testament to the wisdom of the election plan, the Governor's efforts to obtain the necessary personal protective equipment, the patience of election workers and voters in following CDC guidelines, and the legislature's willingness to work across party lines to enact legislation that gave the Governor and the Secretary of State flexibility to design a new election plan for a state of emergency.

He said his colleagues in other states, both Democrat and Republican, wanted to know how Kentucky conducted such a successful primary during a pandemic. What sets Kentucky apart is that the General Assembly, the State Board of Elections, the county boards of election, the Governor, and the Secretary of State all worked together in a bipartisan way to fashion fair and clear rules well in advance of the primary and to consistently message the new procedures to inform and reassure voters. This contributed to the high turnout. During and since his campaign for office of Secretary of State, his goal has been to maximize Kentuckians' confidence in the election system. He emphasized that election rules must be not only fair but also seen as fair.

The Secretary said that three lawsuits are pending against him in his official capacity that seek to undo or redo significant parts of Kentucky's election system. The plaintiffs in all the cases are, or are sponsored by, left-leaning special interest groups. Most of the plaintiffs' lawyers do not live or vote in Kentucky. They are based in New York, San Francisco, and Washington DC. They are telling the judges in these cases that he, the legislature, the Governor, and the State Board of Elections cannot be trusted to run the state's elections. In the days before the June 23 primary, voices outside the state attacked the Commonwealth with accusations of racism and vote suppression and with demands for Congress to intervene and take over Kentucky elections. This led to his phones and State Board of Elections' phones being flooded with angry and sometimes profane out-of-state

callers. Those calls likely impeded incoming calls from Kentuckians trying to find out where or how to vote.

The Secretary said that Kentucky voters had confidence in the rules and the system. That confidence came from Kentuckians watching him, the legislature, the State Board of Elections, and the Governor, work together in a bipartisan way—compromising, and agreeing to a plan that took all sides’ concerns into account. If the left-wing out-of-state legal establishment is allowed to decide the election rules for November, at least half of the electorate will not have confidence in the system. A simple online search reveals that the lawsuit plaintiffs and their lawyers have made 365 campaign contributions totaling about \$168,000. The lawsuits are not politically neutral, with only one contribution going to a Republican. Election rules cannot be established on a results-oriented basis. If the rules are not perceived as fair, at best, voters will stay home rather than vote; at worst, they will revolt. Democracy cannot function unless the people entrusted by the voters with responsibility can clearly exercise that responsibility and be accountable to the voters.

Secretary Adams said that in the June primary, absentee voting worked well. It was convenient and virtually fraud-proof. Absentee voting has been in the state’s constitution since 1945 but in a typical election is used by fewer than two percent of voters. However, many more than two percent qualify for an absentee ballot. Even if the classes of absentee eligible voters is not expanded for November, he believes a minimum of about 20 percent of voters may vote absentee. It may be possible to expand absentee voting beyond the current groups of voters who qualify, but he is dubious that the plan used for the primary can be fully replicated in all respects. Turnout is expected to be 250 percent higher in November than in June, and it is not obvious that county clerks or the post office can manage a 250 percent increase in absentee ballots. That is based on feedback from state and local election officials of both major political parties. They, as well as he, are concerned that going from 750,000 absentee ballots to 1.875 million absentee ballots or more could overload the system.

Early voting worked in June. Not all county clerks are in favor of expanding absentee voting for November, but they universally support in-person early voting. Early voting is much less expensive and labor-intensive and can be done in a way that keeps voters and election workers safe.

For in-person voting on election day, there is concern that the schools and churches typically used for election day might not be available. There is also concern about finding enough poll workers who are not of advanced age and therefore more vulnerable to harm from the coronavirus. Many more voting locations will be available for the general election than for the primary, but that will ultimately depend on the willingness of Kentuckians to be good citizens and lend a hand.

Secretary Adams said that conducting a primary during the pandemic prompted an upgrade of voting equipment in some counties where prior voting equipment did not allow for a paper trail. It is his opinion that paper ballots counted electronically is the “gold standard.” It provides the speed of a quick count but also the security of a paper trail. It has been his goal for more than a decade to introduce paper balloting to every Kentucky county.

He said that several suggestions for election reform that were offered in his “Easy to Vote” bill (HB 596/2020 RS), sponsored by Representative Nemes, were implemented in the June primary with some success. That bill died in committee, but he plans to offer more election legislation for the 2021 legislative session. It may provide that registered independents may serve as poll workers and allow counties to offer centralized multi-precinct voting locations—options that proved workable and popular with election officials and voters during the June primary.

Concluding his opening statement, the Secretary said that efforts to keep voters safe and ensure that they are not disenfranchised by the coronavirus were possible only because of emergency powers that were granted by the legislature. He said he has used, and will continue to use, those powers in a limited way—reluctantly, and only where necessary. As procedures are developed for November, he plans to modify existing election rules only to the extent necessary to keep Kentuckians safe and ensure a successful election—and not for the purpose of implementing his own, or anyone else’s, policy preferences.

Senator Thayer said that the Secretary’s ability to work in agreement with the Governor would not have happened without legislation that was passed by the General Assembly. Governor Beshear vetoed the legislation, and the legislature subsequently overrode the veto. He thanked the members who voted for the initial bill and those who voted to override. He said that, based on the Governor’s public statements, he believes voting would otherwise likely have been 100 percent by mail-in ballots, which he would unalterably oppose. He appreciates the system that was used for the June primary, but he is not a fan of early voting. Campaigns are meant to peak on election day. Early voting does not account for insurgent candidacies, like that of Representative Charles Booker. It does not account for national or local events such as those that occurred during the three or four weeks before the primary and which ultimately affected how Democrats voted. Early voting shows no favor to underfunded candidates and less well-known candidates. He hopes that voting will not be allowed three weeks in advance of the November election and that it will not be necessary to wait a week after election day to know the results.

Senator Thayer said he is glad to hear that there will be more polling locations in November. He thinks that county clerks did an excellent job observing CDC protocols during the June primary—and that they can do that again in November. He thanked the Secretary for an excellent report and said he is looking forward to hearing the plan he will be submitting to the Governor for the general election.

Representative Graviss complimented Secretary Adams for his report and thanked him for his service and the helpfulness of his staff. He said he knows the Secretary has been working to clean the voter rolls. He asked how much time that will require and which categories of voters will be purged. He also inquired about the expected cost of conducting a safe and efficient November election. Secretary Adams said that about two-thirds of the federal dollars had been spent. The June primary was the most expensive election Kentucky has ever had. It would not have been possible without the additional funds provided through the CARES Act. A usual election costs \$8 or \$10 million. It is not clear yet how much the November election will cost, but it will cost more. If absentee voting is not expanded, it will probably cost at least an additional \$2 million, which would likely consume the remaining federal stimulus funds. His office, State Board of Elections staff, and county clerks are in the process of assessing load capacity for the various voting models. If every county expands the classes of qualified absentee voters, the cost will increase a lot because that is the most expensive way to conduct an election. Without additional funds, the Commonwealth cannot afford to expand absentee voting beyond the current classes qualified under law. It is possible that Congress or the state budget might provide more funding. The first priority, though, is safety, and the second priority is money.

The Secretary said that part of his bipartisan agreement with the Governor in April was that his office would receive help to clean the voter rolls. He estimates that they include about 30,000 voters who have either moved away or died. Normally, the cleanup would take another 2½ years; under current state law, a voter cannot be removed until two federal general elections have passed after notification that the person has moved or is deceased. He hopes to get the rolls cleaned as soon as possible and before the end of 2022. According to the agreement with the Governor, letters will be sent to request consent from people who should be removed. Permission is not needed to remove the names of deceased voters, which probably number in the thousands. His office is working with the Governor and the state's Bureau of Vital Statistics to confirm whether voters are deceased.

Representative Bratcher asked about votes that were not counted in June because of technicalities. Secretary Adams said he does not have that information and that there is no statewide aggregate of that type of information. He suggested that the legislature consider enacting legislation to provide audit authority over the counties in order to obtain that information. Currently, it is only available from counties that offer it. He said, on average, about 4.5-5.0 percent of ballots are not counted due to voter error, but he believes the rate of voter error in June was lower than it was in the last two election cycles. He added that whether a person has voted is a matter of public record. Representative Bratcher said he did not expect to be a fan of early voting but that it had worked well in Jefferson County. He hopes, however, that in November the results will be available on election day instead of a week later.

Secretary Adams said he was surprised that more people voted in person on election day than voted early in the prior two weeks prior. He believes that promotion of early

voting helped determine success of the June primary. He thinks the Governor's concerns about the timeline for reporting election results are somewhat assuaged. Secretary Adams said he is hopeful that early voting will be available earlier in November. He thinks it is not unreasonable to expect that ballots will be returned earlier and that vote totals will be available sooner than a week after election day.

Rep. Donohue complimented Secretary Adams and the Governor for their efforts. He said he believes early voting is an excellent idea and that the positive elements of the June primary should be continued or expanded for the general election.

Representative Tipton complimented the Secretary and his staff. He said the county clerks he has spoken with are anxious to receive the rules for November as quickly as possible. They like to have flexibility, since what works in one county might not in others. Anderson County, one of the counties he represents, had drive-in voting in June, and it worked well. That county has a facility available in November that will permit drive-in voting for two or three days. He also asked about the need for more poll workers for the general election. Secretary Adams said he hopes to provide a plan to the Governor in early August. He expressed sympathy for candidates who are trying to campaign in a pandemic atmosphere. He wants to provide them clarity and make their job as easy as possible. He said clerks should have flexibility and that some had displayed great ingenuity during the June primary. One complaint from both sides of the aisle about the primary's initial plan was that it was overly deferential to county clerks with respect to polling locations. It is likely that the approach will be different for the general election. There may be a formula that provides for the number of locations per county, based on population and geography; or he and the Governor may need to sign off on reduction of voting sites in the counties.

Secretary Adams said it is the responsibility of the local political party committees to recruit poll workers, but that task has usually been left to the county clerks. It is not his office's responsibility, but he is doing everything he can to help and has established a portal for that purpose. People have been calling his office to volunteer as poll workers, and their information is being provided to county clerks.

Representative Nemes thanked the Secretary for his work on HB 596. He also expressed thanks to Jefferson County Clerk Bobbie Holsclaw and Oldham County Clerk Julie Barr for doing a good job during the June primary. He was, and remains, strongly opposed to having only one polling location in Jefferson County. He is in favor of expanding access to voting. He also suggested that the Secretary and the Governor should come jointly to the legislature to propose needed changes in election law. Since time is not as constrained as it was for the June primary, he believes this should happen in a special session prior to the November general election. That would provide more legitimacy for the election and would be bipartisan in nature. Responding to a question from Representative Nemes, Secretary Adams clarified that the decrease in the percentage of spoiled primary ballots was in reference to absentee votes.

Senator Schroder announced that Representative Flood, who is attending by videoconference, has submitted a comment, asking that he assure the committee members that Fayette County legislators are meeting with their county clerk to discuss getting more poll workers.

Rep. Minter praised the Secretary and the Governor for their bipartisan work to make the primary safe and to create voter confidence in the system. The people in her district like early voting and mail-in voting. They also want more poll locations. The one in Warren County worked well, and the county clerk's office did a fantastic job, but some voters had access problems. The single polling place was 20 minutes outside Bowling Green. She asked when the location and number of polling places will be decided, and by whom. Secretary Adams said it is important to have the information sooner than later. It will depend on the election plan, which will be more specific for the general election than it was for the primary. He does not think that he or the Governor should make that decision. Local input is needed, but a floor also should be established regarding the number and location of the polling sites.

Representative Graham commended the Secretary and the Governor for working together in a bipartisan manner. He said he has concerns about possible procedural changes for early voting. He asked Secretary Adams whether he will discuss his recommendations for the general election with members of the legislature—the State Government Committee, in particular. Secretary Adams said he will be happy to do that. He stated that the legislature should not be a bystander in the process. In advance of the primary, he consulted with members of legislative leadership. He cautioned, however, that the more bureaucratic and time-consuming the process becomes, the longer it will take to complete a plan for November. Representative Graham stated that voting is one of the most important rights of citizens, and he is concerned that it could be restricted in the general election. He wants to ensure that there is transparency in the process and that no one is hindered from voting in the fall.

Secretary Adams said that early voting should be made easier. The November election plan should make it clear that voters will not be expected to make an appointment in order to vote early. He believes one reason more people voted in person on election day in June instead of voting early is that they thought it required an appointment. Voters were also confused because they heard conflicting information across county lines. Senator Schroder agreed. He said his constituents had come to him with questions about early voting.

Representative Miller thanked the Secretary for his commentary. He agreed that more voting locations are needed and suggested that there should be at least one in each legislative district. He suggested also that early voting not take place until the weekend preceding election day. Secretary Adams said he believes more than three or four days will

be needed to accommodate early voting. Also, he intends to recommend keeping the polls open for Saturday voting.

Representative Marzian said she was happy that the two major political parties were able to work together. She asked whether excuse-free absentee voting will be allowed in November due to COVID concerns. Secretary Adams said that has not been determined yet. The plan will try to ensure the protection of voters by allowing them to vote absentee, which will also help prevent the polling sites from being overcome. But if too many people vote absentee—as 75 percent did in the primary—that might be too much and could potentially crash the system. From the perspective of county clerks, it was necessary for them to close their offices for a long period of time after the primary in order to process 750,000 absentee ballots. The plan for November has to consider the load capacity of county clerks' offices, as well as determine the proper set of excuses for voting absentee that would not result in out-of-control numbers. Representative Marzian asked whether there is sufficient time to prepare for November, and Secretary Adams responded affirmatively. He said the Governor wants a quick agreement, and so does he.

Representative Burch said many absentee ballots do not get counted, because the voter fails to properly sign the envelopes. He suggested changing the law to require only one signature. Secretary Adams said that is an excellent point and is being looked at. One option would be to suspend the legal requirement for two signatures. He thinks it is especially confusing to people who return their ballot in a drop box, probably thinking they do not need to sign an outside envelope if it is not going to be mailed. He thinks the best solution would be to require notification to people who fail to sign.

Representative Derek Lewis complimented the Secretary. He said the county clerks in his district—Laurel, Clay and Leslie Counties—are concerned about having sufficient resources to handle the expected increase in November turnout. Secretary Adams said the remaining federal funds will be spent to reimburse the counties. The funds could be used, for example, to hire additional staff and poll workers, increase compensation for poll workers, or pay postage costs for absentee ballots. The question is how to balance the various options for distributing the funds.

Senator McGarvey thanked Secretary Adams for his willingness to work across the aisle and to get as many people as possible to vote—and as safely as possible. He said that although there are time constraints, he thinks it is time for the legislature to deal with the election process—which he believes is the most important topic that the Interim Joint Committee on State Government can consider before the November election. He agreed with Secretary Adams' earlier comment that the election must not only be fair but also seen as fair. He said many of his constituents expressed a preference for mail-in voting, and he would like the general election to include a robust mail-in voting program. He is concerned that limiting that option now could lead to problems later. He thinks the Secretary is correct in wanting to quickly prepare the plan for November. He is glad to hear that early voting

will potentially be allowed on Saturdays and that there will be a robust effort to have more polling locations for in-person voting. He said that Jefferson County needed more than one site for the primary and will need more than one in the general election.

Senator McGarvey said that at least one plan being considered by Congress would provide about \$17 million to Kentucky, over and above the funds previously received from the CARES Act. He questioned what it would cost to fully fund a mail-in voting program like the one that worked well in June. Secretary Adams said Jefferson County clerk Holsclaw has assured him and the State Board of Elections that there will be more than one location in November. He said he likes an idea posed by the state Democrat caucus—that there should be at least one “super center” for voting in every locale. That would address the problem of voters who go to the wrong precinct and end up not voting.

Secretary Adams said he has a bipartisan task force working on budgeting for the general election. He cannot with confidence give a flat number for the projected cost, but he can say that the most aggressive early voting model is a good bargain compared to the cost of absentee voting. Postage is the biggest cost component of absentee voting, and it is very expensive. Postage costs in November could potentially be \$6-\$8 million. It is hard to plan around that, when only about \$2.5 million federal dollars remain available. He has spoken with Senator McConnell and Congressman Yarmuth about funding. He told them his goal is to come back to them with a plan that includes a price tag and not just ask for an arbitrary amount of money. He said his office is in the process of assessing internally the different price points for different election models. He also said his door is always open for input from legislators of both parties.

Senator McDaniel thanked the Secretary for his testimony. He went on to say that it is a fundamental obligation of the General Assembly to ensure safe, fair, and honest elections, as well as safety of the public. He invited the Secretary to attend the September meeting of the Interim Joint Committee on Appropriations and Revenue to discuss the November election and its expected cost. He said the General Assembly will work to find a way to meet the cost—and thus enable a safe, fair, and honest election to be conducted in November. Secretary Adams said he would be happy to speak at the September meeting.

Senator Schroder spoke about the failure of some voters to receive their absentee ballots in the mail in time to be counted for the June primary. He asked whether this type of error has been reported to the Secretary of State’s office and how it is being addressed. Secretary Adams said his office receives calls daily from people who have been in that type of situation. Reliability, cost, and the potential for fraud are concerns regarding mail-in voting. He is confident that the fraud issue is being managed, but cost and the failure rate of the postal service remain concerns. The capacity of the county clerks to process the ballots is also of concern. He acknowledged, however, that the clerks and the postal service in June did an amazing job, although they did make some mistakes.

Secretary Adams said the postal service has indicated that their public goal for delivery of election mail is 96 percent. When the average voter error rate of about five percent is combined with the error rate for mail delivery, that totals almost 10 percent of votes. That does not mean that mail in voting should not be an option. He said that he and the Governor amended the rule late in the game to reassure voters that they may still vote if they had not received their ballot for the primary. The legislature might want to make permanent some of the changes that were made, though some should be reserved for a state of emergency only. Secretary Adams reminded the committee members that he welcomes the perspective and suggestions of all members of the General Assembly.

Senator Schroder thanked him for his testimony and also for agreeing to meet with the Appropriations and Revenue Committee in September. He announced that the next meeting of the Interim Joint Committee on State Government will be August 27 at the Kentucky State Fair. Videoconferencing will not be available for that meeting. There were no further questions, and the meeting was adjourned at 12:11 p.m.