

BUDGET REVIEW SUBCOMMITTEE ON GENERAL GOVERNMENT, FINANCE, PERSONNEL, AND PUBLIC RETIREMENT

Minutes of the 2nd Meeting of the 2023 Interim

July 19, 2023

Call to Order and Roll Call

The second meeting of the Budget Review Subcommittee on General Government, Finance, Personnel, and Public Retirement of the Interim Joint Committee on Appropriations and Revenue was held on July 19, 2023, at 9:00 AM in Room 131 of the Capitol Annex. Representative Chris Freeland, Chair, called the meeting to order, and the secretary called the roll.

Present were:

Members: Representative Chris Freeland, Co-Chair; Senator Michael J. Nemes, Co-Chair; Representative Kevin D. Bratcher, Representative Randy Bridges, Senator Christian McDaniel, Representative David Hale, Senator Reginald Thomas, Representative Mary Beth Imes, Representative DJ Johnson, Representative Josie Raymond, and Representative Nancy Tate.

Guests: Milward Dedman, Deputy Executive Director, Kentucky Infrastructure Authority; Karen Sellers, Executive Director, State Board of Elections; and Tabatha Clemons, Grant County Clerk and Vice President, Kentucky County Clerks Association.

LRC Staff: Joey Holt, Emma Mills, Jeremy Simpson, and Spring Emerson.

Kentucky Infrastructure Authority

Mr. Dedman provided information on the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Drinking Water and Wastewater Infrastructure Fund and the Water Management Assistance Fund.

In response to a question from Representative Bridges, Mr. Dedman said the last four projects he mentioned were for water projects in Martin and Marion counties, a stormwater project in Burgin, and one other project. Representative Bridges commented that Livingston and Crittenden Counties are supplying what they can to Marion County and they are over capacity with aging equipment which is cause for concern.

In response to a question from Senator Thomas, Mr. Dedman confirmed that Burgin is in Mercer County.

In response to questions from Chair Freeland, Mr. Dedman said the timeline for the grants is not currently an issue, but the lack of response is more concerning. He added that wastewater treatment facilities are also included.

State Board of Elections

Ms. Sellers and Ms. Clemons provided information on the cost of elections for the counties and the state.

In response to a question from Chair Freeland regarding the reimbursement rates and how long they have been in effect, as well as how they compare to other states, Ms. Sellers deferred to

Trey Grayson, former Kentucky Secretary of State. Mr. Grayson said no adjustment has been made to the statutory numbers since his term ended in 2011.

In response to a question from Chair Freeland, Ms. Clemons said more poll workers are able to serve now that there are Vote Centers. It is still difficult to find election officers.

In response to questions from Representative Hale, Ms. Clemons said the pay for election officers is set by the county fiscal courts up to a capped amount. Some counties have Vote Centers that all voters can utilize without voting in their particular precinct. Representative Hale expressed his appreciation for the options being made available.

In response to a question from Senator Thomas, Ms. Sellers agreed that early voting is great, but it does cost more. Ms. Clemons added that costs vary per county, and the information will be provided at a later date.

In response to a question from Chair Freeland regarding marketing costs, Ms. Clemons said some costs are mandated, such as advertisements and media notices.

In response to a question from Representative Hale regarding voter registration in high schools, Ms. Sellers said the State Board of Elections works with the counties. Ms. Clemons said there is a program for high school seniors in Grant County that teaches about taxes, elections, and voting registry. Usage of the State Board of Elections Voter Registration web page is very helpful. Ms. Sellers added that people find the website to be more secure than other types of registration.

Adjournment

There being no further business before the subcommittee, the meeting was adjourned at 10:02 AM.