

Supplemental information in response to Conference call

-----Original Message-----

From: Tassinari, Michelle (SEC) [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, August 10, 2010 5:03 PM
To: Carey, Robert CIV FVAP
Cc: McGuire, Paddy CIV FVAP; Mellett, Timothy F (CRT);
[REDACTED]; Mendez, Paul CIV FVAP
Subject: Follow-Up
Importance: High

Bob-

I am writing to follow-up on our conference call today regarding our hardship waiver request submitted on behalf of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. The information contained below is intended to clarify and supplement the information contained in our hardship waiver request submitted on August 2, 2010.

As we discussed, absent unanticipated circumstances, this Office will have electronic files (camera ready pdf files) of the absentee ballots by September 28th. We have already begun working with our printer to format each ballot and will be providing the printer with the names to insert as soon after the primary as possible. As we approve each ballot style, we will send the electronic file to the appropriate local election official with specific instructions to use it as the official absentee ballot for UOCAVA voters. For UOCAVA voters who have requested their ballot be transmitted electronically, the local election official will either e-mail or fax (depending on what the voter requested) the ballot and necessary paperwork to the voter. For UOCAVA voters who have requested their ballot be mailed to them, the local election official will print the ballot and mail it to the UOCAVA voter using an expedited mail service. Regardless of how the ballot was sent to a UOCAVA voter, a UOCAVA voter will be able to fax, e-mail or mail their completed ballot back to the local election official.

As mentioned, state law requires local election officials to send an absentee ballot upon receipt of a request from a voter and verification of the voter's qualifications. (M. G. L. c. 54, §§ 91, 91B). Local election officials must enter absentee voter information into our statewide database including the date the application is received, the date the ballot is mailed and the date the ballot is returned. This Office will be monitoring this data to ensure compliance with timely distribution of absentee ballots to UOCAVA voters.

Supplemental information in response to Conference call

Additionally, per your request, we are looking into the time savings that has resulted from using an express mail service. As soon as we have some information, we will forward it to you.

Please be aware that this Office is committed to ensuring that UOCAVA voters receive their ballots in sufficient time for them to mark their ballots and return them to their local election officials to be counted in the upcoming election. We believe that the plan we have submitted will actually provide UOCAVA voters with more time to receive, vote and return their ballots than if absentee ballots were sent regular mail 45 days before the election.

We appreciate the opportunity to further discuss our hardship waiver application. As always, please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions.

Michelle K. Tassinari

Director/Legal Counsel

Elections Division

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

fax: [REDACTED]