

VOTE CUYAHOGA COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS

**Board Meeting
12-30-2019**

Attending:

Jeff Hastings, Chairman
Robert S. Frost, Member
David J. Wondolowski, Member
Anthony W. Perlatti, Director
Shantiel Soeder, Deputy Director
Mark R. Musson, Assistant Prosecutor, Cuyahoga County

Anthony Alto, Clerk to the Board
Linda Walker, Clerk to the Board

The Board Meeting began at 9:32 pm.

Chairman Hastings noted that Board Members Wondolowski and Frost were present.

The Board voted unanimously to excuse Board Member Chappell's absence.

Agenda Item 1: Approval of the meeting minutes from the November 18, 2019, November 26, 2019, and December 13, 2019 Board Meetings

The Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes from the November 18, 26, and December 13, 2019 board meetings pending the suggested changes.

Agenda Item 2: Acknowledgement of Secretary of State Directives 2019-25 through 2019-34

The Board voted unanimously to acknowledge Secretary of State Directives 2019-25 through 2019-34.

Agenda Item 3: Receipt of the Draft Election Administration Plan for Board Review

Election & Compliance Administrator Tony Kaloger stated that the Election Administration Plan (EAP) is required to be provided to the Secretary of State. This EAP is similar to the ones in the

past. Staff will be working with the Prosecutor's Office to determine what should be redacted. Staff asks that the Board send their edits on or before January 10, 2020. Staff is required to submit the EAP to the Secretary of State by January 17th. An updated EAP will be provided to the Board prior to the Presidential election, most likely sometime in June. The EAP does not need formal Board Approval. This is performed every other year before the Primary Election in even numbered years.

Agenda Item 4: Acknowledgement of the post-election audit from the September 10, 2019 Primary Election and the November 5, 2019 General Election

Ballot Manager Brian Cleary stated that on December 16, 2019 staff conducted a Risk-Limiting Post-Election Audit for the September 2019 Primary and November 2019 General elections. There were 4,753 total ballots cast in the September 2019 Primary Election. A hand count was conducted of 389 ballots cast in the audited contest. The accuracy rate for the post-election audit is 100%. There were 222,648 total ballots cast in the November 2019 General Election. A hand count was conducted of 1,153 ballots cast in the audited contest. The accuracy rate for the post-election audit is 100%. Deputy Director Shantiel Soeder stated that members from the Secretary of State, All Voting is Local, and three (3) other Boards of Elections were present.

The Board voted unanimously to acknowledge the Post-Election Audit from the September 10, 2019 Primary Election, and November 5, 2019 General Election.

Agenda Item 5: Acknowledgement of candidate and issue withdrawals for the March 17, 2020 Primary Election

The Board voted unanimously to acknowledge the candidate and issue withdrawals for the March 17, 2020 Primary Election as provided in the meeting materials.

Agenda Item 6: Acknowledgement of intent to retire and resignations from elected office

The Board voted unanimously to acknowledge the intent to retire and resignation from elected office as provided in the meeting materials.

Agenda Item 7: Certification of Candidates and Issues for the March 17, 2020 Primary Election

Candidate and Petition Services Manager Brent Lawler stated that Isaac Powell filed 81 signatures. The office requires 50 valid signatures. The candidate has 47 valid signatures. Registration Manager Edwards met with Mr. Powell and reviewed his petition. Mr. Powell believes that signers who stated their “city” as Bedford instead of their registered city of “Bedford Heights” should be counted as valid. The Election Officials Manual and the policy of the Board of Elections is that if the signer had stated “Bedford Heights or Cleveland”, the signer would have been accepted as a valid signer. Mr. Powell was made aware of the issue when he ran for office in 2018, and he mentioned it when he met with Ms. Edwards. Staff again advised Mr. Powell that the circulator could have corrected the “city” before the petition was filed with the Board of Elections. There were four (4) instances where the signer indicated “Bedford” instead of “Bedford Heights”. Mr. Powell’s petition does not have the qualifying minimum valid signatures, and therefore should not be certified to the March 17, 2020 Primary Election.

Mr. Powell stated that many people who live in Bedford Heights colloquially say that they live in Bedford. A signer does not have to state that they live in the heights, they can just place a hyphen. The voters wrote down Bedford, but thought they were writing Bedford Heights. The intent was to write Bedford Heights. Most are senior citizens who make these mistakes. These senior citizens should not be ruled off.

Board Member Wondolowski asked if the Board is required to not certify him. Mr. Lawler stated that according to the Secretary of State the Board cannot accept the signatures in question as valid. Board Member Wondolowski stated that he understands Mr. Powell’s sentiments because he grew up in Bedford.

The Board voted unanimously not to certify Mr. Powell to the ballot.

Mr. Lawler stated that two (2) candidates for State Central Committee, Barbara Cole-DeBerry and Calin Radoi, did not have the qualifying minimum number of valid signatures. Since they do

not have the qualifying minimum signatures they should not be certified to the March 17, 2020 Primary Election.

Neither Barbara Cole-DeBarry nor Calin Radoi were present.

The Board voted unanimously not to certify Ms. Cole-DeBarry and Ms. Radoi to the March 17, 2020 ballot.

Mr. Lawler stated that Mr. Robert Rice is a candidate for County Central Committee, but lives in a different ward than what he listed, and therefore cannot be placed on the ballot.

The Board voted unanimously not to certify Mr. Rice to the March 17, 2020 ballot.

Mr. Lawler stated that the filings for two (2) candidates, Wayne Capka and William Schoeffler, were received via USPS after the filing deadline. Since the candidates did not meet the statutory filing deadline they should not be certified.

The Board voted unanimously not to certify Messrs. Capka and Schoeffler to the March 17, 2020 ballot.

Mr. Lawler stated that Erick Dunafee, candidate for county central committee, filed an invalid affidavit and did not withdraw, therefore the Board cannot certify him to the ballot.

The Board voted unanimously not to certify Mr. Dunafee to the March 17, 2020 ballot.

The Board voted unanimously to certify the candidates and issues to the March 17, 2020 Primary Election, except for the city of Parma.

Board Members Wondolowski and Frost voted to certify the candidates and issues for the city of Parma to the March 17, 2020 Primary Election. Chairman Hastings abstained from voting.

Agenda Item 8: PEO Performance Report from the November 5, 2019 General Election

Election Officials Assistant Manager Peter James stated the performance of the Precinct Election Officials during the November 5, 2019 Primary Election was strong. Relative to the criteria set forth in the PEO Performance Policy, the workers performed at a high level, with procedural mistakes made in a small number of locations. Based on calls made to the Call Center during the Election, and feedback received post-election, there were few complaints from workers or voters relative to the execution of the election. Overall, the November election was a success.

The Board voted unanimously to acknowledge receipt of the PEO Performance Report from the November 5, 2019 General Election.

Agenda Item 9: Approval of vouchers

The Board voted unanimously to approve the vouchers as provided in the meeting materials.

Agenda Item 10: Approval to renew the Ballot Printing Contract to Midwest Direct in the amount not-to-exceed \$639, 236.00 for the Term of January 1, 2020 through May 31, 2020

The Board voted unanimously to approve the renewal of the Ballot Printing Contract to Midwest Direct in the amount not-to-exceed \$639, 236.00 for the Term of January 1, 2020 through May 31, 2020.

Agenda Item 11: Approval of the Voter Guide for the March 17, 2020 Primary Election

The Board voted unanimously to approve the Voter Guide for the March 17, 2020 Primary Election.

Agenda Item 12: Approval of personnel agenda

The Board voted unanimously to approve the personnel agenda as provided in the meeting materials.

New Business:

Job Fair

Human Resources Manager Lori Acosta stated that the Board is holding a job fair to prepare for

the 2020 elections. It will be held on January 6th from 10:00 am until 2:00 pm at the Harvard Park Garage. Staff will update the Board on its progress. Several media outlets have advertised the job fair for us.

Voting Equipment Open House

Administrator Tony Kaloger stated that the Voting Equipment Open House will be on Friday, January 10th. The emphasis will be on ballot on demand. In the past staff invited several groups and vendors. It will run from 10:00 am until noon. The location will be the first floor of the Warehouse. Everyone from the previous open house will be invited as well as elected officials, and members of the ADA community. We expect at least 15 different groups to be present. The benefit of ballot on demand is that the board would not have to stock every ballot type for each election. Staff will keep the Board updated.

Miscellaneous Updates

Director Perlatti stated that almost all polling locations have been identified for the March 17, 2020 Primary Election. We are working with Councilwoman Phyllis Cleveland. Polling locations will stay at the Old Stone Church and St. Clair Place. We are also working with the Parade Committee and Councilmen McCormick and Jones. We will encourage voters to vote by mail. Staff is on track with the latest security directive, and is working with the County to finish up. We are about 90 percent compliant. We are working with ES&S to upgrade DIMS to comply with the Directive. Construction of the first floor is on target to finish on or before time. Workers will be focusing on floors and ceilings this week. They are on track to be done by the middle of February. The architect has submitted drawings to the City of Cleveland for the Halle Warehouse. The project coordinator was there this morning.

Board Member Frost stated that the OAEO Conference will be held January 14th through the 17th. He thanked Director Perlatti and Deputy Director Soeder & staff for their work on the conference.

Public Comment:

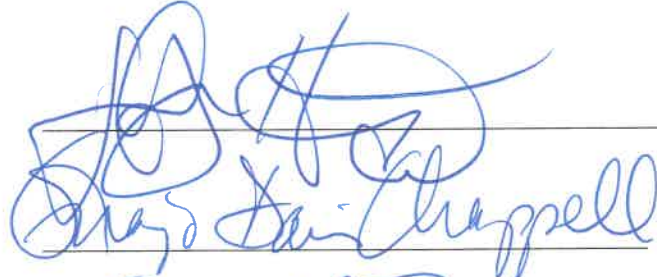
Michael Seals:

Mr. Seals spoke about the polling locations for Cleveland Ward 7.

The Board voted unanimously to adjourn at 10:37 am.

Certification: I have reviewed the above minutes and certify that they are an accurate summary of the actions taken by the Cuyahoga County Board of Elections at its meeting held on December 30, 2019.

Jeff Hastings, Chairman

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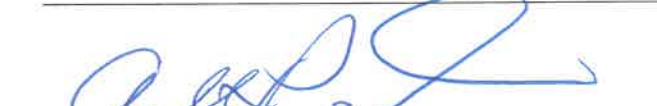
Inajo Davis Chappell, Member

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Robert S. Frost, Member

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David J. Wondolowski, Member

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Anthony Perlatti, Director

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