



Inajo Davis Chappell  
*Chairwoman*

Jeff Hastings  
*Member*

David Wondolowski  
*Member*

Robert S. Frost  
*Member*

Pat McDonald  
*Director*

Anthony W. Perlatti  
*Deputy Director*

## **MEDIA ADVISORY**

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Date:** September 3, 2017

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### **OFFICIAL STATEMENT REGARDING SECURITY INCIDENT AT BOARD OF ELECTIONS ON SEPTEMBER 2, 2017**

CLEVELAND, OH—On Saturday, September 2, 2017, Cuyahoga County Protective Services—a division of the Cuyahoga County Sheriff's Office—responded to a security alarm at the Board of Elections Building located at 2925 Euclid Avenue in Cleveland. The alarm was triggered at approximately 3:10 p.m. and was reported to the dispatch center of the Cuyahoga County Sheriff's Office at approximately 3:13 p.m.

Although the Board of Elections was closed for business, responding officers reported finding Congressman Dennis Kucinich on site, who had gained entry to the building via the rear entry door. After discovering no employees inside the building, Congressman Kucinich had notified the Cleveland Police Department, whose officers also responded to the situation.

As with all buildings owned by Cuyahoga County, it is the responsibility of Cuyahoga County Protective Services to lock and unlock the building and to set and maintain all security alarms, and we are working with them on an ongoing investigation into how entry was permitted when the building should have been closed and secured.

However, we can confirm with certainty that no tampering with voted or unvoted ballots took place, nor any other action that would compromise the integrity of the September 12, 2017 Primary Election.

All official ballots were securely stored in double-locked rooms that require bipartisan access. These rooms were locked prior to the close of business the day before and were, therefore, inaccessible.

Further, Board of Elections staff has subsequently accounted for all voted and unvoted ballots that were onsite. Additionally, all voted ballots were either still in their sealed voter identification envelopes or, if already opened, were kept in storage bins secured with tamper-evident seals. These procedures ensure that no tampering with voted ballots could take place without us catching it.

While the Sheriff's Office continues to investigate this issue, we will also be working with them to review and upgrade the physical security of the Board of Elections Building, and any required upgrades will be implemented immediately.

Both the Board of Elections and the County of Cuyahoga are committed to fair and transparent elections, and we will work with County Executive Budish's administration and with Sheriff Pinkney to ensure that our commitment is protected with the utmost safeguards.

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