

**HAMILTON COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS
MEETING HELD
APRIL 7, 2020 at 8:30AM**

The meeting of the Hamilton County Board of Elections was called to order at 8:30am by Chair Gwen McFarlin. Present were members Mr. Triantafilou, Mr. Faux and Mr. Gerhardt. Also present: Director Sherry Poland and Deputy Director Sally Krisel and David Stevenson with the Hamilton County Prosecutor's office. Due to COVID-19 and Ohio Governor Mike DeWine's stay at home order, the meeting was live streamed for public viewing.

Ms. McFarlin noted that proper notice was duly provided as required by O.R.C. 121.22. Ms. McFarlin opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

I. APPROVE BOARD MEETING MINUTES: MARCH 13 & 16, 2020

Mr. Triantafilou made a motion to approve the Board Meeting Minutes for March 13 & 16, 2020; Mr. Faux seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

II. APPROVE: BALLOT REMAKES

Ms. Criddle presented the following ballots to the Board. All were remade by bipartisan teams pursuant to Secretary of State Directive and Board policy:

Remakes: Damaged
A199 – A209
A222 – A 257
A352

Mr. Triantafilou made a motion to approve the ballots as remade; Mr. Faux seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Remake: 17-year-old voters*
A210 – A221

Mr. Triantafilou made a motion to approve the ballots as remade; Mr. Faux seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

*17-year old voters may not vote on questions or issues or in contests to directly elect candidates. Ballots remade to exclude those contests.

Remakes: UOCAVA
A258 – A351

Mr. Triantafilou made a motion to approve the ballots as remade; Mr. Faux seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Remakes: Stray Marks
A363 – A385

Mr. Triantafilou made a motion to approve the ballots as remade; Mr. Faux seconded.

**Remakes: Voter Intent*
A352 – A362**

Mr. Triantafilou made a motion to approve the ballots as remade; Mr. Faux seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

***Remakes reviewed by Director and Deputy Director prior to being presented to the Board.**

III. UPDATE: 2020 PRIMARY ELECTION

Ms. Poland provided a timeline of events beginning on March 25, 2020 when the Ohio General Assembly declared the March 17, 2020 Primary Election extended to April 28, 2020 and declared it would be conducted as a by-mail only Election. Governor DeWine signed this legislation into law on March 27th and Secretary of State LaRose issued a Directive to carry out the legislation.

Staff began processing the Absentee Ballot Applications and began mailing the ballots on March 30th. It was reported that 22,512 ballots were mailed in the first week.

Staff has reached out to the Board's print vendor, MCR, to automate and outsource part of the process in an effort to stay ahead of the volume of requests. The data entry of all requests is still conducted by Staff with the ballots and ID envelopes printed and assembled by MCR.

The Board was advised that the office is closed to the general public but absentee ballot request forms are available in the front office foyer with drop boxes in the foyer and at the front outdoor area of the building. A call center has been created to handle the absentee ballot requests. Full time Staff is reporting to work and a large component of full time "extra" staff has been added. All work stations have been spread out to comply with the 6-foot CDC guidelines. Hand sanitizer, disinfectant wipes, gloves, masks and safety glasses are available to all staff.

The Board asked many questions to familiarize themselves with the processes and procedures and the plan of action moving forward through April 28th.

IV. APPROVE: FMLA EXPANSION & EMERGENCY SICK LEAVE POLICY

The Board was advised of The Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA) (Addendum to Section 5.1 Sick Leave Policy) and the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA) (Addendum to Section 5.0 FMLA) which

was prepared for Staff by Board legal counsel and the Hamilton County Prosecutor's Office.

Mr. Triantafilou made a motion to approve the two policies; Mr. Faux seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

V. OTHER BUSINESS

The Board members expressed their support and gratitude to Staff for their hard work and dedication.

A question regarding closing the polls was addressed. Ms. Poland advised the polls were declared open by the Board but were closed by the State Department of Health Order so no further action was required of the Board in that regard.

There was a discussion regarding future meetings which are still to be determined with the exception of the planned 6:30pm April 28th meeting.

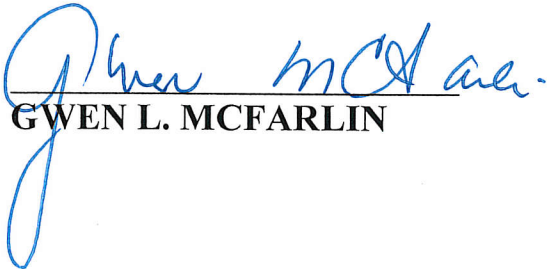
There being no further business to come before the Board, Mr. Triantafilou made a motion to adjourn; Mr. Faux seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

APPROVED:

DATE: April 22, 2020

CHAIR:

DIRECTOR:


GWEN L. MCFARLIN


SHERRY L. POLAND