

**HAMILTON COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS
MEETING HELD
JULY 14, 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 Social Distancing and limited space in the Board Meeting Room, 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: JUNE 9, 2020

Mr. Triantafilou made a motion to approve the Board Meeting Minutes for June 9, 2020; Mr. Faux seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

II. HEARING: REGISTERED VOTER CHALLENGES

The Board previously reviewed two spreadsheets listing properties that were identified as being part of City of Cincinnati and Landbank Demolition projects.

With regard to the City of Cincinnati list of properties: The Board expressed concern with potential errors in the list provided and asked Staff to make site visits to determine the accuracy of the information provided. There were 16 addresses originally provided; 4 have been determined to not be demolished properties and indicated accordingly on the revised spreadsheet for review. The Board was advised that the City of Cincinnati took responsibility for their error in including these 4 properties in the Demolished building report.

The Board discussed the remaining properties on this list as well as the Landbank Demolition list. 58 individuals were registered to vote at the addresses contained in these lists; 2 registered voters submitted Change of Address documentation. The remaining voters were sent a letter along with a voter registration form and a request to update their registration; 2 forwarding addresses were provided; the remainder were returned undeliverable.

Mr. Triantafilou made a motion to challenge the 56 registered voters listed on the Demolished properties spreadsheet should they attempt to vote from those addresses; Mr. Faux seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

III. RESOLUTION: AUTHORIZING AMENDMENT TO LEASE OF 4700 SMITH ROAD FACILITY – RESOLUTION #2020-003

The Board was advised that over 15,000 square feet of additional space on the BOE Campus is currently available for lease. Staff is proposing entering into a short-term lease (August 1 to November 30) for these premises with the intent to move in-person early voting to this space. Additional space is needed to maintain social distancing. Staff is creating an assessment of the requirements for the additional space. Funding will be provided through The Cares Act. The Board was advised that the BOE space currently used for in-person early voting will be used for Absentee Ballot processing.

Mr. Triantafilou made a motion to adopt Resolution #2020-003 authorizing execution of agreement of fourth amendment to lease of 4700 Smith Road; Mr. Faux seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

IV. RESOLUTION: AUTHORIZING EXTENSION OF ELECTRONIC POLL BOOK AGREEMENT – RESOLUTION #2020-004

The Board was advised that the original agreement with Tenex Software Solutions to provide Precinct Central ePollbook Solution expired June 15, 2020; an extension of this agreement is proposed.

Mr. Triantafilou made a motion to adopt Resolution #2020-004 authorizing the Director and Deputy Director to negotiate the terms of a satisfactory extension of the original contract with Tenex Software Solutions; Mr. Faux seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

V. APPROVAL: FULL TIME STAFF APPOINTMENTS

The Board was advised of the following Full Time Staff Appointments in the Operations Department:

Chase Engel to Election/Warehouse Coordinator
Lynn McFarland to Election Coordinator

Mr. Triantafilou made a motion to appoint Chase Engel to Election/Warehouse Coordinator in the Operations Department; Mr. Faux seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Faux made a motion to appoint Lynn McFarland to Election Coordinator in the Operations Department; Mr. Triantafilou seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

VI. APPROVE: EQUIPMENT ALLOCATION FOR THE AUGUST 4, 2020 SPECIAL ELECTION

The Equipment Allocation was previously approved; pursuant to Directive it must be reviewed within 30 days of Election Day.

Mr. Triantafilou made a motion to approve the Equipment Allocation for the August 4, 2020 Special Election; Mr. Faux seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

VII. APPROVE: BALLOT AND PROVISIONAL ENVELOPE QUANTITIES FOR THE AUGUST 4, 2020 SPECIAL ELECTION

The Ballot and Provisional Envelope Quantities were previously approved; pursuant to Directive they must be reviewed within 30 days of Election Day.

Mr. Triantafilou made a motion to approve the Ballot and Provisional Envelope Quantities for the August 4, 2020 Special Election; Mr. Faux seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

VIII. OTHER BUSINESS

The Board reviewed the upcoming meeting schedule.

Kenny Henning, regional liaison for Ohio Secretary of State Frank LaRose addressed the Board.

Ms. McFarlin addressed several topics including Precinct Election Official recruitment efforts and the possibility of expanding Absentee Ballot drop boxes to additional locations.

Mr. Faux made a motion to direct Staff to investigate the cost and feasibility of four additional drop boxes placed in secure locations in Downtown Cincinnati; and suburbs in the West, North and East sections of the County.

A discussion regarding this proposal ensued. Mr. Gerhardt suggested that the Board is currently bound by Secretary of State Directive.

Mr. Triantafilou expressed his concerns as to the violation of said Directive; concerns regarding the current legislative discussions in Columbus and concerns regarding uniformity Statewide. He stated that in principle he did not object to the exploration of this topic but could not guarantee he would favor proposed changes.

Mr. Gerhardt expressed his concerns about conducting said investigation without clear directive from the Secretary of State guiding Boards of Elections on this topic; he expressed concern over uniformity among counties in Ohio.

Ms. McFarlin and Mr. Faux indicated their desire to be prepared to move quickly in the event a Directive is issued that would enable changes to Absentee Ballot drop box locations.

Upon request for comment, Mr. Stevenson indicated that Boards of Election must follow Secretary of State Directives.

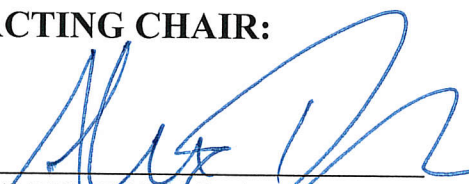
As there was no second to Mr. Faux's motion; Ms. McFarlin seconded. Ms. McFarlin – aye; Mr. Triantafilou – aye; Mr. Faux – aye; Mr. Gerhardt – nay. The motion carries with three affirmative votes.

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: August 3, 2020

ACTING CHAIR:


ALEX TRIANTAFILOU

DIRECTOR:


SHERRY L. POLAND