

**HAMILTON COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS
MEETING HELD
AUGUST 17, 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: AUGUST 3 & 4, 2020

Mr. Triantafilou made a motion to approve the Board Meeting Minutes for August 3 & 4, 2020; Mr. Faux seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

II. APPROVE: AUGUST SPECIAL ELECTION PROVISIONAL BALLOT REPORT

The Board reviewed the Summary Staff Recommendation for the August 4, 2020 Special Election dated August 14, 2020:

Total # of Provisional Ballots Issued: 8

Total # Accepted: 7

Mr. Triantafilou made a motion to accept the staff recommendation to accept these ballots; Mr. Faux seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Total # Rejected: 1

Not Registered: 1

Mr. Triantafilou made a motion to accept the staff recommendation to reject this ballot; Mr. Faux seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

III. APPROVE: AUGUST 2020 SPECIAL ELECTION BALLOT REMAKES

The Board was advised that there were no Ballot remakes at this time.

IV. HEARING: PROTEST OF PETITIONS TO CHALLENGE ORDINANCE NO. 2019-10 IN THE VILLAGE OF GOLF MANOR

The Board conducted a Hearing on the Protest of Petitions to Challenge Ordinance No. 2019-10 in the Village of Golf Manor. A transcript of the Hearing is attached hereto for reference.

V. CERTIFICATION: QUESTIONS & ISSUES – NOVEMBER 3, 2020 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION

The Board reviewed the list of 19 Questions and Issues to be placed on the ballot for the November 3, 2020 Presidential Election. It was noted that additional Charter amendments may be filed, as the deadline for that filing is September 4, 2020.

Mr. Triantafilou made a motion to Approve the list of Questions and Issues for the November 3, 2020 Presidential Election; Mr. Faux seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

The Board was advised that the Indian Hill Exempted Village School District filed a Bond Issue August 7, 2020 for placement on the Ballot; the deadline for filing this issue was August 5, 2020.

Mr. Triantafilou made a motion to Reject the Indian Hill Exempted Village School District Bond Issue as it was filed past the deadline for placement on the Ballot; Mr. Faux seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

VI. CERTIFICATION: WRITE IN CANDIDATES – NOVEMBER 3, 2020 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION

The Board reviewed the list of those individuals who filed as write in candidates for the November 3, 2020 Presidential Election.

Mr. Triantafilou made a motion to Approve the list of write in candidates; Mr. Faux seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

VII. UPDATE: NOVEMBER 3, 2020 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION PLANNING

The Board was advised that planning for the November 2020 Presidential Election continues. Ms. Poland updated the Board on several items:

1. PEO recruitment:

There are ongoing efforts for PEO recruitment. 77% of open positions are filled. Staff will continue to recruit with the goal of having a full complement of poll workers plus additional on standby for last minute placement. Poll worker training will begin October 1st. PEOs who were trained in November and/or March may utilize on-line training; new poll workers must attend in-person training.

2. Absentee Ballot Application Update:

Absentee Ballot Applications are being processed daily; Staff has processed approximately 18,000 to date. Staff will utilize our Print Vendor (MCR) to print and process the ballots for mailing. The Board was advised that two bi-partisan teams will be on site at MCR in the first weeks of ballot production to oversee the operation. Staff intends to have the entire backlog of requests processed and ready for mailing on October 6th. From there, our goal is to have applications processed with a 24-hour turnaround for mailing. The BOE website will be updated daily to include the list of Absentee Ballot requests.

Ms. McFarlin expressed concern with regard to the ability of the USPS to handle the volume. Ms. Poland outlined a list of several ways in which the concern with the USPS is being addressed. A discussion regarding Absentee ballot drop off and the challenges of same with respect to the March/April Primary ensued. The different circumstances of March/April were noted: including lack of the time crunch present in April; polling locations open for voting; opening the voting annex in the rear of the building, thereby removing in person voting traffic from the front of the building near the drop box. Ms. Poland also noted that Staff is working with the Norwood Police Department and the Hamilton County Sheriff's department for traffic control during the early voting period.

Ms. McFarlin questioned the potential long lines at the polling locations. As social distancing will be employed, long lines may be unavoidable. The Board was advised of the measures being taken to reduce wait time and ensure, to the extent possible, the safety of voters and poll workers.

XI. CERTIFICATION: AUGUST 4, 2020 SPECIAL ELECTION RESULTS

The Board was advised of the results of the August 4, 2020 Special Election.

Mr. Triantafilou made a motion to Certify the Results of the August 4, 2020 Special Election; Mr. Faux seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

The Board was in receipt of a letter from City of Cincinnati Mayor John Cranley regarding drop boxes; Ms. McFarlin asked that it be read into the minutes.

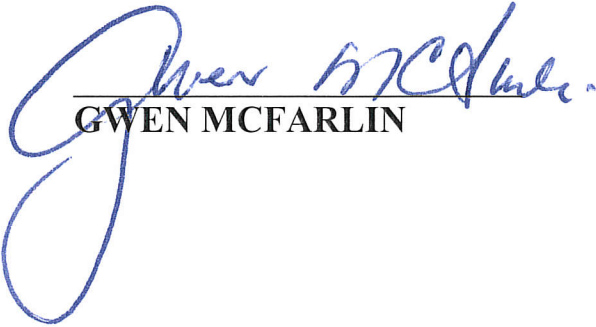
There being no further business to come before the Board, Mr. Triantafilou made a motion to adjourn; Mr. Faux seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

APPROVED:

DATE: September 8, 2020

CHAIR:

DIRECTOR:


GWEN MCFARLIN


SHERRY L. POLAND