

**HAMILTON COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS
MEETING HELD
OCTOBER 13, 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. Gerhardt and Mr. Faux. Also present: Director Sherry Poland and Deputy Director Sally Krisel and Cooper Bowen 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.

The Board recognized Deborah Weaver for her 45 years of service to the Board of Elections as a Precinct Election Official. Kenny Henning, Regional Liaison for the Ohio Secretary of State presented a commendation to Ms. Weaver on behalf of Secretary of State Frank LaRose.

Chair McFarlin acknowledged the passing of Joe Morgan and offered condolences and a moment of silence in his honor.

**I. APPROVE: BOARD MEETING MINUTES: SEPTEMBER 8, 2020 –
SEPTEMBER 17, 2020 – SEPTEMBER 28, 2020**

Mr. Triantafilou made a motion to approve the Board meeting minutes for September 8, 2020, September 17, 2020 and September 28, 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: UOCAVA
A1 – A246

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

III. APPROVE: EQUIPMENT ALLOCATION FOR THE NOVEMBER 3, 2020 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION.

Mr. Triantafilou made a motion to approve the Equipment Allocation for the November 3, 2020 Presidential Election; Mr. Faux seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

IV. APPROVE: BALLOT AND PROVISIONAL ENVELOPE QUANTITIES FOR THE NOVEMBER 3, 2020 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION

Mr. Triantafilou made a motion to approve the Ballot and Provisional Envelope quantities for the November 3, 2020 Presidential Election; Mr. Faux seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

V. 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. Early/Absentee Voting Update:

Absentee Ballot Applications are being processed daily; Staff has processed 171,379 to date; 47,509 absentee ballots have been returned. Staff has processed 13,643 individuals voting early in-person – the equivalent of 2800-3100 voters per day.

2. Staff advised the Board of plans to utilize the property across the street from the Board for an overflow ballot drop off location as needed. This area is already under easement to the Board pursuant to exhibit F of the Board facility lease agreement. The Board was advised that the secure 24 hour permanent drop box would continue to be utilized and emptied frequently each day, including weekends, by bipartisan teams. Additional ballot drop-off locations, manned by bipartisan Board of Elections teams and located on the premises, will be employed as needed.

3. Mr. Triantafilou raised the question with respect to the use of the bull horn by some campaigners outside of the early vote center and the possible disruption of voting. Ms. McFarlin stated she spent time with Jeremy Jimmar to work with the campaigners in an effort to adjust the sound levels so that they may not be heard inside the polling location. Mr. Jimmar reported there are now three bull horns being used by various campaigns. Ms. McFarlin indicated her desire to be able to compromise and work with those campaigning in this manner.

4. The Board engaged in a discussion regarding traffic concerns for ballot drop off and collection as well as early voting and preparing for greater numbers of each.

VI. APPROVE: HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

Addressing the extensive schedule the two 2020 Election cycles have brought to BOE staff, it was requested of the Board to alter the 2020 Holiday schedule to include closing the Board of Elections office at noon on December 24, 2020 and reopening at 8am on January 4, 2021 (4.5 days). Staff would ensure the drop box would be emptied and the mail would be collected during the closure.

Mr. Triantafilou made a motion to approve the Staff recommendation for Holiday closure; Mr. Faux seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

VII. OTHER BUSINESS

The Board reviewed their upcoming meeting schedule:

Monday November 2, 2020 at 8:30am; stand in recess and reconvene on

Tuesday November 3, 2020 at 6pm

Monday November 16 at 8:30am Approve Ballot remakes and Verification
of the Provisional Report

Wednesday November 18, 2020 at 8:30am Approve Provisional Ballot remakes

Wednesday November 18, 2020 at 3pm Certify Election results.

The Board was advised that additional meetings may be scheduled through mid-December.

Ms. McFarlin read into the record a letter from Hamilton County Commission President Denise Driehaus regarding monetary support available via the Hamilton County Commissioners thru the CARES Act.

Kenny Henning, Regional Liaison to the Ohio Secretary of State addressed the Board.

Mr. Triantafilou made a motion to enter an Executive session for the purpose of discussing security arrangements; Mr. Faux seconded. Ms. McFarlin -aye; Mr. Triantafilou -aye; Mr. Faux -aye; Mr. Gerhardt -aye. The motion passed unanimously whereupon the Board entered executive session at 9:31am.

Mr. Triantafilou made a motion to return to regular session; Mr. Faux seconded. Ms. McFarlin -aye; Mr. Triantafilou -aye; Mr. Faux -aye; Mr. Gerhardt -aye whereupon the Board returned to regular session at 9:43am.

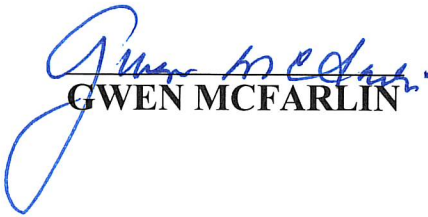
There being no further business to come before the Board, Mr. Triantafilou made a motion to adjourn; Mr. Faux seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

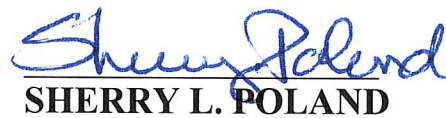
APPROVED:

DATE: November 2, 2020

CHAIR:

DIRECTOR:


GWEN MCFARLIN


SHERRY L. POLAND