

VOTE CUYAHOGA COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS

Board Meeting

10/1/2021

Attending:

Jeff Hastings, Chairman
Inajo Davis Chappell, Board Member
Lisa M. Stickan, Board Member
David Wondolowski, Board Member
Anthony W. Perlatti, Director
Tony Kaloger, Deputy Director

Mark R. Musson, Assistant Prosecutor, Cuyahoga County/via teleconference
Mary Bejjani, Clerk to the Board
Linda Walker, Clerk to the Board

The Cuyahoga County Board of Elections Meeting began at 9:32 a.m. Hereinafter referred to as the CCBOE/Board.

Chairman Hastings noted that all Board Members were in attendance.

Agenda Item 1: Approval of the minutes from the September 28, 2021, Board Meeting.

Chairman Hastings moved to approve the minutes from the September 28, 2021, Board Meeting. Board Member Wondolowski seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item 2: Acknowledgment of Secretary of State Advisory 2021-05; State ex rel. Ferrara v. Trumbull County Board of Elections

Chairman Hastings moved to acknowledge the Secretary of State Advisory 2021-05; State ex rel. Ferrara v. Trumbull County Board of Elections. Board Member Wondolowski seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item 3: Certification of the official results of the September 14, 2021, Primary Election

Brian Cleary, Ballot Department Manager, presented information from the Board packet regarding the Certification of the official results of the September 14, 2021, Primary Election.

- Authorization to approve the remake of the optical scan ballots from the September 14, 2021, Primary Election

¹ Narrative that is underlined in the CCBOE minutes relates to a motion that was acted on by the Board.

Chairman Hastings moved to authorize to approve the remake of the optical scan ballots from the September 14, 2021, Primary Election. Board Member Wondolowski seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

- Authorization to approve absentee ballots from the September 14, 2021, Primary Election Chairman Hastings moved to authorize to approve the absentee ballots from the Primary Election of September 14, 2021. Board Member Wondolowski seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

- Authorization to approve provisional ballots from the September 14, 2021, Primary Election Chairman Hastings moved to approve the provisional ballots from the September 14, 2021, Primary Election. Board Member Wondolowski seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

- Acknowledgment of the pre & post-test results of the vote tabulation system from the September 14, 2021, Primary Election Chairman Hastings moved to acknowledge the pre & post-test results of the vote tabulation system from the September 14, 2021, Primary Election. Board Member Wondolowski seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Board Member Davis Chappell inquired why the Early In-Person (EIP) and Vote-by-Mail (VBM) does not begin until October 7, 2021, for certain municipalities. Director Perlatti stated there are two start dates for EIP and VBM for the November 2, 2021, General Election. For a political subdivision that did not have a September Election, EIP and VBM will begin Tuesday, October 5, 2021. For a political subdivision that had a September 14, 2021, Primary Election, per statute, once the September Primary Election is certified, there is five-calendar days wherein a party may request and pay for a recount. There are no automatic recounts for the September Election. After the five-day recount period concludes, the CCBOE the issues a Certificate of Nomination which allows the candidates to appear on the November 2, 2021, General Election ballot. The five-day window expires on Wednesday, October 6, 2021, at 4:00 p.m. On Thursday, October 7, 2021, the 442 precincts involved in the September Election will be mailed the VBM ballot or able vote in person at the CCBOE. Chairman Hastings asked how the affected voters were being notified about this two-day delay. Director Perlatti stated there is a marketing effort and any affected voters who comes to the CCBOE for EIP voting will be given a notice explaining which municipalities are included and when EIP and VBM start for those affected municipalities. The CCBOE has also notified all the candidates, the two major political parties, posted the information on the CCBOE website, sent out press releases to the media on October 1st and on October 4th, and held a press conference and the County Executive's Communication Department has also been notified. Board Member Davis Chappell asked if community leadership has been informed. Mike West, Manager of Community Outreach, stated the community leaders and mayors will be notified now that the September Election has been certified. Chairman Hastings asked if affected voters could by law vote provisionally in this circumstance. Assistant Prosecutor Musson along with director Perlatti stated they would need to investigate the question and will follow up with the Board. Chairman Hastings asked if the SOS is aware voting will not open to the municipalities involved in the September Election.

Chairman Hastings moved to certify the official results of the September 14, 2021, Primary Election. Board Member Wondolowski seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item 4: Acknowledgment of the post-election audit for the September 14, 2021, Primary Election.

Brian Cleary, Ballot Department Manager, stated that there are 19 eligible races for the post-election audit. The contests were written on sheets of paper and placed in a bin. Board Member Wondolowski randomly selected a paper from the bin and stated Cleveland Council Ward 2 was selected. Chairman Hastings confirmed Cleveland Council Ward 2 was chosen for the post-election audit for the Primary Election of September 14, 2021. The date and time of the audit will be determined when the November 2, 2021, General Election is certified.

Chairman Hastings moved to acknowledge Cleveland Council Ward 2 for the post-election audit for the September 14, 2021, Primary Election. Board Member Wondolowski seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item 5: Final approval of the ballot order for the November 2, 2021, General Election

Brian Cleary, Ballot Department Manager, presented information from the Board packet regarding the final approval of the ballot order for the November 2, 2021, General Election.

Chairman Hastings moved to approve the final ballot order for the November 2, 2021, General Election. Board Member Wondolowski seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item 6: Acknowledgment of death in elected office

Chairman Hastings moved to acknowledge the death in elected office. Board Member Wondolowski seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item 7: Acknowledgment of resignation from elected office

Chairman Hastings moved to acknowledge the resignation from elected office. Board Member Wondolowski seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item 8: Acknowledgment of withdrawal of candidate from the November 2, 2021, General Election

Chairman Hastings moved to acknowledge the withdrawal of a candidate from the November 2, 2021, General Election. Board Member Wondolowski seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item 9: Approval of vouchers

Chairman Hastings moved to approve the vouchers. Board Member Wondolowski seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

National Voter Registration Day (NVRD)

Director Perlatti provided an update on National Voter Registration Day, which took place on Tuesday, September 28, 2021. The CCBOE serves administratively, working with various organizations across the County. Cleveland VOTES, a non-profit organization, also participates and recruits volunteers for NVRD. The CCBOE provides volunteers with materials and training and provides the CCBOE's building as a meeting site. The CCBOE set a goal of gathering 2,000 new voter registrations and updates and exceeded the goal of collecting approximately 2,400 voter registrations and updates. There were 30 local partners involved at 36 event locations which those organizations staff and secure the sites. The CCBOE held events at libraries located in Strongsville, North Royalton, and Mayfield Village. The CCBOE was also at Public Square and in the CCBOE parking lot. The media coverage was very good, broadcasting at least 11 local news stories about voter registration. Elia Burgos, Community Outreach Coordinator, did an excellent job coordinating the coverage. The Election Officials Department also provided staff to promote voter registration and the Vote-by-Mail program, and recruit Election Day officials. The CCBOE promoted NVRD through social media, and analytics indicated over 9,000 click interactions. Board Member Davis Chappell stated the coverage she observed was wonderful and thanked the Community Outreach Department and all those involved for the hard work and great job on NVRD.

Chairman Hastings stated the CCBOE received notification from two outreach groups regarding their interest in registering individuals. Deputy Director Kaloger stated the two organizations were The Voter Participation Center and The Center for Voter Information, and their goal is to get more people to register to vote. The organizations notified the CCBOE that approximately 87,000 letters would be mailed in Cuyahoga County. The organizations identify young people who recently turned 18, recently moved, and people of voting age but not registered by using different databases and compare the information to voter registration databases. In the past, the wording of the letters from these two organizations created confusion regarding the recipient's voter registration status, and it prompted a flood of calls to the CCBOE. Since that time, the two organizations have worked with the Secretary of State's office to modify the wording of the correspondence. The organizations began to mail the modified letters on September 22, 2021. According to the CCBOE Registration Department, the calls are minimal, and there are no increased calls and confusion.

Update on the November 2, 2021, General Election

Director Perlatti stated the close of registration would be Monday, October 4, 2021, and the start times for absentee voting. The CCBOE will have voting location changes in Brook Park, North Royalton, and one location in Cleveland. Brook Park is going from two voting locations to four locations, so each of the four wards has its own location. The CCBOE has worked with the Brook Park Mayor to get the word out to voters. The Brook Park change will impact six precincts and approximately 6,100 voters. A location change was also necessary for North Royalton due to two school buildings closing. In working with the North Royalton Mayor and School Board, the CCBOE will be going from six to five locations. The change will impact 11 precincts and approximately 11,000 voters. The mayor committed to communicating these changes to the voters. In Cleveland, the one location change is Plymouth Church. The church was used as a polling location in August, but there was a conflict using the location in September, so the polling location was moved to Our Lady of Peace Church. Plymouth Church no longer has the issue, so

the voting location will be transferred back to Plymouth. The wards affected for the location are Ward 4, precincts Q, R, and S, and Ward 6, precinct T, impacting approximately 3,600 voters. All voters have been notified of the changes. Poll worker checks for September were mailed out this week, and now there will be a single focus for placing poll workers for November. The CCBOE has one-third of the election day workers placed and trained, including 1,400 Precinct Election Officials. The recruitment numbers will increase over the following weeks, with part of the CCBOE staff starting later in the day to recruit into the early evening to increase the success rate of reaching people. There are also more resources focused on recruitment for November and sending a large number of emails to workers. Projections are to have three to three and a half workers per precinct for the November election. County-wide voter turnout is anticipated to be about 30% or approximately 265,000 voters, based on voting figures from 2017 and 2013. Approximately 80,000 plus people are anticipated to vote-by-mail. To date, the CCBOE has processed approximately 19,000 vote-by-mail ballot applications. Voters are now receiving the Voter Information Guide, which increases voter activity. The CCBOE has now received about 3,000 vote-by-mail ballot applications and processing about 3,000 requests for the vote-by-mail applications to be mailed to voters every day.

Board Member Davis Chappell requested to re-visit poll worker paychecks, stating the CCBOE wants people to work, but one of the disincentives may be the turnaround time to receive compensation. Director Perlatti stated the CCBOE is always looking for ways to make the process quicker. The process takes the CCBOE about 14 calendar days to create the payroll file for over 4,000 people. Several factors need to be confirmed, including no-shows, call-offs, and changes in positions which could affect the pay rate. It takes a couple of days for this information to be gathered before beginning the payroll data entry. Once the data entry is completed, there are two rounds of proofing. Once the payroll file is ready, it is sent to the County, which produces checks twice a week, and typically takes the County one week to send the checks back. When the paychecks come back to the CCBOE, the checks are manually stuffed and mailed via the U.S. Postal Service, which also takes time. One solution for November is to put more resources into the process to improve the turnaround. The challenge this year has been splitting resources due to the overlap in five elections. Board Member Davis Chappell stated she appreciated the timeline, and the processes need to be done accurately. The poll worker payroll turnaround is important and may impact our poll worker recruitment. People are serving as a civic duty, but people need to be paid timely. Director Perlatti stated the CCBOE needs to better establish expectations as to the compensation timeframe.

Chairman Hastings asked how the redrawing of the districts works. SOS Directive 2021-04 sets forth the legislative authority for cities sub-dividing their cities and wards within 90 days after October first. Director Perlatti stated some of the municipalities, especially the chartered communities, would require the re-balance of their wards based on either population or registered voters. The charter communities will independently redraw their communities and submit to the CCBOE the legal definitions of their boundaries. The CCBOE then applies this information when drawing precinct and ward boundaries. The CCBOE has yet to receive this information from any municipality. The CCBOE also has deadlines where precinct boundaries cannot be changed too far in front of a primary, especially when electing precinct committee persons for each major party. In gubernatorial years the Democrats elect their precinct committee persons, and in presidential years the Republicans elect theirs. County Council is a chartered community, and they have provided us with legal definitions for the County districts. The CCBOE will begin creating the maps and have staff proof the legal definitions of the

assignment of precincts to the wards. The CCBOE cannot make any changes to DIMS until after the Certification of the November 2, 2021, General Election. In the future the State House, Senate, and Congressional lines will also be provided to the CCBOE.

Chairman Hastings acknowledged and congratulated Board Member Davis Chappell as a Progressive Woman Honoree and an award winner of the 2021 Smart Women Award.

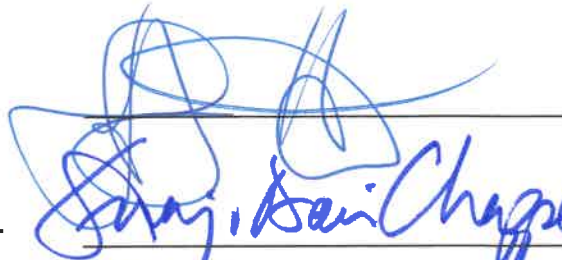
PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

Chairman Hastings moved to adjourn the meeting at 10:17 a.m. Board Member Wondolowski seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Certification: I have reviewed the above minutes and certify that they are an accurate summary of the actions taken by the Cuyahoga County Board of Elections at its meeting held on October 1, 2021.

Jeff Hastings, Chairman



A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Jeff Hastings', written over a horizontal line.

Inajo Davis Chappell, Board Member




A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Inajo Davis Chappell', written over a horizontal line.

Lisa M. Stickan, Board Member



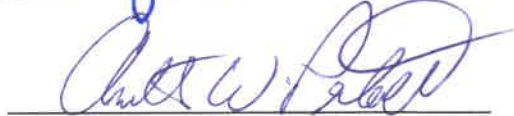
A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Lisa M. Stickan', written over a horizontal line.

David J. Wondolowski, Board Member



A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'David J. Wondolowski', written over a horizontal line.

Anthony Perlatti, Director



A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Anthony Perlatti', written over a horizontal line.