

VOTE CUYAHOGA COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS

Board Meeting
6/28/2021

THIS MEETING WAS HELD VIA TELECONFERENCE IN ACCORDANCE WITH
H.B. 197, 133rd G.A. §12 (2020)

Attending:

Jeff Hastings, Chairman
Inajo Davis Chappell, Board Member/via teleconference
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 9:30 a.m. Hereinafter referred to as the CCBOE/Board.

Chairman Hastings noted that all Board Members were in attendance, with Board Member Davis Chappell attending via video conference.

Agenda Item 1: Approval of the minutes from the June 14, 2021, Board Meeting.

Chairman Hastings moved to approve the minutes from the June 14, 2021, Board Meeting. Board Member Wondolowski seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item 2: Hearing of Protest against the candidacy of Sean L. Ward, Candidate for Mayor of the City of East Cleveland.

The transcript of proceedings from this discussion is incorporated by reference into the minutes and is available for review upon request.

Board Member Wondolowski moved to decline to certify Sean L. Ward as a candidate for Mayor of the City of East Cleveland, upholding the protest. Chairman Hastings seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item 3: Hearing of Protest against the candidacy of T'Andre Sigler, Candidate for Mayor of the City of East Cleveland.

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

The transcript of proceedings from this discussion is incorporated by reference into the minutes and is available for review upon request.

Board Member Davis Chappell made a motion to uphold the protest and deny certifying T'Andre Sigler as a candidate for Mayor of the City of East Cleveland. Board Member Wondolowski seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item 4: Recognition of Kathleen Bradley as the Secretary of State's Precinct Election Official of the Year.

Chairman Hastings and the Board Members recognized Kathleen Bradley as the Secretary of State's Precinct Election Official of the Year.

Agenda Item 5: Certification of the Post-Election Audit from the May 4, 2021, Primary Election.

Brian Cleary, Ballot Department Manager, presented information from the Board packet concerning the post-election audit for the May 4, 2021, Primary Election.

Chairman Hastings moved to certify the post-election audit from the May 4, 2021, Primary Election. Board Member Wondolowski seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item 6: Approval to outsource the printing and mailing of Vote-by-Mail ballots for the September 14, 2021, Primary Election.

Chairman Hastings moved to approve to outsource the printing and mailing of Vote-by-Mail ballots for the September 14, 2021, Primary Election. Board Member Wondolowski seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item 7: Approval to outsource the printing and mailing of Vote-by-Mail ballots for the November 2, 2021, General Election.

Chairman Hastings moved to approve to outsource the printing and mailing of Vote-by-Mail ballots for the November 2, 2021, General Election. Board Member Wondolowski seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item 8: Certification of candidates to the September 14, 2021, Primary Election.

Brent Lawler, Candidate and Petition Services Manager, presented information from the Board packet regarding seven (7) candidate petitions that received insufficient signatures. Therefore, they do not meet the minimum signature requirements and CCBOE staff has recommended that their candidacy not be certified to the ballot. All candidates listed in the Board packet for insufficient signatures were notified of the CCBOE's staff recommendation and invited to the meeting.

1. Ivan J. Williams – Cleveland Council Ward 7

Chairman Hastings acknowledged receipt of a written complaint from Mr. Williams requesting more time to collect additional signatures. Chairman Hastings stated the Board cannot extend the deadline set by the City of Cleveland's Charter.

Chairman Hastings moved not to certify the candidacy of Ivan J. Williams. Board Member Wondolowski seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

2. Lavitta Murray – Cleveland Council Ward 6
Chairman Hastings moved not to certify the candidacy of Lavitta Murray. Board Member Wondolowski seconded. The motion passed unanimously.
3. Igor Ternovsky – Cleveland Council Ward 5
Chairman Hastings moved not to certify the candidacy of Igor Ternovsky. Board Member Wondolowski seconded. The motion passed unanimously.
4. Guy Coleman, Jr. – Cleveland Council Ward 9
Chairman Hastings moved not to certify the candidacy of Guy Coleman, Jr. Board Member Wondolowski seconded. The motion passed unanimously.
5. Denise Duncan Downing – Cleveland Council Ward 12
Chairman Hastings moved not to certify the candidacy of Denise Duncan Downing. Board Member Wondolowski seconded. The motion passed unanimously.
6. Bishop Chui – Cleveland Council Ward 12
Chairman Hastings moved not to certify the candidacy of Bishop Chui. Board Member Wondolowski seconded. The motion passed unanimously.
7. Torrean Williams – Cleveland Council Ward 4
Mr. Torrean Williams provided comments on petition signature requirements.
Chairman Hastings moved not to certify the candidacy of Torrean Williams. Board Member Wondolowski seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Hastings stated there would be discussions regarding part petitions submitted to the CCBOE for two City of Cleveland mayoral candidates.

Director Perlatti stated that while Justin Bibb, candidate for the Mayor of the City of Cleveland, submitted sufficient signatures to appear on the ballot, CCBOE staff noted forty-two (42) part petitions of the four hundred and forty (440) part petitions received had some of the signers' address line crossed through, and an alternate address was written. The handwriting of the alternate address was uniform among all 42-part petitions and does not match the penmanship of the petition circulator. Director Perlatti noted that the signatures on these 42-part petitions were not included in Mr. Bibb's signature count and not necessary for his candidacy to be certified to the ballot. Chairman Hastings stated the CCBOE still has the duty to investigate irregularities under the Ohio Revised Code and will await CCBOE staff to report back to the Board on its investigative findings. Assistant Prosecutor Musson concurred.

Director Perlatti stated the second candidate, Landry Simmons, submitted petitions for the Mayor of the City of Cleveland. The CCBOE staff reviewed the petitions and found that Mr. Simmons did not have sufficient signatures to qualify for the ballot. Director Perlatti stated fifty-seven (57) part petitions reflected alterations to the circulator statement on the petitions. The alterations crossed through the number of signatures witnessed, and an alternate number was written and initialed. The initials do not match the writing of the circulator. In preliminary conversations with Mr. Simmons, he was unaware of how the changes were made. Chairman Hastings stated that the CCBOE staff would investigate the matter and report the findings back to the Board. Since Mr. Simmons did not have enough signatures, he has withdrawn his name as a candidate for the ballot.

Chairman Hastings moved to approve the certification of candidates to the September 14, 2021, Primary Election. Board Member Wondolowski seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item 9: Certification of candidates nominated without primary election (September 14th primaries canceled).

Chairman Hastings moved to certify candidates nominated without primary election (September 14th primaries canceled). Board Member Wondolowski seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item 10: Certification of Independent Candidates to the November 2, 2021, General Election

Chairman Hastings moved to certify Independent Candidates to the November 2, 2021, General Election. Board Member Wondolowski seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item 11: Acknowledgement of Candidate Withdrawals

Chairman Hastings moved to acknowledge Candidate Withdrawals. Board Member Wondolowski seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item 12: Acknowledgement of Notice of Intent to Retire from Elected Office

Chairman Hastings moved to acknowledge the notice of intent to retire from elected office. Board Member Wondolowski seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item 13: Approval to appoint not less than two precinct election officials for each precinct pursuant to §ORC 3501.22 for the September 14, 2021, Primary Election.

Chairman Hastings moved to approve to appoint not less than two precinct election officials for each precinct pursuant to §ORC 3501.22 for the September 14, 2021, Primary Election. Board Member Wondolowski seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item 14: Approval to award a contract with Enhanced Voting, LLC to provide services to make available a Remote Absentee Ballot Delivery and Marking System for use by a voter with a disability during Ohio's by-mail absentee voting for all Elections occurring between July 17, 2021, through May 31, 2022, in the amount not-to-exceed \$18,000.00.

Chairman Hastings moved to approve to award a contract with Enhanced Voting, LLC to provide services to make available a Remote Absentee Ballot Delivery and Marking System for use by a voter with a disability during Ohio's by-mail absentee voting for all Elections occurring between July 17, 2021, through May 31, 2022, in the amount not-to-exceed \$18,000.00. Board Member Wondolowski seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item 15: Approval of the personnel agenda.

Chairman Hastings moved to approve the personnel agenda as presented in the Board packet. Board Member Wondolowski seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

Update on August 3, 2021, Special Congressional Primary Election

Director Perlatti stated that there are twenty-seven (27) municipalities involved in the August 3, 2021, Special Congressional Primary Election, 513 precincts, and 157 voting locations. The Election is a partisan primary with both Democratic and Republican ballots available. There are 13 Democratic candidates and two Republican candidates. Voters that vote-by-mail must select a party on the ballot application form. The close of registration is Tuesday, July 6, 2021, early-in-person voting begins on Wednesday, July 7, 2021, at 8:00 a.m. The CCBOE requires about 2,000 Precinct Election Officials and currently have approximately 1,000 PEO's committed. Additional recruiting efforts include working with the County Executive offices, the County Board of Health, and MetroHealth. Ten precincts have been reassigned in four polling locations. The Broadview Heights community center, where Ward 2 a,b, and c are moved to St. Michael's Church. In Richmond Heights, Kiwanis Lodge is being transferred to the new upper school. In Cleveland Ward 7, Precinct T is moving to Wilson Towers Fatima Family Center. Lastly, Cleveland Ward 15, Precinct L, will be transferred to the Michael Zone Recreation Center. All voters impacted by the changes have been notified by mail. Director Perlatti commented that he expects voter turnout for the 8/3/21 Special Election to be about fourteen (14%) percent.

Public Comment

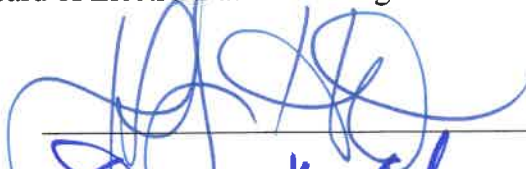
Dontez Taylor provided a public comment regarding “stampers” being provided for write-in candidates.

Reverend Pamela M. Pinkney Butts provided public comments regarding several items on the agenda.

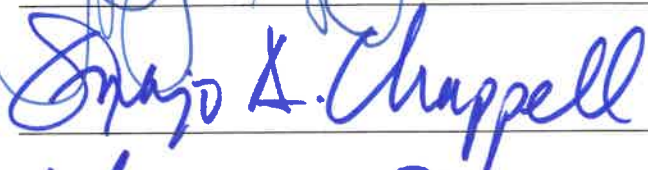
Chairman Hastings moved to adjourn the meeting at 11:10 a.m. Board Member Wondolowski seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

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 **June 28, 2021**.

Jeff Hastings, Chairman




Inajo Davis Chappell, Board Member



Lisa M. Stickan, Board Member



David J. Wondolowski, Board Member



Anthony Perlatti, Director

