

VOTE CUYAHOGA COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS

Board Meeting
11/3/2022

Attending:

Jeff Hastings, Chairman
Inajo Davis Chappell, Board Member
Terence M. McCafferty, Board Member
Lisa M. Stickan, Board Member
Anthony Perlatti, Director
Tony Kaloger, Deputy Director

Mary Bejjani, Clerk to the Board
Skip White, Clerk to the Board

The Cuyahoga County Board of Elections Meeting began at 9:38 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 October 12, 2022, Board Meeting

Chairman Hastings moved to approve the minutes from the October 12, 2022, Board Meeting. Board Member Davis Chappell seconded the motion and abstained from approving the minutes. Chairman Hastings and Board Members McCafferty and Stickan voted to approve the minutes.

Agenda Item 2: Acknowledgment of resignations from and appointments to elected office

Chairman Hastings moved to acknowledge the resignations from and appointments to elected office as provided in the board materials. Board Member Davis Chappell seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item 3: Approval of vouchers

Board Member Davis Chappell stated the Chi Corporation included standard boilerplate terms and conditions of the sale of goods and licenses. Shaunquitta Walker, Fiscal Services Manager, stated that Fiscal Services and the Information Technology Department reviewed the terms and conditions as the equipment is required per a Secretary of State (SOS) Directive. Director Perlatti stated Robin Roy, Information Technology Manager, and the Technical Advisory Committee reviewed the specifications and functionality to meet SOS requirements. Ms. Walker stated the CCBOE legal counsel did not review the terms and conditions. Board Member Davis Chappell stated that in addition to the specifications, the terms and conditions should also be reviewed by the Board's attorney in the future.

Chairman Hastings moved to approve the vouchers set forth in the board materials. Board Member Davis Chappell seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

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

Agenda Item 4: Approval of the personnel agenda

Chairman Hastings moved to approve the personnel agenda as set forth in the board materials. Board Member Davis Chappell seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

Director Perlatti stated Early In-Person (EIP) voting continues to be a popular choice for voters this election cycle. Through November 2, 2022, the CCBOE voted over 12,300 people, about 1,800 more voters than in 2018. Between Friday, November 4, 2022, and Monday, November 7, 2022, approximately 2,000 voters per day are anticipated. Early In-Person weekend voting will occur on Saturday, November 5, 2022, and Sunday, November 6, 2022. Early In-Person voting for the General Election is expected to exceed the 2018 numbers. The CCBOE will have bipartisan teams of election officials collecting ballots curbside on Friday, Saturday, Sunday, and Monday, coinciding with the Early In-Person voting hours.

Deputy Director Kaloger stated the CCBOE would have additional deputy sheriffs, and the City of Cleveland Traffic Control would assist with vehicles entering and exiting the parking lot. The CCBOE rear lot will be designated for ADA and curbside voting only. The Campus International parking lot will have a mobile road sign directing voter traffic. In addition, there is additional designated parking south of the CCBOE. Chairman Hastings asked if there had been voters waiting in line. Director Perlatti stated the lines have not gone outside the building. There is a steady flow of people, and the line is moving quickly. A tent has been placed outside along Euclid Avenue to protect any voters waiting outside from the elements.

The CCBOE has processed over 148,000 Vote-by-Mail (VBM) ballot applications, and approximately 102,000 voted ballots have been returned, a 70% return rate. The CCBOE expects to receive another 25,000 vote-by-mail ballots by Election Day, which would be an 85% return rate. The deadline to request a VBM application is Noon on Saturday, November 5, 2022. All VBM ballot application requests received by the deadline will have ballots mailed late afternoon on Saturday, November 5, 2022. The USPS mailing can take three to five days to deliver, and the ballot may not arrive until after Election Day. Vote-by-Mail numbers are down compared to four years ago. The ballot application requests are down for all affiliations, whether Democrat, Republican or unaffiliated voters. The decrease in VBM does not mean fewer voters will be at the polls on Election Day.

The CCBOE has hired and placed a full complement of poll workers. Generally, in the larger presidential and gubernatorial elections, there is a higher interest in serving as a poll worker. In addition, the CCBOE has an ancillary number of workers that will replace any call-offs over the weekend. A group of 100 stand-by workers can go to the polling locations on Tuesday morning. The CCBOE will be hiring 185 Rovers which are required for the election. Some of the rovers hired have transitioned from Poll Worker positions due to changes in County payroll with OPERS. Those who transitioned will be hired as temporary employees. The CCBOE has 150 Rovers who have completed their paperwork or processing the information pending additional documents from the Rover. The CCBOE continues to reach out to those who have not completed their paperwork and will have the paperwork packets at the Zone stations on Monday. The Election Officials Department continues to recruit Rovers to reach the goal.

Berman's Moving and Storage continues to move the voting equipment to the polling locations. The Electronic Poll Books (EPBs) will be transferred from the custody of the Registration Department over

to the Election Support Department, which pre-stages the EPBs for deployment to the voting locations on Monday, November 7, 2022. The EPBs are then updated on Monday evening. Berman's Moving and Storage continues to move the voting equipment to the polling locations.

Due to City Council meetings, two voting locations do not have Monday night organizational meetings Lakewood City Hall and Solon City Hall. Those locations will start earlier on Tuesday to set up the sites.

The Department of Justice (DOJ) contacted Director Perlatti this week, indicating the DOJ will be monitoring polling locations on Election Day. In even years it is usual practice for the DOJ to monitor Federal Elections for the U.S. House of Representatives and Senate. The DOJ mainly focuses on locations with bilingual poll workers. The DOJ will be provided the voting location manager's names, and the CCBOE will notify all voting location managers that monitors will be at some voting locations. The DOJ will have credentials different from observers and can also engage with voters, poll workers, and observers.

Chairman Hastings asked what law permits the DOJ to engage with others at the polling locations as the CCBOE is no longer under the consent decree. Board Member Davis Chappell stated there might be something under the Voting Rights Acts that give the DOJ broad authority. Director Perlatti said the CCBOE received a notification from Rodney Davis at the Ohio House of Representatives providing guidance that allows federal employees to monitor random polling locations. The DOJ has monitored previous elections at the CCBOE and reported their observations to the CCBOE. Director Perlatti stated the DOJ monitored the 2020 election. The CCBOE bilingual voting program has not changed, and all the prior measures remain in place, including bilingual ballots, hiring of bilingual poll workers, bilingual signage, and a bilingual hotline remain in place.

Deputy Director Kaloger stated since 2020; the CCBOE has had a successful partnership with the County Emergency Management Department on Monday night and Election Day. The CCBOE will use the County Emergency Management Department to help with any safety issues on Election Day. The CCBOE Election Support staff manage issues with the rovers and polling locations. County safety forces, utility services, and RTA are readily accessed if a situation arises. Additionally, special services, including access to street cameras, are available.

Chairman Hastings asked how many times the CCBOE empties the Ballot Drop-Off Box. Director Perlatti stated the box is emptied multiple times per day.

Board Member Davis Chappell stated she is thrilled that poll worker interest remains high. Given all the press around security issues and intimidation of voters in other election jurisdictions. Board Member Davis Chappell asked if the CCBOE is experiencing any such issues and if the CCBOE is prepared per the non-disclosed security plan. Voters and poll workers should be confident the CCBOE will be safe and secure on Election Day. Board Member Davis Chappell asked if any polling locations have contacted the CCBOE about any safety or security concerns. The CCBOE does not seem to have issues that other election jurisdictions are having. Without disclosing the security plan, what assurances can be given to the voters and poll workers that they will be safe and secure at CCBOE polling locations? Director Perlatti stated polling locations have not contacted the CCBOE withdrawing their site due to security threats or asking for additional items at the locations. The CCBOE notifies every city of the public and private polling locations, and the information is shared with the police departments. The CCBOE does have increased resources from the County Sheriff's

Department. Other government entities do monitor cyber security and social media. The CCBOE will follow the standard procedures regarding tampering with voting equipment and logging information.

The CCBOE has taken several steps to increase the level of preparedness. Additional measures have been taken with voting location managers and deputies with more tools and videos to oversee the locations. Additionally, poll worker training included segments on de-escalation.

The Post-Election preparations include poll worker payroll. In the last few elections, the Election Officials Department has prepared the payroll file faster than in previous years. The payroll file has transitioned from County Accounts Payable to County Payroll. Previously, when the payroll ran through County Accounts Payable, the checks would be processed differently than with County Payroll, which only processes payroll every two weeks. The CCBOE staff will work seven days a week to get the checks out by Friday, November 25, 2022. Additionally, the work schedule of verifying provisional ballots will be seven days a week until completed.

Chairman Hastings asked if the CCBOE has been in touch with Willo Security. Director Perlatti stated Willo Security has already advised the CCBOE they cannot provide the full complement of requested staffing. The CCBOE has made arrangements with other County resources and the Sheriff's office as a backup for the November 8, 2022, General Election.

Chairman Hastings acknowledged receipt of The Secretary of State Frank LaRose's Resolution regarding the CCBOE's Pinnacle Award for Excellence. Chairman Hastings recognized the individuals at the agency responsible for receiving the Award.

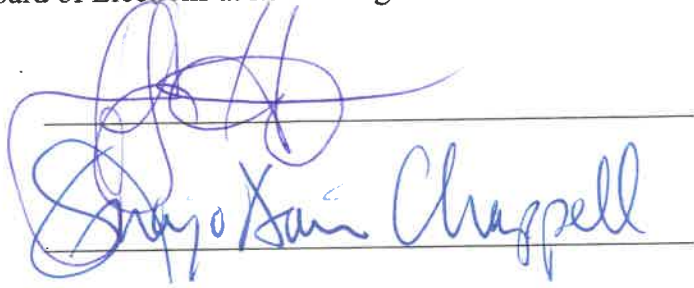
PUBLIC COMMENT

Judge Brian Hagan provided public comment regarding the South Euclid Municipal Court vacancy.

Chairman Hastings moved to recess the meeting at 10:19 a.m. Board Member Davis Chappell 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 November 3, 2022.


Jeff Hastings, Chairman



Inajo Davis Chappell

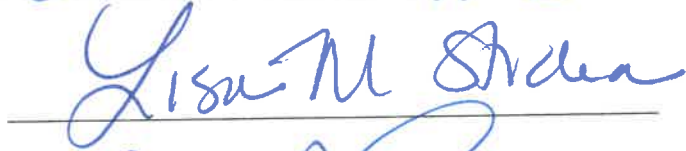
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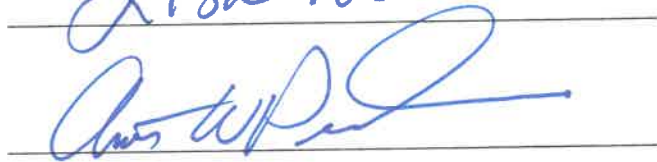
Terence M. McCafferty

Lisa M. Stickan, Board Member



Lisa M. Stickan

Anthony Perlatti, Director



Anthony Perlatti