

VOTE CUYAHOGA COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS

Board Meeting
2/13/2023

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 9:30 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 January 18, 2023, Board Meeting

Chairman Hastings moved to approve the minutes from the January 18, 2023, Board Meeting. Board Member Davis Chappell seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item 2: Acknowledgment of Secretary of State (SOS) Directive 2023-03: Substitute House Bill 458 (134th General Assembly)

Board Member Davis Chappell noted the Directive included a section for a public outreach campaign on the changes to Ohio's voting laws. The SOS office indicated they would issue digital images and information for the CCBOE to distribute and post. She inquired what other public outreach will the CCBOE undertake to ensure voters are aware of these changes.

Director Perlatti stated the CCBOE is putting a plan together, and the CCBOE is not waiting for the SOS digital images. The CCBOE has already drafted a Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) on the new law, which will be posted on the website. The CCBOE will also be conducting information sessions at local libraries and working with the political parties and larger advocacy groups to message these changes. The CCBOE will start pushing the messages out now that the SOS has provided the Directive.

Chairman Hastings moved to acknowledge the Secretary of State Directive 2023-03: Substitute House Bill 458 (134th General Assembly). 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 3: Acknowledgment of municipal ward boundaries and corresponding precinct boundaries for Parma Heights and Solon

Board Member Davis Chappell asked when voters will receive notification of the precinct changes. Director Perlatti stated letters are being prepared and will be mailed next week. Voters will also be notified when the voter guide is sent.

Chairman Hastings moved to acknowledge the municipal ward boundaries and corresponding precinct boundaries for Parma Heights and Solon. Board Member Davis Chappell seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item 4: Approval of vouchers and resolutions

Chairman Hastings moved to approve the vouchers and resolutions set forth in the board materials. Board Member Davis Chappell seconded and abstained from voting on the resolution to approve Madison Development Consulting. The motion passed unanimously.

Director Perlatti introduced a walk-on item to recognize the retirement of Chairman Hastings from the CCBOE, serving over fifteen years on the Board. Board Members Davis Chappell provided remarks regarding his tenure. Board Members McCafferty and Stickan presented a resolution and memento. Rachel Ruffer from the SOS presented a commendation from the Secretary of State.

Agenda Item 5: Approval to outsource the printing and mailing of Vote-by-Mail ballots for the May 2, 2023, Primary Election.

Chairman Hastings moved to approve to outsource the printing and mailing of Vote-by-Mail ballots for the May 2, 2023, Primary Election. Board Member Davis Chappell seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item 6: Acknowledgment of intent to retire, resignations from, and appointments to elected office

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

Agenda Item 7: Acknowledgment of candidates and issues withdrawals

Chairman Hastings moved to acknowledge the candidates and issues withdrawals as set forth in the board materials. Board Member Davis Chappell seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item 8: Certification of candidates for the May 2, 2023, Primary Election

Brent Lawler, Candidate and Petition Services Manager, presented a Petition of a candidate for the Board to review. Mr. Lawler stated the candidate submitted an insufficient number of signatures. Ms. Nicole Goode, a candidate for Oakwood Village Council at Large, required 50 valid signatures for certification. Ms. Goode filed 52, and there were 46 valid signatures. Ms. Goode was notified by the CCBOE staff of this matter and advised she could withdraw her petitions which she did not do. Mr.

Lawler stated that because the candidate does not have the qualifying minimum valid signatures, she should not be certified to the May 2, 2023, Primary Election.

Chairman Hastings moved not to certify Nicole Goode's petitions due to a lack of signatures. Board Member Davis Chappell seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Hastings moved to certify the candidates for the May 2, 2023, Primary Election, as set forth in the board materials. Board Member Davis Chappell seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item 9: Certification of issues for the May 2, 2023, Primary Election

The Board discussed three liquor options and the guidance provided by Assistant Prosecutor Musson and recommendations from staff.

Chairman Hastings moved to certify the issues for the May 2, 2023, Primary Election, as set forth in the board materials, and add the local options in Parma Ward 9, Precinct B, South Euclid Ward 4, Precinct A, and North Royalton 03, Precinct D. Board Member Davis Chappell seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item 10: Certification of Candidates nominated without Primary Election to the November 7, 2023, General Election (primaries eliminated per ORC 3513.02).

Chairman Hastings moved to certify the Candidates nominated without Primary Election to the November 7, 2023, General Election (primaries eliminated per ORC 3513.02), as set forth in the board materials. Board Member Davis Chappell seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item 11: Discussion whether to schedule Recall Elections for East Cleveland Council Members Blochowiak, Gowdy, and Stevenson.

The Board discussed if it has the authority to schedule Recall Elections for East Cleveland Council Members Blochowiak, Gowdy, and Steventon.

A transcript of this discussion can be obtained by contacting Mary Bejjani, CCBOE Clerk to the Board at 216-443-6430/mbejjani@cuyahogacounty.gov.

Chairman Hastings moved not to set a date for the recall petitions in East Cleveland. Board Member Davis Chappell seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item 12: Protest hearing filed by Patricia Blochowiak regarding petitions for the recall of Councilor Patricia Blochowiak.

Chairman Hastings stated the matter of the protest hearing filed by Patricia Blochowiak regarding petitions for the recall of Councilor Patricia Blochowiak is moot in light of the Board's decision not to schedule a hearing, and the agenda item is removed.

Agenda Item 13: Approval of the personnel agenda

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

NEW BUSINESS

New Voting Equipment Update

Director Perlatti provided an update on the new voting equipment for the CCBOE. The purchase agreement has been finalized and sent to County Council, which has the authority to make the purchase. The contract will be introduced at the County Council meeting on Tuesday, February 14, 2023. The following week Director Perlatti will make a presentation to the County Council committee the contract was referred to. The week of February 28, 2023, County Council will be able to approve the contract.

Board Member Davis Chappell stated she wanted to thank Assistant Prosecutor Musson and the legal team for all their work. She stated it would be important for Council to know that significant time, effort, and protections were negotiated and included in the contract. Board Member Davis Chappell asked if County Council would receive the summary of all the improvements to the contract so Council would be privy to the additional protections. She asked if an update could be provided to Council so there would be no pause when there is a vote on approving the contract. Chairman Hastings agreed that the contract summary was excellent. The CCBOE needs to let the County know and, provide Mr. Musson's summary to the Council Members so they can read it before Director Perlatti meets with Council. The Board discussed the benefits of providing an updated summary sent to County Council.

Director Perlatti stated the Clear Ballot will start delivering its voting equipment before the CCBOE has received the signed contract from the County. The CCBOE will receive the first 180 pieces of equipment on Wednesday, February 15, 2023. The CCBOE will be receiving eight to nine more deliveries of equipment over the next three weeks. Board Member Davis Chappell stated the risk then shifts to the CCBOE once the equipment is delivered as the CCBOE is then responsible for the equipment's safe keeping. Director Perlatti said Deputy Director Kaloger would be taking a lead role in working with the Ballot and Election Support Departments on the logistics of storing the equipment. Peter James, Election and Compliance Administrator, will work on developing checklists, records, and spreadsheets. The CCBOE is conducting a May Election, so additional resources will allow for coordinating the Election and other work that needs to be completed.

Board Member Davis Chappell asked if the timeline will allow the CCBOE to have acceptance by May 31, 2023, which is the deadline to accept the equipment. Director Perlatti stated the CCBOE would definitely meet the timeline. The goal is to complete user acceptance testing before the May 2, 2023, Primary Election, allowing additional time to meet the deadline if needed.

Director Perlatti stated the CCBOE would be working with Midwest Direct to print a test deck of ballots for user acceptance testing. Part of the acceptance testing is printing the test deck and running the paper through all the new equipment to make sure the equipment runs like it is supposed to. Printing the test deck is outside the scope of the Midwest Direct contract, and the Board will be charged for the Midwest Direct test deck.

2023 Polling Location PPE Safeguards

Deputy Director Kaloger gave a recap of polling location PPE safeguards. In 2020, the CCBOE hired two to three sanitation officials per voting location. In addition, a supply of PPE materials, including face masks, gloves, hand sanitizer, and cardboard sneeze guards were sent to polling locations. As the

pandemic began to recess, the CCBOE reduced some quantities off PPEs. The President announced in May 2023, he would be lifting the Public Health Emergency Declaration. The CCBOE will be eliminating the position of sanitation officials and sneeze guards. However, the CCBOE will continue to provide PPE supplies, including face masks, gloves, hand sanitizer, alcohol prep pads, and an abundant quantity of pens. Director Perlatti stated the CCBOE would also be reducing the space between the voting booths. In the November 2022 Election, some voting locations would have benefited from the deployment of additional voting booths.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 11:06 a.m. Chairman Hastings moved to go into an executive session for the purpose of discussing employee discipline matters. Board Member Davis Chappell seconded, a roll call was taken, and each Board Member voted in the affirmative.

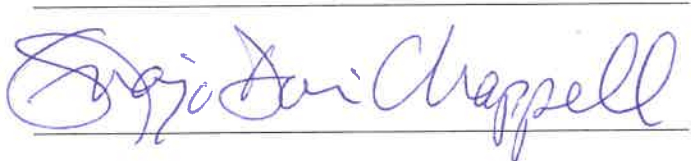
At 11:47 a.m., after returning from the executive session. Chairman Hastings motioned to come out of the executive session. Board Member Davis Chappell seconded, a roll call was taken, and each Board Member voted in the affirmative. The Board was then in public session.

Board Member Stickan moved to terminate Erich Stubbs effective the close of business on February 13, 2023. The motion is based on a pre-disciplinary conference report and an investigation discussed in Executive Session. Board Member Davis Chappell seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

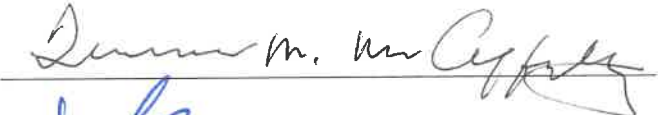
Chairman Hastings moved to adjourn the meeting at 11:48 a.m. Board Member Davis Chappell seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

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 February 13, 2023.

Jeff Hastings, Chairman



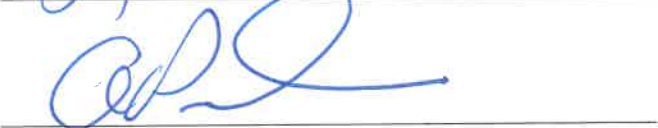
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