

VOTE CUYAHOGA COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS

Board Meeting 1/23/2024

Attending:

Henry F Curtis, IV, Chairman
Inajo Davis Chappell, Board Member
Terence M. McCafferty, 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 Curtis noted that Board Members Davis Chappell and McCafferty were in attendance. Board Member Stickan was excused from today's meeting.

Agenda Item 1: Approval of the minutes from the December 18, 2023, board meeting

Chairman Curtis moved to approve the minutes from the December 18, 2023, board meeting. Board Member Davis Chappell seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item 2: Acknowledgment of Secretary of State Directive 2024-02: Ballots for March 19, 2024, Primary Election

Chairman Curtis moved to acknowledge Secretary of State Directive 2024-02: Ballots for March 19, 2024, Primary Election. Board Member Davis Chappell seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item 3: Certification of the Post-Election Audit Summary for the December 5, 2023, East Cleveland Recall Election

Brian Cleary, Ballot Department Manager, presented information from the board materials regarding the Post Election Audit Summary for the December 5, 2023, East Cleveland Recall Election.

Chairman Curtis moved to certify the Post-Election Audit Summary for the December 5, 2023, East Cleveland Recall Election. Board Member Davis Chappell seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Items 4-5

Chairman Curtis said that on January 22, 2024, after the close of business, the CCBOE received withdrawal notices from Donna Walker-Brown for the protests against Nathaniel Hartfield and Terrence Upchurch. Chairman Curtis stated there will not be protest hearings regarding Agenda Items

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

4 and 5. Mr. Hartfield and Mr. Upchurch would be certified to the March 19, 2024, Presidential Primary ballot.

Agenda Item 4: Protest hearing filed by Donna Walker-Brown regarding the candidacy of Nathaniel Hartfield, candidate House District 20, State Representative

Agenda Item 5: Protest hearing filed by Donna Walker-Brown regarding the candidacy of Terrence Upchurch, candidate House District 20, State Representative

Agenda Item 6: Acknowledgment of appointments to elected office

Chairman Curtis moved to acknowledge the appointment to elected office, as provided in the Board Materials. Board Member Davis Chappell seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item 7: Acknowledgment of candidate withdrawals from the March 19, 2024, Presidential Primary Election

Chairman Curtis moved to acknowledge the candidate withdrawals from the March 19, 2024, Presidential Primary Election, as provided in the Board Materials. Board Member Davis Chappell seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item 8: Certification of Write-In Candidates for the March 19, 2024, Presidential Primary Election

Chairman Curtis moved to certify the Write-In Candidate for the March 19, 2024, Presidential Primary Election, as provided in the Board Materials. Board Member Davis Chappell seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item 9: Certification of Charter Amendments for the March 19, 2024, Presidential Primary Election

Chairman Curtis moved to certify the Charter Amendments for the March 19, 2024, Presidential Primary Election, as provided in the Board Materials. Board Member Davis Chappell seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item 10: Acknowledgment of Precinct Election Official (PEO) Performance Report for the November 7, 2023, General Election

Marlene Robinson Statler, Election Officials Assistant Manager, presented information from the board materials regarding the Precinct Election Official (PEO) Performance Report.

Chairman Curtis moved to acknowledge the Precinct Election Official (PEO) Performance Report for the November 7, 2023, General Election, as set forth in the board materials. Board Member Davis Chappell seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item 11: Approval of the personnel agenda

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

Walk on agenda item

Shaunquitta Walker, Fiscal Services Manager, stated the walk-on item is the resolution and voucher for Tenex Software Solutions for the annual license and maintenance fee for poll worker training, in the amount not to exceed \$30,000.

Chairman Curtis moved to approve Resolution R2024-01-23-FIC-V to pay the annual license and maintenance fee for Tenex University online poll worker training, as set forth in the board materials. Board Member Davis Chappell seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

Director Perlatti stated the polling location managers and deputies are required to attend in-person training for the March 19, 2024, Presidential Primary Election. The training began the weekend of January 20, 2024, and 83 people did attend the first day of training. The CCBOE focused the training on items from the November 2023 lessons learned. Returning poll workers will not have to undergo training, but the CCBOE offers Zoom classes the week before the Election as a refresher. There are also Practice Make Perfect sessions and online tools available. The CCBOE has had 1,700 people commit to working, 53% of the hiring goal. Director Perlatti said any new hire election workers will attend full in-person training. The polling locations have been solidified for the Primary Election. He said that with the Election being in March versus May, there were some polling location changes, including using a new community center in Mayfield Heights. Director Perlatti said the Euclid schools initially committed to being polling locations at the beginning of January. They have now notified the CCBOE that they are no longer interested in having polling locations. Director Perlatti said Euclid has eleven polling locations, six at the schools. The CCBOE has notified the schools that it is too late to make any changes. Director Perlatti has contacted the Mayor of Euclid to make them aware. Board Member Davis Chappell said there is a statute that the school is obligated to follow the statute. Director Perlatti stated any public entity that takes tax dollars has an obligation to be a poll place per the Ohio Revised Code. Director Perlatti said the Ballot Department is working on ballot proofing, which is on track and going well. Three charter amendments from Chagrin Falls came in by the deadline, and the CCBOE is waiting on the Spanish translation. The Ballot Department will go into overtime status for proofing as the ballots need to be ready by Friday, February 2, 2024, the opening of UOCAVA voting. He said parking for the March 19, 2024, Presidential Primary Election would include using the back parking lot for both ADA and non-ADA parking for the entire cycle. Campus International School has also agreed to be used for overflow parking. There will be three weekend voting days before the Election, including Saturday, March 9, 2024, Saturday, March 16, 2024, and Sunday, March 17, 2024. Board Member Davis Chappell said Campus International has been a great partner in helping the CCBOE by providing additional parking. Director Perlatti said on Thursday, February 22, 2024, the CCBOE will have a joint conference call with the Secretary of State's (SOS) office and Clear Ballot to discuss Election Night Reporting and what Clear Ballot needs to do to get the CCBOE prepared to timely and correctly report the Election results. He said there were discussions in previous Board Meetings of what the CCBOE was up against, and the SOS has the same concerns as the CCBOE. Director Perlatti stated the CCBOE appreciates the SOS's partnership in working with the vendor to ensure it happens.

Deputy Director Kaloger stated on February 8, 2024, and February 9, 2024, the CCBOE will be holding voter education sessions at eight libraries throughout the County. Voters can get information regarding the March 19, 2024, Presidential Primary, have an opportunity to register to vote, update their registration address, and receive or complete vote-by-mail ballot application. The full schedule with times and locations will be on the website. The CCBOE will also be publicizing the voter education series with the media, through both the CCBOE and the libraries. Board Member Davis

Chappell asked if Cleveland libraries were included. Director Perlatti said Community Outreach will also be reaching out to the Cleveland Public Library.

Deputy Director Kaloger said the CCBOE Public Test of tabulation equipment is conducted before every election. For the March 19, 2024, Presidential Primary Election, the public test will be on Friday, February 16, 2024, at 9:30 a.m. at the CCBOE Ballot Tabulation Center, 3951 Perkins Avenue, Cleveland, Ohio, 44114. The SOS office requires the public test, allowing the public to observe how actual ballots are tested through the ballot scanners and the high-speed tabulation equipment. The CCBOE will work with the media to cover the event and invite the public, and both political parties will also be notified. He stated there are public concerns about election integrity and questions about the election process, and people will have the opportunity to see the precautions and things that are done ahead of time to verify the accuracy of the equipment and the ballot. In addition, attendees will be invited to observe the vote-by-mail process. They will be able to see all the steps and precautions that take place when a ballot application is received and how it is processed, verifying signatures, date of birth, etc. The public will see how effective the CCBOE equipment is during the processes. The CCBOE had previously done something similar, and it was very successful. The Director and Deputy Director feel that going into a presidential primary, it is especially important to be transparent, as the CCBOE always is, and also to educate the public. Director Perlatti added that the CCBOE has received about 500 vote-by-mail ballot applications. Once the polling locations are finalized, the ballot applications will be inputted. The Voter Information Guide will be mailed on February 21, 2024, one week before the absentee opening. He said the number one error in a primary election is the need to select the ballot type, and the voter must mark what kind of ballot should be mailed. The CCBOE is publicizing the importance of marking the information correctly on the ballot application to prevent any delays in mailing out the ballot.

Chairman Curtis congratulated and commended Board Member Davis Chappell and Director Perlatti for their presentations at the OAEO conference.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Twon Billings provided public comment regarding a Certificate of Appointment.

Tom Bullock provided public comment on candidate filings and withdrawals for primary elections.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Director Perlatti requested a motion to go into executive session to share information and consider the purchase or acquisition of property for public purposes since the disclosure of information would give an unfair competitive or bargaining advantage to a person whose personal, private interest is adverse to the general public interest. Board Chairman Curtis moved to go into executive session at 10:00 a.m. Board Member Davis Chappell seconded and a roll call vote taken, and each Board Member voted in the affirmative.

At 10:55 a.m., after returning from the executive session, Chairman Curtis stated the Board had come out of executive session and returning to the open session.

Chairman Curtis moved to adjourn the meeting at 11:02 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 January 23, 2024.

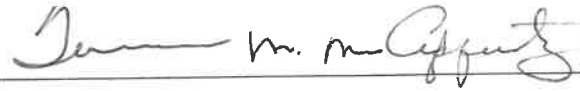
Henry F Curtis, IV, Chairman



Inajo Davis Chappell, Board Member



Terence M. McCafferty, Board Member



Lisa M. Stickan, Board Member



Anthony Perlatti, Director