

VOTE CUYAHOGA COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS

Board Meeting
8/16/2021

Attending:

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

Mark R. Musson, Assistant Prosecutor, Cuyahoga County
Mary Bejjani, Clerk to the Board

The Cuyahoga County Board of Elections Meeting began at 9:31 a.m. Hereinafter referred to as the CCBOE/Board.

Chairman Hastings noted that Board Members Stickan and Wondolowski and were in attendance in person. Board Member Davis Chappell was excused from today's meeting.

Chairman Hastings moved to excuse Board Member Davis Chappell's absence. Board Member Wondolowski seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item 1: Approval of the minutes from the July 21, 2021, board meeting.

Chairman Hastings moved to approve the minutes from the July 21, 2021, Board Meeting. Board Member Wondolowski seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item 2: Determination of the validity of provisional ballots and authorization to count provisional ballots from the August 3, 2021, Special Congressional Primary Election.

Betty Edwards, Registration Manager, presented the Provisional Report to the Board as provided in the board meeting materials.

Chairman Hastings moved to approve the determination of the validity of provisional ballots and authorization to count the provisional ballots from the August 3, 2021, Special Congressional Primary Election. Board Member Wondolowski seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item 3: Hearing of testimony from Kenneth Johnson regarding petitions for the Candidacy of Justin Bibb for Mayor City of Cleveland in the September 14, 2021, Primary Election.

The transcript of proceedings from the hearing of testimony are incorporated by reference into the minutes and are available for review upon request.

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

Chairman Hastings moved not to refer this matter to the Prosecutor's office. Board Member Wondolowski seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item 4: Acknowledgment of the Ballot Proofs for the September 14, 2021, Primary Election in accordance with the Ballot Proofing Policy approved by the Board at the March 12, 2021, Board Meeting.

Chairman Hastings moved to acknowledge the Ballot Proofs for the September 14, 2021, Primary Election in accordance with the Ballot Proofing Policy approved by the Board at the March 12, 2021, Board Meeting. Board Member Wondolowski seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item 5: Acknowledgment of resignations and appointments

Chairman Hastings moved to acknowledge resignations and appointments. Board Member Wondolowski seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item 6: Acknowledgment of intent to retire

Chairman Hastings moved to acknowledge the intent to retire. Board Member Wondolowski seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item 7: Acknowledgment of withdrawals from the November 2, 2021, General Election.

Chairman Hastings moved to acknowledge the candidate and issue withdrawals from the November 2, 2021, General Election. Board Member Wondolowski seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item 8: Certification of candidates and issues for the November 2, 2021, General Election.

Chairman Hastings moved to certify candidates and issues listed in the Board packet that were uncontested for the November 2, 2021, General Election. Board Member Wondolowski seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

The transcript of the proceedings on Petitions for Board Review are incorporated by reference into the minutes and are available for review upon request.

Chairman Hastings moved not to certify the individuals listed on the *Petitions for Board Review* beginning with Chareen Fountain through Artrez Alexander listed in the board meeting materials for the reasons set forth in the agenda. Board Member Wondolowski seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Hastings moved to certify the issues for 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.

Agenda Item 10: Discussion of 2022-2023 biennial budget

Director Perlatti and Kendra Zusy, Fiscal Manager, presented the proposed 2022-2023 Recommended Biennial Budget as provided in the board meeting materials. The CCBOE Board will be asked to adopt the proposed budget at the Board's August 23, 2021, board meeting. The CCBOE is on a biennial budget cycle and is presenting the upcoming budget for the 2022 -2023 calendar years for the Board's review. Increases in the budget are caused by increased payroll expense for the CCBOE's seasonal, temporary, and election day employees. Additional increased expenses include ongoing maintenance and licensing expenses for voting equipment, annual maintenance, increases in postal and mailings costs, and online poll worker training. Nine employees could potentially retire during the upcoming budget cycle, so payouts have also been budgeted. In 2020, the CCBOE received \$ 3.5 million in grants and because of these grant dollars, the CCBOE was able to pay additional pandemic wages to the temporary and election day workers. In 2021, the hourly wages and stipends have been reduced to the regular pay rate, making recruitment efforts difficult. The proposed budget increases the wages for temporary employees and precinct election officials. Since 2019, the focus has been on investing in the buildings and equipment. For example, the CCBOE purchased all new voting booths to replace the units purchased over 30 years ago. The newly remodeled early-in-person voting center on the first floor provided the CCBOE with the necessary space for social distancing required to conduct safe elections for early in-person-voters in 2020 and 2021. The CCBOE also invested in cyber security and software upgrades. Chairman Hastings asked for information to be provided to the Board on what other larger counties, including Franklin, Hamilton, and Summit, are paying its temporary and Election Day workers for comparison. Board Member Wondolowski asked how long the PEO wages have been in effect. Director Perlatti stated the \$172.10 PEO stipend has been in effect since 2010. Board Member Wondolowski said the wages are due to go up to get qualified help. Director Perlatti stated being a PEO is a 20-hour assignment that includes two hours or more of training, two hours for the Monday night meeting, and 15 to 16 hours on Election Day. Director Perlatti stated once the CCBOE Board approves the biennial budget, the proposal will then be reviewed by the Cuyahoga County Office of Budget and Management, the County Executive and then a hearing held by the County Council.

Agenda Item 11: Personnel Agenda

The Board discussed personnel issues as it relates to the 2021 Archer Report.

The Board voted unanimously to approve the personnel agenda as presented in the board materials.

NEW BUSINESS

New voting equipment acquisition update

Peter James, Election and Compliance Administrator, presented the *Update on Cuyahoga County's Voting Equipment and Tabulation System Acquisition Process* as provided in the board meeting materials.

September 14, 2021, Primary Election Update

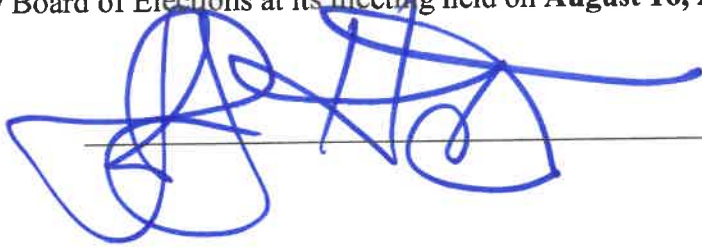
Director Perlatti provided an update on the September 14, 2021, Primary Election. The close of registration is August 16, 2021, and absentee voting opens on August 17, 2021. There are currently 5,000 ballot applications being processed. Early in-person voting hours are 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. for the next two weeks. Poll Worker recruitment requires the CCBOE to hire about 2,100 people. The CCBOE already has about 1,550 poll workers trained because of the overlap from the August Election and those workers have committed to working for the September Primary and November General

Elections. Two Cleveland wards that were not part of the September primary must be staffed and recruiting efforts for those wards are now taking place. Five Cleveland polling locations are changing, which will affect approximately 7,800 voters. Those voters have been sent a letter regarding the change in addition to the voter information guide mailing. The CCBOE is hosting a Vote-by-Mail Day in several of the city's where the September Primary is taking place. The current voter turnout projection for the September Primary Election is 15%.

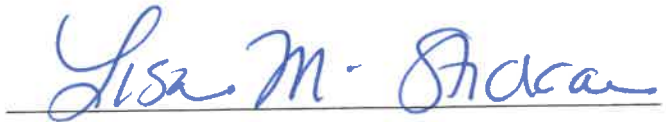
Chairman Hastings moved to adjourn the meetings at 11:03 a.m. Board Member Wondolowski seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

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 **August 16, 2021**.

Jeff Hastings, Chairman



Inajo Davis Chappell, Board Member



Lisa M. Stickan, Board Member

David J. Wondolowski, Board Member



Anthony Perlatti, Director