

VOTE CUYAHOGA COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS

**Board Meeting
6/11/2024**

Attending:

Henry F Curtis, IV, Chairman
Terence M. McCafferty, Board Member
Lisa M. Stickan, Board Member
Anthony Perlatti, Director
Tony Kaloger, Deputy Director
Mark R. Musson, Assistant Prosecutor, Cuyahoga County

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

The Cuyahoga County Board of Elections Meeting began at 9:35 a.m. Hereinafter referred to as the CCBOE/Board. Chairman Curtis noted that Board Members McCafferty and Stickan were in attendance. Board Member Davis Chappell was excused from today's meeting.

Agenda Item 1: Approval of the minutes from the May 28, 2024, board meeting

Chairman Curtis moved to approve the minutes from the May 28, 2024, board meeting. Board Member McCafferty seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item 2: Acknowledgement of Secretary of State Advisory 2024-02: H.B. 2, Presidential Candidates (135th General Assembly – Special Session)

Chairman Curtis moved to acknowledge Secretary of State Advisory 2024-02: H.B. 2, Presidential Candidates (135th General Assembly – Special Session). Board Member McCafferty seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item 3: Acknowledgment of resignation from, and appointment to elected office

Chairman Curtis moved to acknowledge the resignation from, and appointment to elected office, as provided in the board materials. Board Member McCafferty seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item 4: Challenge of Right to Vote filed by Kjerstine Popov against Wurood Aimen Saleh

Hasani Wheat, Registration Department Manager, presented information outlined in the board materials regarding the Challenge of Right to Vote filed by Kjerstine Popov against Wurood Aimen Saleh. Ms. Popov, a registered voter in Cuyahoga County, living at 4805 Royalwood Road since 2019, challenged Wurood Aimen Saleh's voter registration at the same address. The voter registration card for Wurood Aimen Saleh was dated March 22, 2024, and received at the CCBOE on April 2, 2024. The individual had not voted in any election since registering nor had any voter activity. Ms. Popov testified via Zoom that Wurood Aimen Saleh did not live at 4805 Royalwood Road. Chairman Curtis confirmed that Wurood Saleh or a representative was not in

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

attendance for the hearing. Board Member Stickan asked where the respondent was previously registered to vote. Mr. Wheat stated the individual was not previously registered.

Chairman Curtis moved to uphold the Challenge of the Right to Vote filed by Kjerstine Popov against Wurood Aimen Saleh. Board Member McCafferty seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item 5: Approval of the personnel agenda

Chairman Curtis moved to approve the personnel agenda, as provided in the board materials. Board Member McCafferty seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

Registration Readiness Update

Deputy Director Kaloger advised the Board that state and federal laws require boards of elections to maintain accurate voter registration. The process includes working with the U.S. Postal Service, the Bureau of Motor Vehicles, and the Social Security Administration and sending letters to each voter registration to verify the individual's actual residential address. Various notices were previously sent to these individuals to confirm that they have moved, update their identification information, or verify their current residential address. If, over the four years, these registrars had taken no steps to update or confirm their information and have no voter activity for those four years, then a Registration Readiness letter is sent to them. The Registration Department goes through various steps to confirm and proof the list. They also send information to the Secretary of State's office to verify the information before the letters are sent. The Registration Department sent 15,000 last-chance letters on May 31, 2024. These registrars will have until July 22, 2024, to respond to the final mailing before they are canceled. If their registration is canceled, they can re-register by October 7, 2024, for the November 5, 2024, General Election deadline. Deputy Director Kaloger stated that Ohio has a reasonable approach to keeping the voter registration database clean and allowing voters to maintain their current voter registration status. As part of the program, the Secretary of State's office will also be reimbursing the counties for any of the printing and costs involved.

1801 Superior Update

Director Perlatti updated the Board regarding the building at 1801 Superior. He stated that discussions regarding the mechanical structure of the building took place at a previous County Council of the Whole meeting. As a result, County Public Works engaged Osborn Engineering to study the mechanical infrastructure of the building and provided an update to the Council. On June 4, 2024, the Council Members voted the lease agreement out of the Committee of the Whole and to the regular County Council meeting. The agreement was approved by Council the same evening by an eight to one vote. There is now an approved and signed lease between the County and Industrial Commercial Properties LLC. The lease goes into effect in January 2025, which will be the target date for the Board of Elections to move in. In 2026, Health and Human Services is also scheduled to move into the building. The CCBOE will conduct the May 2025 Primary at 1801 Superior. He explained that typically, in odd-year May primaries, the elections may include approximately 200 to 300 precincts, about one-quarter to one-third of the County. Director Perlatti stated Deputy Director Kaloger and he will be attending a June 14, 2024, meeting that Public Works is hosting. The purpose of the meeting is to onboard the various stakeholders as preparations begin to work on the building for the January 2025 move. He explained work on the building starts now, which involves some interior demolition and the construction of new walls along with running power and data where needed. Work will also be done on the existing parking structure and the addition of ADA parking that will be installed. The Director said the CCBOE will emphasize to the public that the November 5, 2024, Presidential General Election will be conducted at the Hughes Building at 2925 Euclid Avenue, including the location of the Ballot Drop Box.

November Preparations Update

Director Perlatti advised the Board that the CCBOE is preparing for the November 5, 2024, Presidential

General Election. On May 30, 2024, the CCBOE had its first meeting with the Cuyahoga County Sheriff's Office to discuss security and will have a weekly meeting from now through September, 2024. There was also an initial meeting with Public Works to discuss preparations for Early In-Person Voting. The CCBOE and Public Works, along with an architectural firm, will be working on the layout of the rear parking lot, including moving the drop box closer to the exit for easier access and placement of tents, ensuring the CCBOE complies with space and aisle sizes. Public Works is also helping to secure additional parking in the area. Director Perlatti stated he is thankful to CCBOE neighbors who are supportive of the democratic process of voting and are willing to provide parking. The Fiscal Department has submitted two funding requests to the County Office of Budget and Management (OBM) relative to the November Election. The first item is for electronic equipment to strengthen the CCBOE cyber security profile and electronic operations, including acquiring additional computers and scanners. The second request is related to Early In-Person voting. During the earlier budget cycle, the CCBOE did not know where early voting would occur. County Council in Committee of the Whole meetings were made aware that the CCBOE would be coming back for additional funding for the early voting, depending on where the November 5, 2024, General Election would be. The funding will cover the costs of additional parking, signage, and tents. The request to the County Council for the security items was for \$100,000, and the infrastructure request was for \$75,000. OBM supports the requested funds and will include the items in its agenda for approval by the County Council. Chairman Curtis asked if the Sheriff's office knows what the CCBOE needs from them to help with traffic control and logistical pieces and if they have the workforce to facilitate the CCBOE's needs. Director Perlatti stated the CCBOE has met with the Sheriff's Department to discuss the needs for the November Election. The Director noted that, realistically, both the Deputy and Protective Services sides of their agency are short-staffed. The Sheriff's Department was going to review the needs. If they cannot meet CCBOE's requirements, the CCBOE will return to Council to ask for appropriations to hire additional staff, such as van drivers and off-duty officers. The CCBOE will also work with the City of Cleveland Traffic Control Unit, which is involved with the traffic flow, temporary crosswalks, cones, etc. Chairman Curtis asked how many spots would be obtained if all the lots agreed. Director Perlatti stated that there would be approximately 550 spaces for voters and staff.

November 5, 2024, General Election, Election Administration Plan (EAP)

Peter James, Election and Compliance Administrator, provided a summary to the Board regarding the November 5, 2024, General Election, Election Administration Plan (EAP). One of the changes from the March 2024 EAP to the November 2024 EAP is at the Monday Night Organizational Meeting, which will now include loading the paper rolls into the scanners. The CCBOE will provide the full EAP to Mark Musson, Assistant Prosecuting Attorney, who will redact the document for public records requests. The November 5, 2024, EAP will be submitted to the Secretary of State's office by the deadline of July 8, 2024. Director Perlatti stated that Board Member Davis Chappell had communicated she had reviewed and approved the EAP document. Board Member McCafferty asked why the number of zone stations had decreased from seven to six. Director Perlatti explained that the zone stations provide supplies, handle issues at the polling locations, and would replace equipment when needed. Now, with the new voting equipment, there is not the need to have as many zone stations.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

There was no executive session.

Chairman Curtis moved to adjourn the meeting at 10:05 a.m. Board Member McCafferty 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 11, 2024.

Henry F Curtis, IV, Chairman

Henry F Curtis, IV

Inajo Davis Chappell, Board Member

Terence M. McCafferty, Board Member

Terence M. McCafferty

Lisa M. Stickan, Board Member

Lisa M. Stickan

Anthony Perlatti, Director

Anthony Perlatti