

LICKING COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS
SPECIAL MEETING CERTIFYING RESULTS OF THE AUGUST 8, 2023 SPECIAL ELECTION
AND CERTIFYING CANDIDATES FOR THE NOVEMBER 7, 2023 GENERAL ELECTION
AUGUST 21, 2023

A special meeting of the Licking County Board of Elections was called to order at 11:30 A.M., with the following members present: Chairman Freddie Latella, members Dave Rhodes, Kaye Hartman and Park Shai. Also attending were Director Brian Mead, Deputy Director Tess Wigginton, Kent Mallett, reporter for the Newark Advocate, Josh Kunkel, Assistant Licking County Prosecuting Attorney, and Secretary of State Central Ohio Regional Liaison Susie O'Brien.

The purpose of this meeting is to conduct the Official Canvass for the August 8, 2023 Special Election, certifying candidates and issues for the November 7, 2023 General Election, regular business, and other business brought before the Board.

Kent Mallett led the members and attendees in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

Minutes

Director Brian Mead presented the board with finalized minutes from the regular meeting held July 10, 2023. David Rhodes moved that the minutes be accepted as written, seconded by Kaye Hartman. Roll call vote: Shai – yes, Rhodes – yes, Hartman – yes, Latella – yes. Motion carried.

August 8, 2023 Special Election

Official Canvass:

The Official Canvass of the August 8, 2023 Special Election was conducted in accordance with Directive 2023-13 and all relevant sections of the Election Official Manual.

Absentee Ballot Review:

121 – Postmarked no later than August 7, 2023 and received no later than August 12, 2023. David Rhodes made a motion to accept the ballots. Kaye Hartman provided the second. Roll call: Shai – yes, Rhodes – yes, Hartman – yes, Latella – yes. Motion Carried.

7 – Postmarked later than August 7, 2023. Park Shai made a motion to reject the ballots. Kaye Hartman provided the second. Roll call: Shai – yes, Rhodes – yes, Hartman – yes, Latella – yes. Motion Carried.

5 – Problem ID envelopes: 11-S sent and attempt to contact made. Park Shai made a motion to reject the ballots. David Rhodes provided the second. Roll call: Shai – yes, Rhodes – yes, Hartman – yes, Latella – yes. Motion Carried.

Provisional Ballot Review:

485 – Voted in correct precinct, completely filled out form 12-B Provisional Ballot Affirmation without missing required information. David Rhodes made a motion to accept the ballots. Kaye Hartman provided the second. Roll call: Shai – yes, Rhodes – yes, Hartman – yes, Latella – yes. Motion Carried.

51 – Invalid ID. David Rhodes made a motion to reject the ballots. Kaye Hartman provided the second. Roll call: Shai – yes, Rhodes – yes, Hartman – yes, Latella – yes. Motion Carried.

47 – No history of Ohio voter registration active or inactive. Kaye Hartman made a motion to reject the ballots. Park Shai provided the second. Roll call: Shai – yes, Rhodes – yes, Hartman – yes, Latella – yes. Motion Carried.

5 – No ID/Not provided in allotted time. David Rhodes made a motion to reject the ballots. Kaye Hartman provided the second. Roll call: Shai – yes, Rhodes – yes, Hartman – yes, Latella – yes. Motion Carried.

3 – Wrong precinct ballot, wrong polling place. Kaye Hartman made a motion to reject the ballots. David Rhodes provided the second. Roll call: Shai – yes, Rhodes – yes, Hartman – yes, Latella – yes. Motion Carried.

2 – invalid address. David Rhodes made a motion to reject the ballots. Kaye Hartman provided the second. Roll call: Shai – yes, Rhodes – yes, Hartman – yes, Latella – yes. Motion Carried.

5 – Previously cast ballot. Kaye Harman made a motion to reject the ballots. David Rhodes provided the second. Roll call: Shai – yes, Rhodes – yes, Hartman – yes, Latella – yes. Motion Carried.

7 – Regular Cancelled/Not Eligible. David Rhodes made a motion to reject the ballots. Kaye Hartman provided the second. Roll call: Shai – yes, Rhodes – yes, Hartman – yes, Latella – yes. Motion Carried.

Candidate Petitions

Director Brian Mead began petition certification by outlining the process in which the Board uses to check petitions for validity and sufficiency. Election Official Manual Chapter 13 Petitions outlines the process following Ohio Revised Code Chapter 3513.

The following were presented to the Board:

Petitions approved without issues:

41 – Municipal Office candidates. David Rhodes made a motion to accept the petitions. Kaye Hartman provided the second. Roll call: Shai – yes, Rhodes – yes, Hartman – yes, Latella – yes. Motion Carried.

2 – Write-In candidates for Municipal Offices. David Rhodes made a motion to accept the filings. Kaye Hartman provided the second. Roll call: Shai – yes, Rhodes – yes, Hartman – yes, Latella – yes. Motion Carried.

62 – Township Office candidates. David Rhodes made a motion to accept the petitions. Kaye Hartman provided the second. Roll call: Shai – yes, Rhodes – yes, Hartman – yes, Latella – yes. Motion Carried.

1 – Write-In candidate for Township Office. David Rhodes made a motion to accept the filing. Kaye Hartman provided the second. Roll call: Shai – yes, Rhodes – yes, Hartman – yes, Latella – yes. Motion Carried.

41 – School Board candidates. David Rhodes made a motion to accept the petitions. Kaye Hartman provided the second. Roll call: Shai – yes, Rhodes – yes, Hartman – yes, Latella – yes. Motion Carried.

5 – Local Liquor Options. David Rhodes made a motion to accept the petitions. Kaye Hartman provided the second. Roll call: Shai – yes, Rhodes – yes, Hartman – yes, Latella – yes. Motion Carried.

Candidates with petition issues:

Director Mead noted the omissions and/or errors made in these petitions and explained the differences. Petitions with factually missing or erroneous information, or insufficient valid signatures cannot be accepted per Ohio Revised Code and Chapter 13 of the Election Officials Manual. Those with substantial compliance with Ohio Revised Code and Chapter 13 of the Election Officials Manual but missing non-critical information are subject to Board discretion.

Petitions factually deficient

5 – Municipal Office candidates. David Rhodes made a motion to reject the petitions. Kaye Hartman provided the second. Roll call: Shai – yes, Rhodes – yes, Hartman – yes, Latella – yes. Motion Carried.

2 – Township office candidates. Kaye Hartman made a motion to reject the petitions. David Rhodes provided the second. Roll call: Shai – yes, Rhodes – yes, Hartman – yes, Latella – yes. Motion Carried.

1 – Local Liquor Option. Kaye Hartman made a motion to reject the petition. David Rhodes provided the second. Roll call: Shai – yes, Rhodes – yes, Hartman – yes, Latella – yes. Motion Carried.

Petitions missing information with Board discretion

2 – Municipal candidates. David Rhodes made a motion to accept the petitions. Park Shai provided the second. Roll call: Shai – yes, Rhodes – yes, Hartman – yes, Latella – yes. Motion Carried.

1 – Township candidate. David Rhodes made a motion to accept the petition. Kaye Hartman provided the second. Roll call: Shai – yes, Rhodes – yes, Hartman – yes, Latella – yes. Motion Carried.

David Rhodes suggested developing a means to educate candidates about disqualifying/non-disqualifying petition errors and omissions.

Director Brian Mead provided the Board with final results of the Official Canvass to be approved. After review David Rhodes made a motion to certify results of the August 8, 2023 Special Election. Kaye Hartman provided the second. Roll call: Shai – yes, Rhodes – yes, Hartman – yes, Latella – yes. Motion Carried.

New Business:

Director Brian Mead suggested the date of Tuesday, August 29, 2023, starting at 9:00 AM to conduct the required audit of 5% of the vote from the August 8, 2023 Special Election. The Board chose to audit Licking Valley and Reynoldsburg. David Rhodes made a motion to conduct the Audit on August 29, 2023 at 9:00 AM and utilize Licking Valley and Reynoldsburg votes. Kaye Hartman provided the second. Roll call: Shai – yes, Rhodes – yes, Hartman – yes, Latella – yes. Motion Carried.

Old Business:

David Rhodes suggested that the Board look at the Staff Performance Appraisal submitted by Deputy Director Tess Wigginton and Director Brian Mead at the next meeting.

Public Comments:

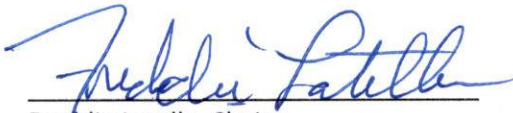
Kent Mallett asked a question about election day voting procedure.

Susie O'Brien commended the Board on their hard work with the August 8, 2023 election and noted that the November election will no doubt be a longer night than August.

Adjournment and Next Meeting:

There being no further business, it was moved by David Rhodes, seconded by Kaye Hartman to adjourn. Motion carried 4-0. The meeting was adjourned at 11:59 A.M.

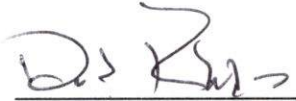
The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 5, 2023 at 11:30 at the Board of Elections office.



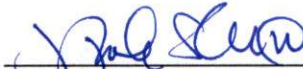
Freddie Latella, Chair



A. Kaye Hartman, Board Member



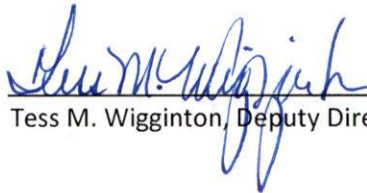
Dave Rhodes, Board Member



J. Park Shai III, Board Member



Brian K. Mead, Director



Tess M. Wigginton, Deputy Director