

LICKING COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS
REGULAR MEETING
OCTOBER 9, 2023

The regular monthly meeting of the Licking County Board of Elections was called to order at 11:04 A.M., with the following members present: Chair Freddie Latella, Dave Rhodes, Kaye Hartman and Park Shai, Director Brian Mead and Deputy Director Tess Wigginton. Also attending were Marcia Phelps, Democratic Central Committee Chair, Vicki McKinney and Sandy Walker with the Ohio Election Integrity Network, and Jerry Griffin for the League of Women Voters.

David Rhodes led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Minutes and Budget

Director Brian Mead presented the board with finalized minutes from the September Regular Meeting of the Board.

David Rhodes moved that the minutes be accepted as written, seconded by Park Shai.

Roll call vote: Rhodes – yes, Hartman – yes, Latella – yes. Motion carried.

Director Mead presented a review of finances through September 30, 2023. He noted that the Board is in a good position for the November General Election. He will be asking the County Commissioners for \$60,000 to cover a shortfall from the August Election.

David Rhodes moved to accept the minutes and financial reports as filed, seconded by Park Shai.

Roll call vote: Rhodes – yes, Hartman – yes, Latella – yes. Motion carried.

Secretary of State Communications

As presented to the Board:

9/21/23 – Directive re: Sample Ballots, Form of the Ballot

9/26/23 – Notice of Approval of 8-year redistricting maps

10/02/23 – Reminder of important pre-election activities and deadlines

10/03/23 – Instructions for General Election Canvass & Examining Provisionals

Office Update

Part-time help has started work. We will begin Logic & Accuracy Testing on all ballots and election equipment soon. This involves performing a test vote on every DS200 and ExpressVote for every location to assure that everything has been programmed correctly and is operating correctly.

Lauren Price has resigned her position effective October 20, 2023. The Board briefly discussed ideas for how to proceed to fill the vacancy.

Brian and Tess have been doing public outreach visits as requested by Linda Clark, Newark City Schools, and Jessica Mitchell of the Licking County Aging Partners. Brian has also been interviewed by Channel 6 and Channel 10.

Old Business

Brian Mead presented the Final Resource Allocation to the Board for approval. He noted that we “right-sized” the allocation of voting machines to better reflect the number of precincts/voters at each location.

We will re-evaluate after the election to see if this helps.

Motion by David Rhodes to accept the Final Resource Allocation, seconded by Park Shai.

Roll call vote: Rhodes – yes, Hartman – yes, Latella – yes. Motion carried.

New Business

There was no new business to come before the Board.

Board Member and Public Comments

Member Kaye Hartman asked if the length of Issues 1 & 2 would cause a problem with the paper ballots. Brian Mead noted that we were able fit all races & issues on one sheet, front & back, for most precincts. St. Alban's was the one exception, which runs two sheets.

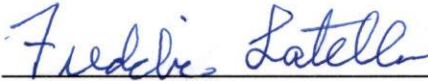
Member David Rhodes noted that he would like to assure that all Board staff is cross-trained. He expressed an interest in keeping a balance of Democrats and Republicans in the office. He also asked about where our hourly rates rank compared to similarly-situated counties. Tess said that she would be happy to look at that after the election. We will post the vacancy, collect resumes, and interview candidates with a target of being able to make an offer of employment at the Official Canvass meeting.

Vicki McKinney asked how our part-timers are hired. We use poll workers and prior part-time help, and we take recommendations for Board members and the parties.

Adjournment and Next Meeting:

There being no further business, it was moved by Member Rhodes, seconded by Member Shai to adjourn. Motion carried 4-0. The meeting was adjourned at 11:39 am.

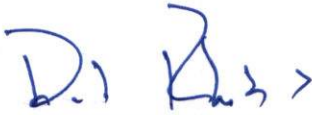
Next meetings will be Tuesday, November 7, 2023 at 6:30 am to open the polls and 7:30 pm to close the polls on Election Day, in the Board of Elections office.



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