

LICKING COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS
SPECIAL MEETING CERTIFYING RESULTS OF THE NOVEMBER 7, 2023 GENERAL ELECTION
NOVEMBER 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, Director Brian Mead, and Deputy Director Tess Wigginton. Also attending were Kent Mallett, reporter for the Newark Advocate, candidates for Newark City Council-At-Large Spencer Barker and Bill Cost, Jr., candidates Valerie Mockus and Patty Underwood, and Secretary of State Central Ohio Regional Liaison Susie O'Brien.

The purpose of this meeting was to conduct the Official Canvass for the November 7, 2023 General Election, regular business, and other business brought before the Board.

Park Shai led the members and attendees in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

Minutes

Director Brian Mead presented the board with finalized minutes from the special meeting of November 7, 2023. Park Shai moved that the minutes be accepted as written, seconded by David Rhodes. Roll call vote: Shai – yes, Rhodes – yes, Hartman – yes, Latella – yes. Motion carried.

Financial Report

Director Brain Mead presented the latest financial report. There is a significant increase to the budget in 2024, largely due to an increase in hardware and software maintenance agreements. These have been covered by the initial contract with hardware/software vendors through 2023; costs are stand-alone as of the end of the initial purchase term. There are also increased costs across the board for a Presidential election year.

November 7, 2023 Special Election

Official Canvass and Certification of Results

The Official Canvass of the November 7, 2023 General Election was conducted in accordance with Directive 2023-13 and all relevant sections of the Election Official Manual.

Absentee Ballot Review:

288 – Postmarked no later than November 6, 2023 and received no later than November 13, 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.

26 – Postmarked later than November 6, 2023. David Rhodes made a motion to reject the ballots. Park Shai provided the second. Roll call: Shai – yes, Rhodes – yes, Hartman – yes, Latella – yes. Motion Carried.

11 – Problem ID envelopes: 11-S sent and attempt to contact made. 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.

Provisional Ballot Review:

707 – 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.

1-T: Missing or Incorrect Birthdate. David Rhodes made a motion to accept the ballots. Park Shai provided the second. Roll call: Shai – yes, Rhodes – yes, Hartman – yes, Latella – yes. Motion Carried.

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

86-L: Invalid ID. 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.

125-R: No history of Ohio voter registration active or inactive. 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.

6-W: Wrong precinct ballot, wrong polling place. David Rhodes 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-B: 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-J: 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.

1-N: No Signature. 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.

1-U: Late/Challenge Voter (took ballot from the polling place.) David Rhodes made a motion to reject the ballot. Park Shai provided the second. Roll call: Shai – yes, Rhodes – yes, Hartman – yes, Latella – yes. Motion Carried.

New Business:

Director Brian Mead recommended that we use Graphic Village for all 2024 elections. Motion to use Graphic Village to print and mail absentee ballots for all 2024 elections made by David Rhodes, seconded by Park Shai. Roll call: Shai – yes, Rhodes – yes, Hartman – yes, Latella – yes. Motion Carried.

First Vote of Resource Allocations: Brian reviewed the tentative resource allocations chart. David Rhodes moved to accept the plan. Kaye Hartman provided the second. Roll call: Shai – yes, Rhodes – yes, Hartman – yes, Latella – yes. Motion Carried.

Secretary of State Communications

Director Brian Mead reviewed the communications from the Secretary of State's office.

Office Update

Director Brian Mead presented the updated Dress Code section from the Licking County Personnel Policy Manual to the Board for their signatures.

Director Mead distributed the schedule and tentative class schedule for the upcoming OAEO Training Classes and Annual Conference, to be held at the Downtown Hilton Hotel in Columbus from January 9, 2023 through January 12, 2023.

Adjourn to Count Accepted Provisional Ballots for Official Canvass and Certification

At 12:50, motion made by David Rhodes, seconded by Park Shai to adjourn to allow staff to count accepted provisional ballots for the purpose of certifying the results of the November 7, 2023 General Election. Roll call: Shai – yes, Rhodes – yes, Hartman – yes, Latella – yes. Motion Carried.

At 2:03 PM, Chairman Latella reconvened the meeting to certify the final count. Director Brian Mead provided the Board with final results of the Official Canvass to be approved. After review, Chairman Latella made a motion to certify results of the November 7, 2023 General Election. David Rhodes provided the second. Roll call: Shai – yes, Rhodes – yes, Hartman – yes, Latella – yes. Motion Carried.

No automatic recounts were required.

Board Chair Freddie Latella congratulated Bill Cost, Jr. on winning the Newark City Council At-Large seat. He commended and thanked Spencer Barker for his service on City Council. Barker expressed his gratitude for the opportunity to serve and affirmed his support to Cost and to City Council in general.

A post-election audit of Issue 1, Issue 2, and the Gas & Electric Aggregation Issue will be conducted by Board Staff. Brian recommended that Cherry Valley be used as it is a large enough location to satisfy the audit requirement.

Dave Rhodes made a motion to enter executive session at 2:12 PM to discuss personnel and payroll. Kaye Hartman seconded.

Roll call: Shai – yes, Rhodes – yes, Hartman – yes, Latella – yes. Motion Carried.

At 2:45 PM, Dave Rhodes moved to leave executive session. Kaye Hartman provided the second. Roll call: Shai – yes, Rhodes – yes, Hartman – yes, Latella – yes. Motion Carried.

Member Rhodes moved to approve the staff raises. Kaye Hartman seconded. Roll call: Shai – yes, Rhodes – yes, Hartman – yes, Latella – yes. Motion Carried.

Member Hartman commended the Board staff for staying calm through the difficulties this election.

Public Comments:

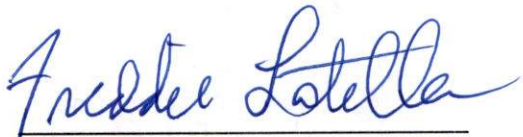
None.

Adjournment and Next Meeting:

The Board members agreed to waive the December 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 3:00 PM.

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 16, 2023 at 11:30 at the Board of Elections office.



Freddie Latella, Chair



A. Kaye Hartman, Board Member

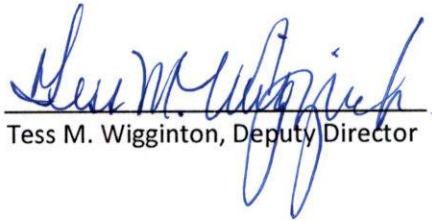


Dave Rhodes, Board Member

J. Park Shai III, Board Member



Brian K. Mead, Director



Tess M. Wigginton, Deputy Director