

LICKING COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS
SPECIAL MEETING – ELECTION DAY/UNOFFICIAL CANVASS
MARCH 19, 2024

An Election Day meeting of the Licking County Board of Elections was called to order at 6:23 A.M., with the following members present: Chairman Freddie Latella, Dave Rhodes, Kaye Hartman and Park Shai, Director Brian Mead and Deputy Director Tess Wigginton.

The purpose of this meeting is to open the polls for the March Presidential Primary Election, conduct the unofficial canvass and any other business brought before the Board.

Polls Open

Chairman Freddie Latella declared the polls open at 6:30 A.M. He then led the Board in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

Minutes

Deputy Director Tess Wigginton asked if all members had an opportunity to review the minutes from the February 27, 2024 Unofficial Canvass meeting and the March 4, 2024 Official Canvass meeting. No one had any corrections or revisions. Member Kaye Hartman moved to accept the minutes of the meetings as written, seconded by David Rhodes. Roll call: Shai – yes, Rhodes – yes, Hartman – yes, Latella – yes. Motion carried.

New Business

Tess Wigginton requested permission from the Board for the staff to proceed with examining Provisional votes. David Rhodes moved to do so, seconded by Park Shai. Roll call: Shai – yes, Rhodes – yes, Hartman – yes, Latella – yes. Motion carried.

Director Brian Mead raised the idea of closing the Board of Elections office on April 8, 2024, for the total solar eclipse. Member David Rhodes moved to give the Director and Deputy Director the authority to close the office that day. Motion was seconded by Kaye Hartman. Roll call: Shai – yes, Rhodes – yes, Hartman – yes, Latella – yes. Motion carried.

Brian Mead advised the Board of the resignation of Clerk Amy Vensel, effective March 22, 2024.

Recess/Reconvene

Park Shai moved that the Board recess until 7:00 PM, seconded by David Rhodes. Roll call: Shai – yes, Rhodes – yes, Hartman – yes, Latella – yes. Motion carried.

The Board reconvened and Chairman Latella called the meeting back to order at 7:00 P.M.

Unofficial Canvass

The election once again ran very smoothly. Tess Wigginton noted that there was only one report of a poll pad connection problem which was resolved early.

Chairman Latella declared the polls closed at 7:30 P.M. The unofficial Canvas began by tabulating all timely received absentee ballots. The process continued following Directive 2023-30 and all relevant sections of the Election Official Manual.

New Business

The Board discussed raising the starting salary for newly hired full time employees, and releasing Justin Phelps from probation with an appropriate increase in his hourly rate pending a positive performance appraisal from the Director and Deputy Director. Kaye Hartman moved, seconded by David Rhodes, to start new employees at \$20/hr. Roll call: Shai – yes, Rhodes – yes, Hartman – yes, Latella – yes. Motion carried.

Adjournment and Next Meeting

The next meeting will be Tuesday, April 9, 2024 at 11:30 AM to determine eligibility of the Provisional ballots per Directive 2023-30, and for certifying the final canvass of the March 19, 2024 Presidential Primary Election.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:51 PM.



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