

LICKING COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS
SPECIAL MEETING –PROVISIONAL ELIGIBILITY AND OFFICIAL CANVASS
APRIL 9, 2024

A Special Meeting of the Licking County Board of Elections was called to order at 11:34 am, with the following members present: Chairman Freddie Latella, Dave Rhodes, Kaye Hartman and Park Shai, Director Brian Mead and Deputy Director Tess Wigginton. Also in attendance were Jerry Griffin and Maureen Clark from the local chapter of the Ohio League of Women Voters.

The purpose of this meeting was to conduct the Official Canvass for the March 19, 2024 Presidential Primary Election, regular business, and other business brought before the Board.

Kaye Hartman led the members and attendees in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

Financial Report

Director Brian Mead provided the Board with the quarterly expense report. Kaye Hartman moved to accept the Financial Report. Second was provided by Park Shai. Roll call: Shai – yes, Rhodes – yes, Hartman – yes, Latella – yes. Motion Carried.

Provisional Ballot Review and Final Certification

97 – 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. Freddie Latella provided the second. Roll call: Shai – yes, Rhodes – yes, Hartman – yes, Latella – yes. Motion Carried.

4-W: Right polling place, wrong precinct ballot. David Rhodes moved to *accept* the ballots. Park Shai provided the second. Roll call: Shai – yes, Rhodes – yes, Hartman – yes, Latella – yes. Motion Carried.

32-L: Invalid/Missing ID. David Rhodes moved to *reject* the ballots. Kaye Hartman provided the second. Roll call: Shai – yes, Rhodes – yes, Hartman – yes, Latella – yes. Motion Carried.

14-R: No history of Ohio voter registration, active or inactive. David Rhodes moved to *reject* the ballots. Kaye Hartman provided the second. Roll call: Shai – yes, Rhodes – yes, Hartman – yes, Latella – yes. Motion Carried.

1-W: Wrong polling place, wrong precinct ballot. 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.

9-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.

At 11:42 am, Deputy Director Tess Wigginton was excused to conduct the final canvass with the approved Provisional Ballots. She returned at 11:51 am and provided the Board with final results of the Official Canvass to be approved. There were no automatic recounts required. After review, Chairman Latella made a motion to certify results of the March 19, 2024 Primary Election. David Rhodes provided the second. Roll call: Shai – yes, Rhodes – yes, Hartman – yes, Latella – yes. Motion Carried.

Unfinished Business

Director Brian Mead asked the Board to choose locations to use for the Post-Election Audit, which must encompass 5% of the total votes cast. The Board chose Reynoldsburg and Legend for the audit, with Hebron as a back-up, should the first two designated locations not provide the require 5% of the vote. The Secretary of State has directed these races be audited:

- Republican Delegates-At-Large and Alternates-At-Large to the Republican National Convention.
- Democratic Justice of the Supreme Court, unexpired term ending 12/31/2026.
- One countywide contested candidate contest or ballot question selected by the Board. The Board chose the race between Bryn Bird and Daniel Crawford for County Commissioner for this part of the audit.

Audit will be conducted on April 15, 2024 at 9:00 AM.

New Business

Candidate for Licking County Commissioner James Snedden, Jr. has sent the Board a request to remove photos/video feed of current County Commissioners Tim Bubb and Duane Flowers from the lobby during early voting for the November General Election. Tess Wigginton noted that the photos and video aren't specifically electioneering, which is clearly prohibited, and the photos are placed in the directory as a means of identifying the elected officials. Brian Mead advised that whatever the Board decides would likely set a precedent for how these will be handled in the future. After some discussion, the Board chose to request a legal opinion on the matter from the Prosecuting Attorney.

Motion made by Kaye Hartman, seconded to David Rhodes to obtain a legal opinion on the display of photos and video in the lobby during early voting. Roll call: Shai – yes, Rhodes – yes, Hartman – yes, Latella – yes. Motion Carried.

The Board received a request from Republican Party chair Richard Salvage to designate a representative in lieu of party chair to call to order the party's organizational meeting, per ORC 3517.04. The Board accepted and approved the request.

Secretary of State Communications

- Laura Jervis/Luke Burton March 25, 2024 – Official Canvass Instructions & Forms
- Luke Burton March 25, 2024 – Major Political Party Committee Reorg Forms
- Luke Burton, March 27, 2024 – Post-Election Audit Forms
- Luke Burton, March 29, 2024 – Recount Spreadsheet

Office Update

Interviews to fill the Republican Clerk vacancy left by Amy Vensel have been completed. Brian and Tess recommend hiring Frank Brown. Motion by Freddie Latella, seconded by David Rhodes to hire Frank Brown to fill the vacancy. Roll call: Shai – yes, Rhodes – yes, Hartman – yes, Latella – yes. Motion Carried.

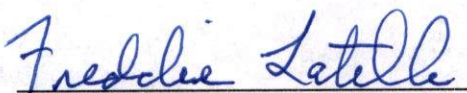
Public Comments

Maureen Clark came to express some concerns to the Board about a polling location. She noted that the small flags that designate the "no electioneering" 100-foot distance from the entrance were missing. She went inside and introduced herself to the Location Manager and asked where she could stand to distribute literature. The VLM answered "Out in the middle of the intersection," and said that since the ground was frozen it was impossible to put out the flags. Maureen also asked why there were no Handicap Access signs or "Vote Here" signs outside the Accessible Entrance. The Board thanked her for telling them about these issues. Brian suggested that we retrain the Location Manager on required signage. The Board agreed with this recommendation.

Adjournment and Next Meeting

The next meeting will be Monday, May 6, at 11:30 am.


There being no further business, motion to adjourn made by Kaye Hartman, seconded by David Rhodes. Motion carried by unanimous vote; the meeting was adjourned 12:18 pm.



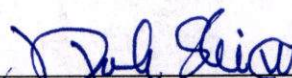
Freddie Latella, Chair



A. Kaye Hartman, Board Member



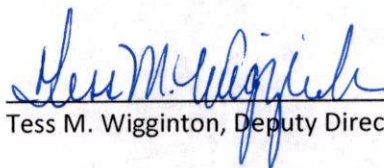
Dave Rhodes, Board Member



J. Park Shai III, Board Member



Brian K. Mead, Director



Tess M. Wigginton, Deputy Director