

LICKING COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS
REGULAR MEETING
August 15, 2019

A regular meeting of the Licking County Board of Elections was called to order at 4:30 P.M., with the following members present: Chair Grace Cherrington, Melinda Miller, Richard Salvage, and Larry Wise. Also attending were Director Brian Mead and Deputy Director Luke Burton, Licking County Assistant Prosecuting Attorney Carolyn Carnes, Ohio Secretary of State Liaison Susie O'Brien, Newark Advocate Reporter Kent Mallett, and county resident Bill Wilken.

The purpose of this meeting is to conduct regular monthly business and certify petitions.

Unfinished Business – Moved Agenda Item:

Richard Salvage made a motion to move the unfinished business agenda item "Granville Concerned Citizens" as the next item in the meeting. Melinda Miller provided the second. Motion carried 4-0.

Director Brian Mead gave an update on communications with the Secretary of State regarding updating registrations of students living at Denison University. Assistant Prosecuting Attorney Carolyn Carnes contacted Bricker & Eckler LLP and confirmed that they are legal counsel for Denison University.

The Board's intention is to comply with advice given in writing by the Office of the Ohio Secretary of State in regards to updating voter registrations of students living at Denison University.

A brief discussion was held between the Board and county resident Bill Wilken regarding voter registration.

Minutes and Budget:

Minutes from the July 9, 2019 regular meeting was presented. Richard Salvage made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Melinda Miller provided the second. Motion carried 4-0.

Director Brian Mead presented the July financial report.

New Business – Petition Certification:

Decisions to certify or not to certify petitions were made in consultation with Assistant Prosecuting Attorney Carolyn Carnes, reviewing relevant sections of the Election Official Manual and Ohio Revised Code.

Deputy Director Luke Burton presented the Board with the following groups of petitions.

1 Local Option petition. Richard Salvage made a motion to accept the petition. Melinda Miller provided the second. Motion carried 4-0.

25 petitions for Member of Board of Education. Richard Salvage made a motion to accept the petitions. Melinda Miller provided the second. Motion carried 4-0.

2 petitions for Member of Governing Board of Educational Service Center. Richard Salvage made a motion to accept the petitions. Melinda Miller provided the second. Motion carried 4-0.

8 petitions for Village Mayor. Richard Salvage made a motion to accept the petitions. Melinda Miller provided the second. Motion carried 4-0.

29 petitions for City and Village Council. Melinda Miller made a motion to accept the petitions. Larry Wise provided the second. Motion carried 4-0.

3 petitions for Village Board of Public Affairs. Melinda Miller made a motion to accept the petitions. Richard Salvage provided the second. Motion carried 4-0.

1 petition for Village Clerk-Treasurer. Melinda Miller made a motion to accept the petitions. Larry Wise provided the second. Motion carried 4-0.

37 petitions for Township Trustee. Larry Wise made a motion to accept the petitions. Melinda Miller provided the second. Motion carried 4-0.

32 petitions for Township Fiscal Officer. Melinda Miller made a motion to accept the petitions. Richard Salvage provided the second. Motion carried 4-0.

Problem Petitions:

Township of Hanover, Trustee, Ryan Gerber – 25 valid signatures are required, only 21 signatures were able to be certified. Larry Wise made a motion to reject the petition. Melinda Miller provided the second. Motion carried 4-0.

Township of Granville, Trustee, Stacey Morris – 25 valid signatures are required, only 24 were able to be certified. Larry Wise made a motion to reject the petition. Melinda Miller provided the second. Motion carried 4-0.

Village of Granville, Council, Mara Hoover – 25 valid signatures are required, only 24 were able to be certified. Larry Wise made a motion to reject the petition. Melinda Miller provided the second. Motion carried 4-0.

Precinct Heath 1-B, Local Option, TH Midwest Inc dba Turkey Hill – 168 valid signatures are required, only 130 were able to be certified. Larry Wise made a motion to reject the petition. Melinda Miller provided the second. Motion carried 4-0.

Village of Hebron, Mayor, Valerie Mockus – 6 of 7 circulator statements are completely blank leaving a deficient amount of valid signatures. Richard Salvage made a motion to reject the petition. Melinda Miller provided the second. Motion carried 4-0.

Township of Granville, Trustee, Daniel Van Ness – Number of signatures witnessed in the circulator statements are blank. Larry Wise made a motion to reject the petition. Melinda Miller provided the second. Motion carried 4-0.

Township of Mary Ann, Trustee, Leslie Ira Wolfe – Number of signatures witnessed in the circulator statements are blank. Melinda Miller made a motion to reject the petition. Larry Wise provided the second. Motion carried 4-0.

Village of Hanover, Board of Public Affairs, Kenneth E. Flowers – Circulator statement is not signed Richard Salvage made a motion to reject the petition. Melinda Miller provided the second. Motion carried 4-0.

Township of Hopewell, Trustee, David Medley – Printed name of circulator is blank on both parts. The other parts of the circulator statement are complete and signed. Richard Salvage made a motion to accept the petition. Melinda Miller provided the second. Motion carried 4-0.

Village of Hebron, Council, Richard L. Moore – Part 2 only, printed name of circulator is blank. The other parts of the circulator statement are complete and signed. Richard Salvage made a motion to accept the petition. Melinda Miller provided the second. Motion carried 4-0.

City of Pataskala, Ward 3 Council, Michael P. Fox – Part 2 only, missing city, state and zip code of circulator. Other parts of the circulator statement are complete and signed. Larry Wise made a motion to accept the petition. Melinda Miller provided the second. Motion carried 4-0.

Licking Heights Local School District, Member of Board of Education, Marius F. Irimies – No date or signature in the statement of candidacy section on all parts. Larry Wise made a motion to reject the petition. Melinda Miller provided the second. Motion carried 4-0.

Village of Granville, Council, Dan Rogers – No date in the statement of candidacy section on all parts. Larry Wise made a motion to reject the petition. Melinda Miller provided the second. Motion carried 4-0.

Village of Hanover, Clerk-Treasurer, Nicole D. Gieseler – Nominating petition section was blank, filled out at the counter during filing. Larry Wise made a motion to accept the petition. Melinda Miller provided the second. Motion carried 4-0.

Village of Gratiot, Mayor, Council, Clerk-Treasurer, Melanie Kish, Mandi Garey, Amber Wallace – Nominating petition section was left blank. Larry Wise made a motion to accept the petition. Melinda Miller provided the second. Motion carried 4-0.

Village of Johnstown, Council, Sharon E. Hendren – Nominating petition section left blank on all parts. Richard Salvage made a motion to accept the petition. Melinda Miller provided the second. Motion carried 4-0.

Johnstown-Monroe Local School District, Member of Board of Education, James Dodderer- Nominating petition sections were blank, filled out at the counter during filing. Statement of candidacy section on part 1 is a future date, September 16, 2019 and part 2 has an acceptable date, August 5, 2019. Richard Salvage made a motion to reject the petition. Melinda Miller provided the second. Motion carried 4-0.

Village of Hartford, Council, David P. Wells – Statement of candidacy address and voter registration address do not match. Richard Salvage made a motion to accept the petition. Melinda Miller provided the second. Motion carried 4-0.

Township of Eden, Trustee, Chuck Dunlap – Statement of candidacy address and voter registration address do not match. Richard Salvage made a motion to accept the petition. Melinda Miller provided the second. Motion carried 4-0.

Township of Hanover, Fiscal Officer, Jennifer Nethers – Statement of candidacy address did not match registration address while circulating. Registration address was updated at the same time of filing the petition. Richard Salvage made a motion to accept the petition. Melinda Miller provided the second. Motion carried 4-0.

Withdrawn Petition:

Deputy Director Luke Burton informed the Board that Charlie M. Davis Jr., City of Pataskala, Ward 3 Council candidate has filed a statement of withdrawal from the ballot.

Secretary of State Communications:

The Board reviewed the following communications from the Ohio Secretary of State.

- Directive 2019-09 Last Chance Mailing – TRIAD GSI has mailed the notices
- Directive 2019-08 Progress Update
- July 19, 2019 was Brandi Seskes' last day with the Secretary of State's Office
- Directive 2019-11 Proposed changes to the Election Official Manual
- Advisory 2019-06 H.B. 166 State Operating Budget – Election law updates
- Advisory 2019-07 Court Order Regarding a Board of Elections' Review of Initiative Petitions

Ohio Secretary of State Liaison Susie O'Brien read a press release regarding an initiative to send voter registration cards to citizens identified to be eligible for voter registration.

The Board asked Susie O'Brien what the Secretary of State's office internal policy for staff background checks state. Susie said she would find out and communicate that information back to the Board.

Office Update:

Director Brian Mead provided an office update for the following items.

- OAEO Central District Meeting July 18, 2019. Delaware County Board of Elections, 7 of our staff and members attended.
- Hartford Fair Sunday, August 4 – Friday, August 9, 2019. Brian explained that we staffed an informational table at the fair allowing fairgoers to register to vote, sign up to be precinct election officials, and try out the new voting machine. Larry commended the staff for their efforts in showing the public how the new voting machines work.
- July 19, 2019 ADA training seminar attended by Clerk Clayton Shell.
- Voting machine stands, tables, ADA equipment being moved from the Wilson street storage facility to a new storage location.
- The remainder of new voting machine stands are scheduled to be delivered on Monday, August 19, 2019.
- ES&S absentee mail service is being contracted to a new company, Seachange. Tom Cooper, our former ES&S contact is now with Seachange.

Unfinished Business Continued:

Richard Salvage made a motion to move the Northridge Alexandria Elementary School voting location to the Church of Christ At Alexandria, 5380 Moots Run Rd, Alexandria, OH 43001. Melinda Miller provided the second. Motion carried 4-0.

New Business:

Larry Wise made a motion to go into executive session to discuss contracts and Precinct Election Officials. Melinda Miller provided the second. Cherrington – Yes, Miller – Yes, Salvage – Yes, Wise – Yes, motion carried 4-0.

Larry Wise made a motion to come out of executive session. Melinda Miller provided the second. Cherrington – Yes, Miller – Yes, Salvage – Yes, Wise – Yes, motion carried 4-0.

The board asked Director Brian Mead and Deputy Director Luke Burton to designate an “Assistant Voting Location Manager”. This will be a Precinct Election Official who could step in as the Voting Location Manager if the need arises.

Adjournment and Next Meeting:

The September regular meeting has been scheduled for September 10, 2019 at 4:30 P.M.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:10 P.M.



Grace Cherrington, Chair



Melinda Miller, Board Member



Larry D. Wise, Board Member



Richard E. Salvage, Board Member



Brian K. Mead, Director