

FRANKLIN COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS
280 EAST BROAD STREET
COLUMBUS, OHIO 43215
(614) 462-3100

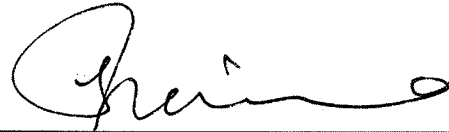
MINUTES OF THE MEETING ON

8-4-08

APPROVED ON

9-8-08

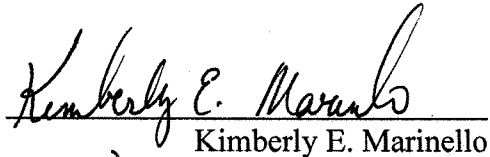
BY:



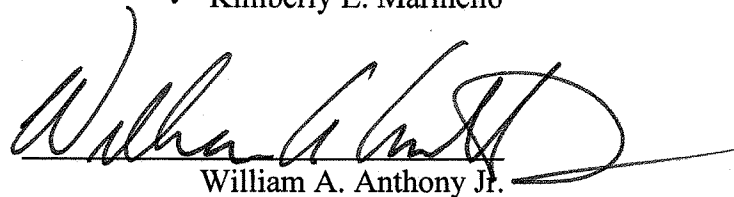
Douglas J. Preisse, Chairman



Michael F. Colley, Esq.



Kimberly E. Marinello



William A. Anthony Jr.

ATTEST:



Michael Stinziano, Director

1 BEFORE THE FRANKLIN COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS

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3 IN RE: :

4 Board Meeting :

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6 Proceedings before Chairman Douglas J.
7 Preisse, Board Member William A. Anthony, Jr,
8 Board Member Michael F. Colley and Board Member
9 Kimberly E. Marinello, taken at Franklin County
10 Board of Elections, 280 East Broad Street, Room
11 100, Columbus, Ohio on Monday, August 4, 2008, at
12 2:45 o'clock p.m.

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1 APPEARANCES:

2 Franklin County Prosecuting Attorney
3 373 South High Street
4 13th Floor
5 Columbus, Ohio 43215
6 By Mr. Anthony E. Palmer, Jr.,
7 Assistant County Prosecutor
8 and
9 Mr. Nick A. Soulas,
10 First Assistant,
11
12 On behalf of the Board of Elections.

13 ALSO PRESENT:

14
15 Mr. Michael Stinziano, Director
16 Mr. Matthew M. Damschroder, Deputy Director
17 Ms. Suzanne Brown
18 Mr. Eric C. Nickolas, Field Rep
19 Mr. Ben Piscitelli, Public Information
20 Officer
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P R O C E E D I N G S
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DEPUTY DIRECTOR DAMSCHRODER: Call this meeting of the Board of Elections to order. We'll have a roll call vote.

Mr. Colley?

BOARD MEMBER COLLEY: Here.

DEPUTY DIRECTOR DAMSCHRODER:
Mr. Anthony?

BOARD MEMBER ANTHONY: Here.

DEPUTY DIRECTOR DAMSCHRODER: Ms.
Marinello?

BOARD MEMBER MARINELLO: Here.

DEPUTY DIRECTOR DAMSCHRODER: And
Chairman Preisse?

CHAIRMAN PREISSE: Here.

DEPUTY DIRECTOR DAMSCHRODER: All members are present. The first item on the agenda is the approval of minutes.

BOARD MEMBER MARINELLO: I move the minutes of the meeting of the Board held on July 7th, 2008 be approved as submitted.

BOARD MEMBER ANTHONY: Second.

1 DEPUTY DIRECTOR DAMSCHRODER: All in
2 favor, say "aye."

3 (Board votes aye unanimously.)

4 DEPUTY DIRECTOR DAMSCHRODER: Motion
5 carries. And I'll send the sheet down the row, if
6 you could all sign, and the Director will witness.

7 And the next item on the agenda is to
8 establish dates and times for in-person absentee
9 and provisional voting at Vets Memorial.

10 Secretary of State Directive 2008-50
11 requires that the minimum hours that the alternate
12 voting location be open for voting must be at
13 least equal to the same hours that the Board's
14 main offices are open.

15 And so the first motion, in my view,
16 needs to be to adopt the minimum standards of the
17 Secretary of State and have Monday through Friday
18 8:00 to 5:00 at Vets.

19 BOARD MEMBER ANTHONY: Mr. Chair?

20 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: Mm-hmm.

21 BOARD MEMBER ANTHONY: If we set the
22 minimum standards, does that mean we will be
23 prohibited from coming back in and extending the
24 hours?

1 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: Are you asking me or
2 our professional staff?

3 BOARD MEMBER ANTHONY: I'm asking our
4 professional staff, sir. Excuse me.

5 DEPUTY DIRECTOR DAMSCHRODER: I think
6 the only requirement, from the directive, is that
7 we advertise or post the hours at least 50 days --
8 I think that's what the directive said -- 50 days
9 before election day.

10 BOARD MEMBER ANTHONY: Because what I
11 would like to see -- and I don't know if this is
12 the right time to open up the discussion on it,
13 but I would like to see us open a little bit past
14 the normal quit time to allow folks an opportunity
15 to vote after work, and I would also like to see
16 us open on the weekends.

17 And I've had a conversation with the
18 County Commissioners, and we had talked about
19 trying to get an idea of what that would cost to
20 stay open those additional hours.

21 Do we still have time to kind of mull
22 this around, or are our backs up against the wall
23 at this point?

24 DEPUTY DIRECTOR DAMSCHRODER: I think,

1 from my view, we have a little bit of time.

2 BOARD MEMBER ANTHONY: But not a lot?

3 DEPUTY DIRECTOR DAMSCHRODER: But not
4 much.

5 BOARD MEMBER ANTHONY: Yeah, that's
6 what I thought.

7 DEPUTY DIRECTOR DAMSCHRODER: I think
8 the key is if the Board wants to be able to
9 provide the notice to all the voters of the times
10 through the 60-day mailing, then we probably need
11 to know pretty soon.

12 Because the vendor's probably going to
13 want to start printing those here next week to get
14 them ready, you know, to get 650,000 pieces
15 printed and processed to be mailed on September
16 6th.

17 But there's no requirement for the
18 Board to include information about the in-person
19 voting location as a part of that 60-day mailing,
20 so we could choose to post the information through
21 some other method; our web site, et cetera.

22 BOARD MEMBER MARINELLO: Sure would be
23 nice to have it on there though, wouldn't it?

24 BOARD MEMBER ANTHONY: Yeah, I think it

1 would be.

2 How late are other polling locations
3 staying open; do we have any idea?

4 DEPUTY DIRECTOR DAMSCHRODER: I'm
5 sorry?

6 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: You mean other
7 counties?

8 BOARD MEMBER ANTHONY: Do you know what
9 other counties are doing, particularly large
10 counties?

11 DEPUTY DIRECTOR DAMSCHRODER: I do not.

12 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: What are the large
13 counties doing, he asked. I'm just -- so you can
14 hear what he said.

15 BOARD MEMBER ANTHONY: All right.
16 Maybe our rep would know. Eric?

17 MR. NICKOLAS: I can find out if
18 Cuyahoga or Hamilton County is -- you're speaking
19 of those large counties?

20 BOARD MEMBER ANTHONY: Yeah, Hamilton,
21 Cuyahoga.

22 MR. NICKOLAS: What their plans are?

23 BOARD MEMBER ANTHONY: I would just
24 kind of like to know what folks are thinking

1 about. Do you know if the Secretary of State has
2 made any indication that folks are to stay open
3 later if they have the funds to do it?

4 MR. NICKOLAS: I haven't seen anything
5 yet, but I can find out.

6 BOARD MEMBER ANTHONY: Okay. I'm not
7 trying to throw a wrench in all this.

8 DEPUTY DIRECTOR DAMSCHRODER: No,
9 that's fine.

10 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: How about a shoe?

11 BOARD MEMBER ANTHONY: A shoe, yeah, a
12 good shoe.

13 But you see what my concerns are, is
14 that I think we ought to be open past five
15 o'clock. Only because people get off at 5:00, and
16 if you want them to come vote, it would be much
17 easier to go to Vets after 5:00. Of course on the
18 lunch hour too, but just to have that available.

19 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: As I recall, we did
20 vote relatively late in the cycle to extend hours,
21 Saturday hours. Was it Saturday hours or was it
22 weekday hours last --

23 DEPUTY DIRECTOR DAMSCHRODER: It was
24 the Monday hours right before the election.

1 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: Monday hours.

2 DEPUTY DIRECTOR DAMSCHRODER: We met on
3 Sunday and extended the hours on Monday. And that
4 ended up proving somewhat problematic, because
5 we -- I think we made the right decision. I think
6 we extended hours to 7:00 p.m. or 9:00 p.m., do
7 you remember, the primary?

8 MR. NICKOLAS: I think it was 9:00.

9 DEPUTY DIRECTOR DAMSCHRODER: 9:00 p.m.
10 Which meant anybody in line at 9:00 p.m., we
11 allowed them to go through the line and be able to
12 vote, which means our staff left here the night
13 before the election a little after midnight,
14 by the time we got the last voters through and
15 closed everything down.

16 BOARD MEMBER ANTHONY: That was in
17 March or April?

18 DEPUTY DIRECTOR DAMSCHRODER: That was
19 in March for this year's primary.

20 So anticipating the same kind of, if
21 not greater, demand for in-person absentee voting,
22 particularly that last day, my view is that it's
23 going to be important to make sure that we have
24 hours that both accommodate the public, but also

