

FRANKLIN COUNTY
ELECTION BOARD MEETING

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In Re: :

Special Meeting :

- - -

NOVEMBER 27, 2023

PROCEEDINGS OF THE FRANKLIN COUNTY
BOARD OF ELECTIONS

before Chairman, Douglas J. Preisse;
Director, Antone White; Deputy Director, David
Payne; Board Members, Michael Sexton, Kim
Marinello, and Meredith Freedhoff, on Monday,
November 27, 2023, beginning at approximately 3:07
p.m. and concluding at approximately 4:29 p.m.

ALSO PRESENT:

- Erin Gibbons
- Jeanine Hummer
- Jeffrey Mackey
- Audience
- Travis Simmons
- Carla Patton

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E X H I B I T S

EXHIBITS

None

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Monday Afternoon Session

November 27, 2023

3:07 p.m.

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P-R-O-C-E-E-D-I-N-G-S

DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: All right.

I'll go ahead and call the roll.

Kim Marinello?

MEMBER MARINELLO: Here.

DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: Mike Sexton?

MEMBER SEXTON: Here.

DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: Doug

Preisse?

CHAIRMAN PREISSE: Here.

DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: And Meredith

Freedhoff?

MS. FREEDHOFF: Here.

DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: Chairman, we do have a quorum. I would ask that you identify yourself, if possible, prior to making comments so that our court reporter knows who's talking.

The first item on the Agenda are provisional ballots for consideration, and I'll turn it over to Sara Ziemba, who is the supervisor

1 of our Voter Services Department.

2 Thank you, Sara.

3 MS. SARA ZIEMBA: Thank you, David.

4 Sara Ziemba, the supervisor of the Voter Services
5 Department. Good afternoon, everyone. Hope
6 everyone had a great Thanksgiving. Thank you again
7 for the extra days off. That was really nice for
8 everybody here.

9 MS. FREEDHOFF: You deserve it.

10 MS. SARA ZIEMBA: Thank you. When
11 we left last time, there were 27 provisional
12 ballots that we still needed to do some Election
13 Day reconciliation before we would be comfortable
14 making a recommendation to the Board to approve or
15 reject them.

16 And the Election Operations
17 Department has finished their Election Day
18 reconciliation. And what they were doing again, it
19 was just verifying the notes that came from poll
20 workers from Election Day workbooks, with the
21 signatures that were voter signed on the signature
22 pollbooks and the numbers of ballots that were cast
23 in each location.

24 So for the 27 outstanding

1 provisional ballots that we had, there was a voter
2 signature on the signature pollbook for that voter,
3 in addition to the ballot, the provisional ballot
4 that we had in our possession.

5 So we were waiting to see if the
6 Election Operations Department could resolve any of
7 those by finding notes from the poll workers,
8 anything that would let us know that maybe the
9 voter signed in error, and then was redirected to
10 provisional, and they didn't actually cast a ballot
11 on a machine, in addition to the provisional ballot
12 that we had.

13 And after the Election Operations
14 Department went through their reconciliation of
15 those three items, the signatures, the ballot cast,
16 and all of the notes from the poll workers, they
17 were able to validate that there were 22 of those
18 that we would recommend that the Board approve
19 because they were signed -- the signature
20 pollbooks in error and did not cast a machine vote
21 on Election Day. Their provisional ballot was the
22 only ballot for that voter. So there were 22 of
23 those.

24 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: Then we have

1 written evidence from the poll worker saying we
2 directed this person to vote provisionally?

3 MS. SARA ZIEMBA: Yes. Yes. And
4 they did not --

5 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: Where is that
6 recorded?

7 MS. SARA ZIEMBA: It is -- so there
8 are a couple different places where poll workers
9 can write comments and notes to us. There's a
10 roster judge workbook at the check-in table, where
11 voters are signing the pollbook.

12 There's a precinct location
13 workbook, problems and correction page that the
14 voting location manager and deputies would fill out
15 information for us, and there's also a paper ballot
16 judge workbook that has a note section at the paper
17 table, where those paper judges can let us know
18 what was going on with a particular voter.

19 And so with a combination of all of
20 those resources, they were able to determine that
21 22 of the voters that we had out of the outstanding
22 number did not cast another ballot. And so voters
23 services recommend that the Board would make a
24 motion to approve those 22 additional ballots.

1 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: Okay. Questions?
2 Comments?

3 MEMBER SEXTON: Just a question. I
4 see here that we also -- I assume those 22 are the
5 ones listed here?

6 MS. SARA ZIEMBA: Yes. So there was
7 22 that were added, and I added -- we added that to
8 the amended exhibit, so that there were 22 added to
9 the grand total recommended to accept. So that
10 total went from 8293 to 8344 on -- I'm not sure if
11 you guys have both exhibits there, but on the
12 amended one, the 8344 would include the 22 if the
13 Board approves them today.

14 MEMBER SEXTON: And I see here that
15 we are -- you're also asking to reject five --

16 MS. SARA ZIEMBA: That's correct --

17 MEMBER SEXTON: Five --

18 MS. SARA ZIEMBA: Yes. So --

19 MEMBER SEXTON: Why are we rejecting
20 those?

21 MS. SARA ZIEMBA: So those would be
22 rejected for voter having already cast another
23 ballot, because there was no definitive information
24 that would lead us to believe the voter did not

1 cast a ballot on the machine, in addition to
2 casting that provisional ballot.

3 So there was nothing in any of the
4 notes that the workers gave to us. There was
5 nothing that the Election Operations Department
6 could conclude with one hundred percent certainty
7 that that voter did not cast a ballot on the
8 machine, and, therefore, since they had the
9 signature, it couldn't be definitively proven that
10 they didn't cast that vote on the machine because
11 we had the signature there in the pollbook, that we
12 would recommend the Board reject the provisionals,
13 because they would have already cast their ballot
14 on the machine. And the provisional would be the
15 second vote.

16 MEMBER SEXTON: Okay.

17 MS. SARA ZIEMBA: So there were
18 five, then, of those. And that's highlighted on
19 the voter -- already voted totals on the exhibit,
20 that went from 33 to 38 with those five.

21 MEMBER SEXTON: I don't have
22 anything else.

23 Mr. Chairman, Michael Sexton, I move
24 the Board approve the County 22 provisional ballots

1 and the rejection of the five provisional ballots
2 and all ballots deemed valid will be counted and
3 included in the official canvas results from the
4 November 7, 2023 general election.

5 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: Doug Preisse,
6 second the motion.

7 DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: It's been
8 properly moved and seconded.

9 All those in favor of the motion,
10 signify by saying aye.

11 (Vote taken.)

12 DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: All opposed,
13 same signed.

14 (No response.)

15 DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: The motion
16 carries.

17 Sara, I presume we have a bipartisan
18 teams in the back waiting to extract those 22
19 additional provisional ballots?

20 MS. SARA ZIEMBA: We sure do. So if
21 the Board would like to move to extract them, that
22 would be great.

23 MEMBER MARINELLO: Kim Marinello; I
24 move the Board authorize the staff to extract the

1 22 provisional ballots that were just approved by
2 the Board.

3 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: Doug Preisse,
4 second the motion.

5 DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: It's been
6 properly moved and seconded.

7 All those in favor of the motion,
8 signify by saying aye.

9 (Vote taken.)

10 DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: All opposed,
11 same sign.

12 (No response.)

13 DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: The motion
14 carries.

15 Oftentimes -- well, not often, but
16 sometimes when we open those provisional ballots,
17 they're either torn, they won't go through the
18 tabulator, and we have to remake those. So in some
19 instances, we've given the bipartisan teams the
20 authorization to remake any of those 22 ballots
21 that would need to be remade.

22 If we do remake any of them, we
23 could come back later and tell the Board which ones
24 have been remade. It's probably not likely that

1 we'll have to remake any of them, but if the Board
2 would like to give the bipartisan teams
3 authorization.

4 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: We should as a
5 matter of efficiency.

6 MEMBER SEXTON: Agree.

7 Do you want me to make that motion.

8 Mr. Chairman, Michael Sexton. I
9 move the Board authorize the staff to remake
10 provisional ballots and these remade ballots should
11 be tabulated and included in the official canvass
12 of the results of November 7, 2023 general
13 election, with the report to be made to the Board
14 later today.

15 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: Second the
16 motion.

17 DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: It's been
18 properly moved and seconded.

19 All those in favor of the motion,
20 signify by saying aye.

21 (Vote taken.)

22 DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: All opposed,
23 same sign.

24 (No response.)

1 DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: The motion
2 carries.

3 The next item, we have a couple of
4 voter challenges from the same individual at the
5 same address.

6 Travis, are you taking care of
7 those? And --

8 MR. TRAVIS SIMMONS: Yes, sir.

9 Is Austin Carter here? Okay. Mr.
10 Carter is here. I think what we'll probably do is
11 have Travis give an overview and then Mr. Carter
12 will --

13 MR. TRAVIS SIMMONS: Good afternoon.
14 I'm Travis Simmons. I'm the manager of the Voter
15 Services Department. I think I found my pen that I
16 lost last time. That's really good.

17 So I'm here today because Austin
18 Carter of 1203 Westwood Avenue, Columbus, Ohio
19 43212 is challenging the voter registration status
20 of two voters, Robert Scott Henningsen and also
21 Patricia Kelly Mooney.

22 Mr. Carter is currently registered
23 to vote at 1203 Westwood Avenue. He has -- he's
24 registered to vote here in Franklin County on

1 August 11, 2021, and he has voted from that address
2 since the November 2nd, 2021 General Election.

3 Mr. Henningsen is currently in an
4 active voter status --

5 MEMBER SEXTON: Say that again.

6 MR. TRAVIS SIMMONS: Mr. Henningsen
7 is currently in an active voter status here with
8 the Franklin County Board of Elections. He is
9 still registered to vote at 1203 Westwood Avenue.
10 He has not voted here in Franklin County since the
11 November 3rd, 2020 General Election, so he has not
12 voted since November 3rd of 2020.

13 Mr. Henningsen originally registered
14 to vote in Franklin County in 1992. He updated his
15 registration to 1203 Westwood Avenue on August 6th
16 of 2020. Mr. Henningsen voted from 1203 Westwood
17 Avenue from the 1203 Westwood address for only one
18 election, and as I stated earlier, that was the
19 last election that he voted. And that was the
20 November 3rd, 2020 General Election. He voted
21 absentee mail ballot.

22 Mr. Henningsen's registration status
23 changed to inactive status following a two-year
24 period of inactivity on June 22nd of 2023.

1 He was mailed a confirmation notice
2 to 1203 Westwood Avenue with affordable mail
3 service on July 11th of this year.

4 As of today, we have not received a
5 response to the confirmation letter, and Mr.
6 Henningsen's registration is on schedule to be
7 removed to maintenance, barring any subsequent
8 voter activity.

9 Ms. Mooney also is inactive voter
10 status, and she is currently registered to vote at
11 1203 Westwood Avenue. Her last vote here in
12 Franklin County was the November 3rd, 2020 General
13 Election, and she also voted by absentee mail.

14 Ms. Mooney originally registered to
15 vote in Franklin County in 1998. She updated her
16 registration to 1203 Westwood Avenue on August 6th
17 of 2020. Ms. Mooney voted -- as I stated earlier,
18 her last vote and the only vote from 1203 Westwood
19 Avenue was the November 3rd, 2020 General Election.
20 And as I stated earlier, she voted in absentee
21 mail-in ballot. Ms. Mooney's registration changed
22 to inactive status following a two-year period of
23 inactivity. 6-22-23, she was mailed a confirmation
24 notice to 1203 Westwood Avenue with affordable mail

1 service on July 11th of 2023.

2 As of today, we have not received a
3 response to the confirmation letter, and Ms.
4 Mooney's registration is scheduled to be --
5 scheduled to be removed through LID maintenance,
6 barring any subsequent voter activity over the next
7 two years.

8 DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: Thank you,
9 Travis.

10 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: Thank you. Any
11 questions?

12 Either Robert Henningsen or Patricia
13 Mooney --

14 MS. FRIEDHOFF: Or the challenges --

15 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: -- here or
16 anybody representing them?

17 MS. SARA ZIEMBA: Austin Carter.

18 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: And then Mr.
19 Carter is here, right?

20 MR. TRAVIS SIMMONS: Yeah.

21 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: Okay. Questions
22 for our staff before we ask Mr. Carter if he wishes
23 to speak to the Board.

24 Good report. Thank you, Travis.

1 MR. TRAVIS SIMMONS: Thank you.

2 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: Mr. Carter, would
3 you please come to the podium, and I anticipate
4 that our counsel will admonish me to have you sworn
5 in to give testimony in by our court reporter.

6 MR. AUSTIN CARTER: Sure. I'm happy
7 to.

8 (Mr. Carter sworn in.)

9 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: Thank you.
10 Please introduce yourself.

11 MR. AUSTIN CARTER: Hi. I'm Austin
12 Carter, 1203 Westwood Avenue. I submitted a form,
13 and I received this to bring any documents that
14 establish residency at 1203 Westwood Avenue 43212,
15 which I have done.

16 My wife and I purchased the home. I
17 have my driver's license with my identification. I
18 have a water bill with my wife's name.

19 I have my mortgage statement, so I'm
20 happy to provide those documentation to you to
21 establish that I am a resident of that place, and
22 my wife and I and our two girls live in the house.
23 And I think the two people that were mentioned are
24 former residents of the property, but no longer

1 live there, so that's my understanding.

2 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: Do they still get
3 mail there?

4 MR. AUSTIN CARTER: Yeah,
5 occasionally.

6 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: That happens,
7 doesn't it?

8 MR. AUSTIN CARTER: Yeah. And when
9 they do, we try to write like, you know, person
10 doesn't live here and return to sender and things
11 like that, so --

12 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: Questions?

13 MEMBER MARINELLO: No questions.

14 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: Okay. I don't
15 have any either. We appreciate you taking the time
16 to come and help us do our jobs for the voters and
17 citizens of the county. So if you don't have any
18 questions or thoughts for us, I don't have any for
19 you.

20 MR. AUSTIN CARTER: Thank you. I
21 appreciate it.

22 MS. FREEDHOFF: Meredith Freedhoff.
23 Chairman, I move that the Board approve the
24 challenge of the right to vote filed by Austin

1 Carter, 1203 Westwood Avenue, Grandview Heights,
2 against Patricia Mooney of the same address and
3 order that Patricia Mooney's registration be
4 removed from the Franklin County Board of Election
5 voter file.

6 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: Doug Preisse,
7 second the motion.

8 DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: It's been
9 properly moved and seconded.

10 All those in favor of the motion,
11 signify by saying aye.

12 (Vote taken.)

13 DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: All opposed,
14 same sign.

15 (No response.)

16 DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: The motion
17 carries.

18 MEMBER MARINELLO: Mr. Chairman, I
19 move the Board approve the challenge of right to
20 vote filed against -- filed by Austin Carter at
21 1203 Westwood Avenue, Grandview Heights against
22 Robert Henningsen, at the same address, and order
23 that Robert Henningsen's registration be removed
24 from the Franklin County Board of Elections voter

1 file.

2 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: Doug Preisse,
3 second the motion.

4 DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: It's been
5 properly moved and seconded.

6 All those in favor of the motion,
7 signify by saying aye.

8 (Vote taken.)

9 DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: All opposed,
10 same sign?

11 (No response.)

12 DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: Motion
13 carries.

14 We didn't know how long the voter
15 challenges would take. We gave the 22 ballots to
16 the folks to open up. They're opening those up.
17 Once they're opened up, they will be given to our
18 operations department, and they will tally those
19 into our final results. They'll bring back a
20 report to us, and what do we think? 25 minutes?
21 30 minutes? And then we will certify the election,
22 so --

23 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: Should we skip
24 the next --

1 DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: Well, I
2 don't think -- I don't know that there's anything
3 else we can do at this point until we get --

4 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: Can we -- so we
5 cannot do the selection of precincts for recount if
6 we don't have the total tally?

7 DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: That's
8 correct.

9 DIRECTOR WHITE: We need to certify
10 the election first.

11 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: Okay. And what's
12 the last item on the agenda? Oh, the second to the
13 last -- the library matter. So we need to wait for
14 the final --

15 DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: We do. We
16 could recess --

17 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: So let's -- we're
18 going to be in recess.

19 We're in recess.

20 (Recess is taken.)

21 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: Okay. Let's come
22 out of recess and proceed. I think we have the
23 update we need from our provisionals, I hope we
24 have them without complication.

1 DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: We'll call
2 on Carla Patton in operations to go over the
3 certification of the November 7th General Election.

4 MS. CARLA PATTON: Good afternoon.

5 DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: Good
6 afternoon.

7 MS. CARLA PATTON: Carla Patton,
8 manager of operations. I have just handed you the
9 report for the Franklin County results for the
10 November 7, 2023 General Election. After a
11 thorough review of the results that were received
12 and ballots recounted, the report before you is
13 inclusive of all votes that were eligible to be
14 cast on Election Day, including the provisionals
15 that were deemed valid and sufficient.

16 It is -- we would like to present
17 this report to you and ask that you certify the
18 results of this -- of the result of the election.
19 And as a result of that, there will be -- there are
20 five races that fall within recount range, and the
21 results.

22 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: Are you prepared
23 to tell us which those are?

24 MS. PATTON: I am. Most certainly

1 would be happy to. The first race is for the
2 Bexley City Council. It was a vote for four.
3 There were three declared -- there were three
4 winners, and then Danny Hurley becomes the declared
5 winner.

6 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: This is City
7 Council?

8 MS. CARLA PATTON: This is City
9 Council, Bexley. It will be right out to the
10 Columbus.

11 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: What page is that
12 on?

13 MS. CARLA PATTON: It will be on
14 page 5, the middle of the page.

15 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: Thank you.

16 MS. CARLA PATTON: So for the fourth
17 spot, Danny Hurley would be the declared winner,
18 with Matthew Clingler as the declared loser. To
19 come up with the recount, there were -- you add the
20 total number of votes for the declared winner to
21 any of the votes cast for the declared loser or
22 losers. In this case, just one. Then you multiply
23 that by one-half of one percent.

24 So the total votes for those two

1 candidates was 6,250. One half of one percent of
2 that is 31.25.

3 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: Is what, please?

4 MS. CARLA PATTON: 31.25. The
5 difference between these two candidates is 24,
6 which falls within the range of recount.

7 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: Okay.

8 MS. CARLA PATTON: The next race
9 I'll point out is Gahanna City Council.

10 MEMBER SEXTON: So Carla, Mr.
11 Chairman, question. So you're saying between Danny
12 Hurley and Matthew Clinger, 24 votes?

13 MS. CARLA PATTON: 24 votes separate
14 them, which falls within the one-half of one
15 percent.

16 MEMBER SEXTON: Okay. And then this
17 is a vote for four?

18 MS. CARLA PATTON: Right. So we
19 will only recount the Hurley and Clinger votes, as
20 Saad and Silverman are both winners in the race,
21 with Hurley being declared the winner.

22 The next race --

23 MEMBER SEXTON: So who -- it would
24 be Hurley one? Clinger, two?

1 MS. CARLA PATTON: Actually, the
2 order, Saad -- Jess Saad is the top vote getter,
3 with Alex Silverman, the second. Troy Markham is
4 the third. Danny Hurley then is the fourth place,
5 and Matthew Clinger was in fifth place, for a vote
6 for four.

7 MEMBER SEXTON. Okay. Thank you.

8 MS. CARLA PATTON: We'll move on to
9 the Gahanna City Council race.

10 DIRECTOR WHITE: The bottom of Page
11 6. Thank you.

12 MS. CARLA PATTON: The bottom of
13 Page 6. And this was a vote for three, with five
14 candidates. So in this -- or I'm sorry, six
15 candidates.

16 We have Marissa Bowers, Jamilla
17 Jones are both winners, and then the declared
18 winner holding the third place spot would be Nancy
19 McGregor. Ross Goldsmith is in fourth, as the
20 declared loser. Betty Collins in fifth is the
21 declared loser, and Jason Rourke is the declared
22 loser in sixth.

23 So taking the votes for McGregor,
24 Goldsmith, Collins and Rourke, the votes were

1 20,692 ballots cast. One-half of one percent of
2 that number is 103.46. The difference between
3 McGregor and Goldsmith is 15 votes, well within the
4 recount.

5 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: Okay.

6 MS. CARLA PATTON: We'll move on to
7 the Blendon Township, which is going to be on Page
8 15. Blendon Town at the bottom. Blendon Township
9 trustees, vote for one. There were two candidates.
10 Based on the official results --

11 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: I'm sorry; could
12 you tell us what page you're on again?

13 MS. CARLA PATTON: Page 15, at the
14 bottom.

15 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: Thank you.

16 MS. CARLA PATTON: Uh-huh. In this
17 race, two candidates, a vote for one. The declared
18 winner would be Delana D' Amico, and the declared
19 loser would be James Welsch. So adding the votes
20 cast in that -- for those candidates in that race,
21 there was 3,478 votes cast. One-half of one
22 percent of that is 17.39 votes.

23 There's a difference of five votes
24 separating the two candidates, therefore, within

1 the recount range, necessitating recount.

2 DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: Carla, that
3 race, actually from an unofficial to official
4 actually flipped?

5 MS. CARLA PATTON: It flipped,
6 correct. Election night had Welch winning, with D'
7 Amico losing. As a result of the provisionals and
8 all other ballots that were deemed valid, ended up
9 flipping the results of that race.

10 The next one we'll look at is actual
11 -- it's going to be at the back of the report, is
12 Issue No. 28, and that will be on Page 34. This
13 was a Whitehall charter issue, with the current
14 results showing that the issue is passing --

15 MS. FREEDHOFF: What issue --

16 MS. CARLA PATTON: I'm sorry, Issue
17 No. 28, the proposed charter amendment for the City
18 of Whitehall. The issue currently is passing.
19 Total votes --

20 DIRECTOR WHITE: I'm sorry; point of
21 correction. Which is it, 63 A or 62 B?

22 MS. CARLA PATTON: 63A.

23 DIRECTOR WHITE: Okay. I just
24 wanted to make that clear.

1 MS. CARLA PATTON: Yes. It's the
2 second race on Page 34. Total votes cast on that
3 issue is 3,290. One-half of one percent of that is
4 16.45 votes. The difference is 16. So, therefore,
5 it does fall within the recount range. Barely, but
6 it does qualify for an automatic recount.

7 The last race I will point out for
8 recount, and this is a multi-county race, and with
9 the numbers that we include from Fairfield County,
10 the Canal Winchester City Council race.

11 And, Jeff, do you have the -- Jeff
12 is handing out -- it's the most populous report, but
13 the Fairfield County results in there. The
14 challenge as to City Council race will fall under a
15 recount as well.

16 The Secretary of State will need to
17 order this recount because it is a multi-county
18 jurisdiction --

19 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: Are you saying
20 Fairfield is the most populous county?

21 MS. CARLA PATTON: No. We are the
22 most populous. Franklin is the most populous.

23 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: Where is that in
24 our results? What page is that in our results?

1 Did you just hand us the Fairfield County report?

2 MS. CARLA PATTON: That -- the
3 report that Jeff has handed you has Fairfield
4 County results in it. Franklin County only numbers
5 is Page 6 of 34.

6 CHAIRMAN PREISSE. Oh, I see there.

7 MS. CARLA PATTON: There are some
8 votes from Fairfield County, though. Whether you
9 factor in Fairfield or not, it's still within
10 recount range.

11 MS. FREEDHOFF: And then ours is on
12 five and six?

13 MS. CARLA PATTON: On the most
14 populous -- yes.

15 MS. FREEDHOFF: On Franklin County
16 only?

17 MS. CARLA PATTON: Franklin County
18 only is on Page 5.

19 MS. FREEDHOFF: Okay.

20 MS. CARLA PATTON: And on the most
21 populous is Page 6.

22 The Canal Winchester race was a vote
23 for three, with five candidates. Will Bennett and
24 Alex McLaughlin are both winners. Richard Moore

1 would be declared winner. Jeff Milligan and Tina
2 Wells both are declared losers.

3 The votes cast for the declared
4 winner and losers is 4,516 of the recount threshold
5 then of one-half one percent of added 22.58, with a
6 difference of five votes separating Moore and
7 Milligan.

8 DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: So is my
9 observation correct in that our unofficial results
10 on election night just with Franklin County had
11 Millikan as the winner?

12 MS. CARLA PATTON: That's correct.

13 DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: But
14 adding --

15 MS. CARLA PATTON: It did -- this is
16 another race where --

17 DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: Where it
18 flipped. Okay.

19 MS. CARLA PATTON: -- it flipped the
20 results from election night to the official.

21 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: All right. Good
22 report.

23 MS. CARLA PATTON: Unless you have
24 any further questions, we would ask that you

1 certify the results as they appear on the Franklin
2 County only report.

3 DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: Carla, I do
4 know that we had -- it's not related necessarily to
5 this, but we do have a gentleman that's a
6 superintendant of Dublin schools wondering to know
7 if he can pop the cork or not. Is that in recount
8 or --

9 MS. CARLA PATTON: That is not in
10 recount. Dublin City Schools is not in recount and
11 was not affected by any of the 22 ballots that we
12 just read in, so it is outside of the recount. We
13 did double-check that. It was well outside of the
14 recount.

15 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: Congratulations,
16 Mr. Superintendent. It was nice meeting you today.
17 Thank you for being here.

18 SUPERINTENDANT: Your team has been
19 awesome and has been very patient with my
20 questions, so thank you.

21 CHAIRMAN PREISSE. Thank you.
22 That's good. Congratulations to your community.

23 We do have at least one candidate in
24 the room subjected to a recount. Who wants to

1 spend 60 seconds walking through what happens next
2 to people in that position?

3 DIRECTOR WHITE: Do you want to take
4 a vote to certify the election first?

5 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: Sure.

6 DIRECTOR WHITE: And then we can --

7 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: Sure.

8 MS. FREEDHOFF: Meredith Freedhoff

9 --

10 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: Notice I was just
11 admonished by the director.

12 DIRECTOR WHITE: I don't think it
13 was an admonishment.

14 MS. FREEDHOFF: Chairman, I move
15 that the Board certify and declare as final the
16 official canvass of votes cast so that he doesn't
17 get in trouble again -- as the November 7, 2023
18 General Election as submitted by staff.

19 MEMBER SEXTON: Second.

20 DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: It's been
21 properly moved and seconded.

22 All those in favor of the motion,
23 signify by saying aye.

24 (Vote taken.)

1 DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: All opposed,
2 same sign.

3 (No response.)

4 DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: Motion
5 carries.

6 DIRECTOR WHITE: And so now if you
7 want to call on Jeff Mackey to explain the process
8 for selection of precincts for the recount.

9 MS. FREEDHOFF: So these are
10 certified, but not official? Is that --

11 DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: They're
12 official.

13 MS. FREEDHOFF: They're official?

14 DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: They are
15 official, but because they're within --

16 MS. FREEDHOFF: Pending recount.

17 DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: They're
18 official, but we have to recount them. If there
19 was a change, we would bring the Board back, but
20 for right now, these are official results.

21 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: Official, subject
22 to reversal.

23 Jeff, do you want to --

24 MR. JEFF MACKKEY: In a second here,

1 the Board is going to order us to recount these
2 five races. At least four of the races, and then
3 secretary will order us to recount the Canal
4 Winchester one, since it's a multi-county race.

5 Following that, they will ask me to
6 randomly draw at least five percent of the
7 precincts or five percent -- we're going to draw by
8 precinct and get a number that is five percent of
9 the vote cast in the race, a hand count.

10 Presuming our hand count matches our
11 count, as we have established it, we'll recount the
12 rest of the ballots by scanning it again. So I'll
13 finish the recount for that. That's it in a
14 nutshell.

15 Anything else you want me to expound
16 upon?

17 DIRECTOR WHITE: No.

18 MR. JEFF MACKEY: We'll set the time
19 and date of the recounts, and then I'll send you an
20 official letter stating what the time and date of
21 the recount is.

22 MS. FREEDHOFF: And the recount
23 starts December 4th?

24 MR. JEFF MACKEY: I think we're

1 looking at the 4th.

2 DIRECTOR WHITE: Yes. As soon as
3 the Board orders it.

4 MR. JEFF MACKEY: Yeah. We'll start
5 on the fourth, because there are multiple recounts
6 that happen over a couple of days.

7 DIRECTOR WHITE: There are multiple
8 recounts, so we anticipate either starting in the
9 afternoon or the next day, you know, depending on
10 where our prep work is, to start. So we'll start
11 the afternoon of the fourth, or we'll begin on the
12 fifth, but we'll let all the candidates know.
13 We'll share our timeline once we have a better idea
14 of where we're at in our prep work.

15 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: Okay. I think
16 the next suggestion is to be immediately reminded
17 what we place in the parenthetical phrase for the
18 number of recounts. What did we just decide? Four
19 or five?

20 MR. JEFF MACKEY: Five.

21 MS. CARLA PATTON: You guys need the
22 order for --

23 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: Oh, that's right,
24 because the Secretary of State does the

1 multi-county --

2 MEMBER SEXTON: So which one don't
3 we --

4 DIRECTOR WHITE: Canal.

5 MEMBER SEXTON: We don't do Canal?

6 DIRECTOR WHITE: And the Secretary
7 of State will have to order that one. However if
8 you withdraw the precincts today for Canal
9 Winchester, in anticipation of the Secretary of
10 State ordering that recount.

11 MEMBER SEXTON: Mr. Chairman,
12 Michael Sexton. The results from races require a
13 --

14 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: Four races, I
15 think.

16 MEMBER SEXTON: Yes, four races
17 require a recount. I move that Board conduct a
18 recount to begin December 4th in the races, which
19 include member of Council, City of Bexley, Council
20 at large, City of Gahanna, trustee, Township of
21 Blendon, and number 28, proposed charter amendment
22 63 A, City of Whitehall.

23 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: Doug Preisse,
24 second the motion.

1 DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: It's been
2 properly moved and seconded.

3 All those in favor of the motion,
4 signify by saying aye.

5 (Vote taken.)

6 DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: All opposed,
7 same sign.

8 (No response.)

9 DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: The motion
10 carries.

11 And I think Jeff is now going to
12 select those.

13 DIRECTOR WHITE: Jeff, can you
14 explain what your process is --

15 MR. JEFF MACKEY: Certainly. We
16 have a table here to help us with the process on
17 the table. Currently, I have the Blendon township
18 race up. I am able to filter by the precincts that
19 participate in the Blendon Township election.
20 We're going to randomly select these precincts
21 until we get to the five percent of the total vote
22 cast.

23 To do that, we're going to use our
24 friend the random.org, random sequence generator,

1 in lieu of the dice that we use to use. This is
2 much more efficient and effective.

3 As we select those -- this
4 spreadsheet will show us where we are, as far as
5 the five percent of the votes cast.

6 Any questions about that?

7 Let's go ahead and do that.

8 So over here, we've got the
9 precincts numbered from 100 to 111. There are 12
10 precincts that participate in the Blendon Township
11 trustee election. So I'm going to tell it to start
12 with 100, go through 11. Get my sequence, and it's
13 only going to take two precincts, so I'm just going
14 to grab these two here, 105 is the first one. 109
15 is the second one. We have to draw at least two
16 precincts for the recount.

17 So you'll see that I've got 105 and
18 109 pasted in here. That's 1,205 ballots attached,
19 which is well over our five percent, almost 17
20 percent of the ballots cast in that context. So we
21 have those two precincts selected, so we save that
22 quick.

23 So our fine IT director has allowed
24 us to use this same spreadsheet, so I'm going to

1 select the Bexley -- for the Bexley contest, which
2 conveniently are here at the top alphabetically.

3 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: What did you just
4 refer to as alphabetical?

5 MR. JEFF MACKEY: Precincts in my
6 table. Alphabetically, Bexley is our first --

7 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: So 1A, 1B; 2A,
8 2B?

9 MR. JEFF MACKEY: Bexley is our
10 first subdivision alphabetically.

11 So I have all of the Bexley
12 precincts selected here, numbered 100 through 109,
13 so I'll go back to our sequence generator and
14 generate us a random sequence. I'm sure it's only
15 going to take two precincts again. The first one
16 is 101. The second one is 108.

17 By choosing those two precincts,
18 we've gotten the 24.84 percent of the vote cast,
19 well above our five percent threshold. Save that
20 click.

21 DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: Which -- I'm
22 sorry; which two are we counting there?

23 MS. CARLA PATTON: Bexley 1B and 4B.

24 DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: 1B and 4B?

1 MS. CARLA PATTON: Uh-huh.

2 MR. JEFF MACKEY: So Canal
3 Winchester, I have all seven -- six Canal
4 Winchester precincts, 100 through 105. There's two
5 precincts here. So that was Canal Winchester D and
6 Canal Winchester F. Hit 23 percent of the vote
7 cast in that precinct, well over our five percent
8 requirement. They're all going to be like that.

9 So 30 precincts in Gahanna, 100
10 through 129. Take out this last one is 116 and see
11 if we get closer to five.

12 So there's two precincts required.
13 Got us to 7.69 percent, still over five percent of
14 the precincts -- or the ballot casts.

15 MEMBER SEXTON: 1-G and 4D?

16 MR. JEFF MACKEY: Yes.

17 In Whitehall, here's 110, 11
18 precincts. 30 precincts go to 15 percent.
19 Whitehall 4A and Whitehall 3B. So end of the
20 precinct recount selection.

21 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: Okay.

22 DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: We've
23 completed that.

24 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: The four or the

1 five?

2 MR. JEFF MACKEY: That was all five.

3 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: You did all five
4 and --

5 MS. FREEDHOFF: The ones that you
6 have 24 percent, that's a lot.

7 MR. JEFF MACKEY: Yes, but you have
8 to do at least two precincts, so --

9 DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: Are you
10 generally able to tell with those five races how
11 many ballots we're actually going to be pulling for
12 those five races combined or --

13 MR. JEFF MACKEY: Yeah. We'll be
14 hand counting 5,524 ballots.

15 MS. FREEDHOFF: 5,524.

16 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: That's not too
17 bad, as long as we can trust him.

18 DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: Okay. All
19 right.

20 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: Okay. Thank you,
21 Jeff.

22 So the next item on the Agenda is to
23 select LIDS for the statewide audit. The Secretary
24 of State has required to do us an audit. All 88

1 counties to do an audit of Issue 1 and Issue 2, so
2 we will be doing those, unlike the previous races
3 where we were doing it by precinct, we will be
4 doing an audit by LID, correct?

5 MR. JEFF MACKEY: Yes, on -- the
6 rules allow the Board to choose to do it by lids
7 for the audit, which is a little bit easier for us.
8 I think we need a motion to do the audit and then a
9 motion to select our ballot by lids.

10 DIRECTOR WHITE: And to be clear, we
11 won't start the audit until after the completion of
12 all the recounts. We have ten days after the
13 completion of all the recounts to conduct the audit
14 -- post-election audit.

15 MS. FREEDHOFF: Thank you.

16 DIRECTOR WHITE: You're welcome.

17 MEMBER SEXTON: Chairman, Michael
18 Sexton, the secretary -- Ohio Secretary of State
19 requires every Board of Elections to perform an
20 audit on both statewide issues. I move that the
21 Board conduct our audit by lids for Issue 1 and
22 Issue 2.

23 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: Doug Preisse,
24 second the motion.

1 DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: It's been
2 properly moved and seconded.

3 All those in favor of the motion,
4 signify by saying aye.

5 (Vote taken.)

6 DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: All opposed,
7 same sign.

8 (No response.)

9 DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: Motion
10 carries.

11 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: So do we want to
12 start drawing those, then, Jeff?

13 MR. JEFF MACKEY: Okay. Sections
14 100 through 406 --

15 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: What's our
16 requirement on this one?

17 MR. JEFF MACKEY: Still five
18 percent.

19 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: Five percent.

20 MR. JEFF MACKEY: Let's try five.
21 See how close we get. 368. That's 22,000 right
22 there. 22,189 ballots; 221.

23 DIRECTOR WHITE: I'm sorry, Jeff.
24 What's the percentage there?

1 MR. JEFFREY MACKEY: 5.21.

2 DIRECTOR WHITE: Thank you.

3 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: Are we finished
4 with that then?

5 MR. JEFF MACKEY: I think the
6 Secretary also wants us to pick a County election
7 to also audit.

8 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: Why don't we pick
9 the library.

10 MR. JEFF MACKEY: The library
11 includes the greatest number of precincts, since we
12 did not have a contested county-wide election.

13 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: And the library
14 wasn't County-wide, but the next closest thing.

15 MR. JEFF MACKEY: Yes. But we are
16 going to have to do that one by precinct, because
17 if we choose by lid, we run the risk of selecting
18 lids that not all the precincts in that location
19 are part of the metropolitan library district and
20 will throw off our number.

21 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: Okay.

22 MR. JEFF MACKEY: So I don't know;
23 is there a separate motion for that?

24 MS. FREEDHOFF: Yes. Meredith

1 Freedhoff. Chairman, I move that the Board conduct
2 an audit by precinct for the Columbus Metropolitan
3 Library levy.

4 MEMBER MARINELLO: Second.

5 DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: It's been
6 properly moved and seconded. All those in favor of
7 the motion, signify by saying Aye.

8 (Vote taken.)

9 DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: All opposed,
10 same sign.

11 (No response.)

12 DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: Motion
13 carries.

14 MR. JEFF MACKEY: So 693 precincts
15 in the Columbus Metropolitan library district. 635
16 is the last one. It's just a matter of not having
17 quite enough rows selected.

18 DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: Our IT
19 director looks like he's feverishly working back
20 there.

21 (Inaudible from audience.)

22 MR. JEFF MACKEY: I also didn't hit
23 the target yet, so I'm going to have to grab a
24 couple more. Just a little bit short. Let me grab

1 a couple more here.

2 DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: So we're
3 over five percent?

4 MR. JEFF MACKEY: We are now. So
5 5.1 percent.

6 DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: And how many
7 ballots is that?

8 MR. JEFF MACKEY: 16,465 additional
9 ballots.

10 DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: Thank you,
11 Jeff.

12 There's one more issue on here.
13 It's the post-election audit begin date. Do we
14 want to pick the date now, or do we want to wait
15 until the December meeting?

16 DIRECTOR WHITE: Why don't we wait
17 until the recounts are concluded --

18 MEMBER MARINELLO: Wait for the
19 certified recounts -- she has to certify the
20 recounts before that --

21 DIRECTOR WHITE: I understand that,
22 but if we don't select a date now -- that's fine.
23 Let's just wait until the next meeting.

24 DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: To select

1 the date for the audit?

2 DIRECTOR WHITE: Yes --

3 AUDIENCE: The target date would be
4 the --

5 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: The next meeting
6 is next week, isn't it?

7 MR. WHITE: Yes.

8 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: Whatever works
9 for you guys.

10 Move to adjourn.

11 DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: We're going
12 to start the recount on the 4th --

13 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: Oh, for any
14 candidates who have dialed in or who are in the
15 audience, you're entitled to have yourself or a
16 representative at the recounts. The Board will
17 notify you of the time and place of the recount. I
18 want to see some heads nodding yes. Right? I
19 think it's already been mentioned, if you care to,
20 and that is your right. Thank you for --

21 DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: There are
22 forms that need to be filled out if you want to do
23 that, so we can get you the forms.

24 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: Now I move to

1 adjourn.

2 MEMBER MARINELLO: I second that.

3 DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: It's been
4 properly moved and seconded, and seeing no
5 objections, we're adjourned.

6 - - -

7 Thereupon, the meeting concluded at
8 approximately 4:29 p.m.

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C E R T I F I C A T E

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THE STATE OF OHIO:

SS:

COUNTY OF FRANKLIN:

I, Rebecca Williams, a Professional Reporter and Notary Public in and for the State of Ohio, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true, correct and complete written transcript of the proceedings in this matter;

That the foregoing was taken by me stenographically and transcribed by me with computer-aided transcription;

That the foregoing occurred at the aforementioned time and place;

That I am not an attorney for or relative of either party and have no interest whatsoever in the event of this litigation.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and official seal of office at Columbus, Ohio, this 12th day of December, 2023.

Rebecca Williams
Notary Public, State of Ohio

My Commission Expires: June 7, 2027.

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