

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

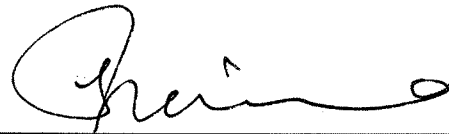
MINUTES OF THE MEETING ON

8-4-08

APPROVED ON

9-8-08

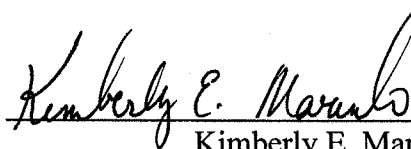
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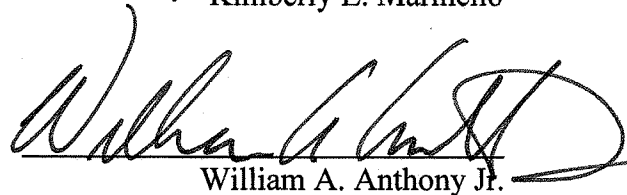
Douglas J. Preisse, Chairman



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

1 accommodate staff requirements; because we're
2 going to have to close those machines that are for
3 in-person absentee voting, switch the terminals
4 out so we can use those booths on election day to
5 maximize the number of voting booths in the
6 precincts election day.

7 So I think as we look at weekend
8 voting, we have, in the past, been open for
9 in-person absentee voting on Saturdays, usually
10 the last couple Saturdays of the 35-day period.
11 We have not ever in the past been open on a
12 Sunday.

13 And as you all know, there's a lot of
14 other tasks involved in running the election that
15 we would be otherwise planning staff to do during
16 those days.

17 So to pull existing staff out on that
18 Sunday to go to Vets to process voters, we'd then
19 have to supplement that staff for the tasks here
20 the separating of the ballots from the ID
21 envelopes, the tearing of the stubs from the
22 ballots, all those kinds of things. So all of
23 those would have human resources, as well as
24 physical impacts.

1 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: Which is wholly
2 satisfactory to you, right?

3 BOARD MEMBER ANTHONY: Yeah. Well, you
4 know what my concerns are. I would like to see us
5 open as late as we could possibly be open, and I
6 would like to see us open on the weekends during
7 this early voting period to be able to allow
8 enough folks to get out and vote.

9 What I would like to see, maybe, is --
10 I know I've had a conversation with one of the
11 Commissioners, and, you know, there was some
12 concern about the cost of that, but there was also
13 a concern that it would be a good thing to do if
14 the costs are not that great.

15 So what I would like to see is what
16 that would cost; I mean, just some idea of what
17 those costs are if we stay open two hours, seven
18 o'clock every evening, and maybe a half a day on
19 the first couple weekends, and the last couple
20 weekends stay open 8:00 to 5:00 on Saturday and
21 Sunday. That's just my two cents worth.

22 So, I mean, I would feel more
23 comfortable taking a look at some numbers and
24 then -- when is our next board meeting?

1 DEPUTY DIRECTOR DAMSCHRODER: We have a
2 public hearing scheduled for --

3 BOARD MEMBER ANTHONY: The 14th?

4 DEPUTY DIRECTOR DAMSCHRODER: -- the
5 14th, which is an evening. At this time, the only
6 planned purpose for that meeting was to accept
7 public comment on the voting machine allegation
8 plan.

9 It's sufficiently early that we can
10 supplement that agenda and provide the appropriate
11 public notification if we want to add items to
12 that agenda.

13 We also have to meet no later than
14 August 28th to certify questions and issues to the
15 ballot. And I know there's some travel schedules
16 with some members in that last week of August and
17 first week of September that we'll have to work
18 around to make sure we have a quorum.

19 But, again, I think it's important the
20 sooner we act on this, the better, so that we have
21 appropriate public notification of the times and
22 days.

23 BOARD MEMBER ANTHONY: Well -- go
24 ahead. I'm sorry, sir.

1 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: So functionally
2 looking at the -- you had referenced at the
3 beginning of this exchange, the printer's initial
4 activity, even as early as next week, for
5 preparing for this September --

6 DEPUTY DIRECTOR DAMSCHRODER: September
7 6th mailing.

8 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: -- 6th mailing.
9 Well, are we hearing a request from you,
10 Mr. Anthony, or what are we hearing?

11 BOARD MEMBER ANTHONY: Yes, sir, that's
12 what you're hearing. I guess what I'm requesting
13 is that we don't set the date yet -- I mean the
14 times yet. I mean, I understand we can come back
15 and change it, you know, to extended hours.

16 BOARD MEMBER MARINELLO: Until you find
17 out how much it's going to cost?

18 BOARD MEMBER ANTHONY: Yeah, or just
19 have some idea of what that is. I mean, I
20 understand we need to do that, but if we come with
21 an extended, can we just do it all at one time, or
22 is that --

23 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: In my short tenure,
24 we have precedent in terms of coming in later and

1 amending and extending hours.

2 BOARD MEMBER ANTHONY: Okay.

3 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: I don't know any
4 reason we couldn't do that again.

5 DEPUTY DIRECTOR DAMSCHRODER: I think
6 so long as it's done outside of the 50-day window
7 before the election. I think this thing with the
8 directive that establishes a drop-dead date, that
9 we can go back and amend any decision of this
10 Board to have in-person voting hours.

11 BOARD MEMBER ANTHONY: I could agree
12 with that. I would like to see them extended,
13 after we take a look at what the costs are. But I
14 could agree to the minimum hours that the
15 Secretary of State requires it to be open, but I
16 wouldn't want to talk about the weekends and all
17 that until we get some numbers. Is that fair
18 enough?

19 I mean, I don't want to dominate this
20 floor, be the one that's -- what did you say, put
21 that shoe in there?

22 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: Shoe, several times.

23 Okay. Well, it would seem that maybe
24 we could get -- I think I'm hearing you say we can

1 head in the general direction of establishing
2 hours here by addressing the minimal requirement
3 and returning to the issue as to weekend hours
4 when we've taken a look at the additional costs,
5 staff and otherwise, that may be incurred by
6 extending hours.

7 BOARD MEMBER ANTHONY: Yes, sir.

8 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: Which, I believe,
9 would mean we can still properly revert to the
10 first suggested order of business.

11 BOARD MEMBER ANTHONY: Yes, sir.

12 DEPUTY DIRECTOR DAMSCHRODER: So it
13 would be in order for -- we'll do just the one
14 resolution for the minimum hours of Monday through
15 Friday from 8:00 to 5:00.

16 BOARD MEMBER COLLEY: Do we need a
17 motion?

18 DEPUTY DIRECTOR DAMSCHRODER: We do.

19 BOARD MEMBER COLLEY: Mr. Chairman,
20 consistent with the minimum requirements of SOS
21 Directive 2008-50, I move that the Board establish
22 weekday hours of operation for in-person voting at
23 Veterans Memorial from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.,
24 Monday through Friday, beginning September 30th

1 and ending November 3, 2008.

2 BOARD MEMBER MARINELLO: Second.

3 DEPUTY DIRECTOR DAMSCHRODER: All those
4 in favor, say "aye."

5 (Board votes aye unanimously.)

6 DEPUTY DIRECTOR DAMSCHRODER: The
7 motion carries.

8 And I think the Director and I will go
9 back and we'll work up some numbers with Brenna
10 Umbstaetter and Todd Wedican and come back at the
11 next meeting, perhaps the 18th -- I'm sorry,
12 Wednesday the 14th --

13 BOARD MEMBER ANTHONY: The 14th, yeah.

14 DEPUTY DIRECTOR DAMSCHRODER: -- and
15 present those numbers at that time.

16 BOARD MEMBER ANTHONY: I certainly
17 appreciate you guys doing that.

18 DEPUTY DIRECTOR DAMSCHRODER: No
19 problem.

20 The next item is the 60-day mailing.
21 We had six responses with quotes for printing.
22 DDP -- which I don't know exactly what DDP stands
23 for, it's a printing company in southern Delaware
24 County -- had the lowest price for printing.

1 And the prices ranged from there all
2 the way up to about \$160,000 from Dayton Legal
3 Blanks. So staff recommendation is to select DDP
4 to provide the printing and mail-house services
5 for the 60-day mailing.

6 BOARD MEMBER ANTHONY: Why are they so
7 low?

8 DEPUTY DIRECTOR DAMSCHRODER: From my
9 understanding, my brief conversation with them
10 this morning, they do direct-mail printing almost
11 exclusively, and so this fits right into their
12 niche.

13 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: And driving it over
14 from Dayton, with gas costs, adds 50 percent.

15 BOARD MEMBER MARINELLO: Yeah, that's
16 probably it.

17 BOARD MEMBER ANTHONY: Makes you
18 wonder, doesn't it?

19 BOARD MEMBER COLLEY: Do we know what
20 DDP is?

21 DEPUTY DIRECTOR DAMSCHRODER: It's a
22 printing company. I do not know what the initials
23 stand for.

24 BOARD MEMBER COLLEY: Is that knowable?

1 DEPUTY DIRECTOR DAMSCHRODER: It is
2 knowable, yes.

3 BOARD MEMBER COLLEY: How do we
4 discover that?

5 DEPUTY DIRECTOR DAMSCHRODER: We send
6 Suzanne to her office to get the letterhead and
7 see if it has what DDP stands for on it.

8 BOARD MEMBER COLLEY: I suggest that
9 that would be good.

10 DEPUTY DIRECTOR DAMSCHRODER: All
11 right.

12 MS. BROWN: Do they have that?

13 DEPUTY DIRECTOR DAMSCHRODER: I think
14 it's on their letterhead.

15 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: Or they might have a
16 web site.

17 BOARD MEMBER MARINELLO: Hope it
18 doesn't stand for "Don't Do Printing."

19 BOARD MEMBER ANTHONY: That would be a
20 problem.

21 DEPUTY DIRECTOR DAMSCHRODER: If you
22 like, we can move to the next part of the
23 agenda.

24 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: I think that maybe

