

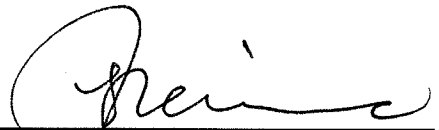
FRANKLIN COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS
280 EAST BROAD STREET
COLUMBUS, OHIO 43215
(614) 462-3100

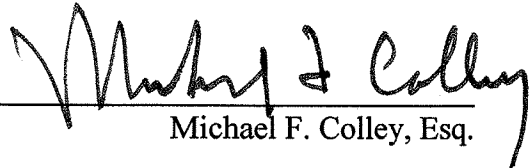
MINUTES OF THE MEETING ON

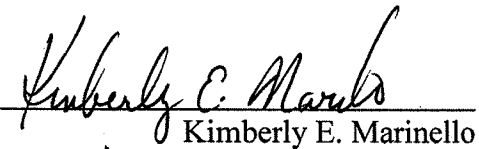
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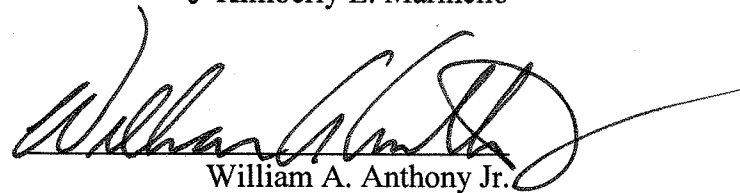
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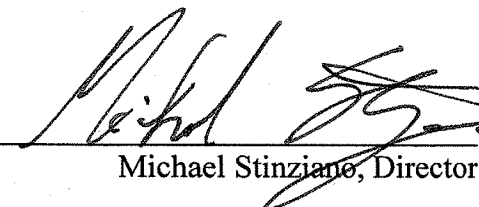

Douglas J. Preisse, Chairman


Michael F. Colley, Esq.


Kimberly E. Marinello


William A. Anthony Jr.

ATTEST:


Michael Stinziano, Director

1 APPEARANCES:

2 Office of the
3 Franklin County Prosecutor
4 373 South High Street
5 Columbus, Ohio 43215
6 By Mr. Patrick J. Piccininni
7 and
8 Mr. Nick Soulas,

9 On behalf of the Board.

10 ALSO PRESENT:

11 Mr. Eric Nickolas

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

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4 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: I think we
5 ought to proceed. Let's call this meeting
6 to order.

7 May we have a roll call.

8 MR. STINZIANO: Chairman
9 Preisse?

10 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: Here.

11 MR. STINZIANO: Mr. Colley?

12 MR. COLLEY: Here.

13 MR. STINZIANO: Mr. Anthony?

14 MR. ANTHONY: Here.

15 MR. STINZIANO: Ms. Marinello?

16 MS. MARINELLO: Here.

17 MR. STINZIANO: We will begin
18 with our first agenda item on the special
19 meeting, discussing the referral of two
20 candidates to the Ohio Ethics Commission.

21 Our Deputy Director will
22 introduce the discussion.

23 MR. DAMSCHRODER: Several months
24 ago the Board adopted a policy governing

1 the auditing of campaign finance reports,
2 establishing a time line and procedure by
3 which the Board would notify candidates
4 and committees of deficiencies in the
5 reports, using certified mail and
6 establishing a clear time frame for
7 candidates who have not responded to those
8 notifications to be referred to the
9 Elections Commission.

10 We have two candidates from last
11 year, who still have deficient reports.
12 The deficiencies are minor but they are
13 still deficiencies. And it is the policy
14 of state law to refer them over to the
15 Elections Commission for further
16 investigation or proceeding.

17 This motion is consistent with
18 the policy previously set by the Board.

19 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: Any thoughts,
20 concerns for discussion?

21 (No audible response)

22 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: Then based
23 upon the recommendations of the Director
24 and Deputy Director, I move that the Board

1 of Elections refer the following
2 individuals to the Ohio Elections
3 Commission: Stephen Renner and Paul
4 Bingle.

5 MS. MARINELLO: Second.

6 MR. DAMSCHRODER: We can do a
7 voice vote on this.

8 All in favor, say aye.

9 (Unanimous aye)

10 MR. DAMSCHRODER: The motion
11 carries.

12 MR. STINZIANO: The second item
13 on the agenda is the Challenge to Right to
14 Vote and Correction of Registration List.

15 MR. DAMSCHRODER: This Board
16 action is similar to some of the ones we
17 have had in the past. When an individual
18 registers or an individual becomes
19 registered at someone else's address, the
20 person who lives there has the opportunity
21 to challenge that. In some cases it has
22 been a result of a keying error on our
23 part and we were able to resolve that.

24 In this instance as we've seen

1 in the past, it's very clear that the
2 registration is not a person's residential
3 address because 6500 North High Street is
4 the Worthington Fire Department. He has
5 been challenged by -- the Chief sent a
6 letter saying that this individual, Mr.
7 Bumgardner is not an employee of the fire
8 department.

9 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: Or a resident
10 of the fire house.

11 MR. DAMSCHRODER: So the Staff's
12 recommendation would be to uphold this
13 challenge and that the individual's
14 registration be cancelled.

15 MS. MARINELLO: Mr. Chairman, I
16 move that the Board grant the Challenge of
17 Right to Vote and Correction of
18 Registration List filed by Scott D.
19 Highley of 1247 Tranquil Drive against
20 Maurice Anthony Bumgardner purportedly of
21 6500 North High Street and order that
22 Mr. Bumgardner's registration be
23 immediately cancelled in Franklin County
24 and his name stricken from the

1 Registration List.

2 MR. COLLEY: Second.

3 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: Voice vote?

4 MR. STINZIANO: All in favor?

5 (Unanimous aye)

6 MR. STINZIANO: The motion

7 carries. We'll refer accordingly.

8 The next agenda item is

9 discussion of extending the offsite early
10 voting and absentee hours.

11 At our last meeting the Board
12 adopted the Secretary of State's minimum
13 weekday hours. We would like to start
14 with any extended weekday hours that the
15 Board wants to discuss.

16 MR. ANTHONY: Director, before I
17 make the motion I would like to go on the
18 record in saying we would like to make
19 voting available as often and as long as
20 we can during that 35-day period so people
21 will have an opportunity to vote.

22 With that in mind I will make
23 the following motion. I move that the
24 Board establish extended weekday hours in

1 addition to the minimum requirements of
2 the S.O.S. Directive of 2008-50 that was
3 already adopted by this Board to include
4 hours of operation for in-person voting at
5 Veterans Memorial from 8:00 a.m. until
6 7:00 p.m., beginning September 30th and
7 ending November 3rd, 2008.

8 MS. MARINELLO: Second.

9 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: Do we have
10 some thoughts or discussion on this
11 matter?

12 I would offer that I concur that
13 having adopted the minimum hours
14 prescribed by the Secretary of State, we
15 always as we have in the recent past have
16 looked for opportunities within reason and
17 in consideration of the hard working
18 professional staff and cost incurred, have
19 considered and indeed supported the
20 extension of hours to better convenience
21 the voting public.

22 Michael, do you have any
23 thoughts?

24 MR. COLLEY: What is the

1 Staff's rationale?

2 MR. DAMSCHRODER: I think the
3 Staff recommendation -- Mike, correct me
4 if I am wrong.

5 I think part of the rationale
6 for the extra weekday hours is that it has
7 been the longstanding practice of this
8 office to have some extended weekday
9 hours. I think in 2006 we did some extra
10 hours during weekdays. So I think this is
11 consistent with past practice.

12 MR. COLLEY: Was it fairly well
13 received?

14 MR. DAMSCHRODER: It was
15 favorably received and I think it
16 accommodates individuals who are in that
17 -- who are unable to come down 8:00 to
18 5:00 and not coming down until early
19 evening hours, allowing them to avoid rush
20 hour traffic.

21 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: Any other
22 comments?

23 (No audible response)

24 MR. STINZIANO: Then I think it

1 may be time to vote. A motion is on the
2 table and has been seconded for extended
3 hours at Veterans Memorial, beginning
4 September 30th and ending November 3rd
5 from 8:00 a.m. until 7:00 p.m.

6 Do you want a voice vote?

7 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: Yes.

8 MR. STINZIANO: All in favor?

9 (Unanimous aye)

10 MR. STINZIANO: The motion
11 carries.

12 Next we are going to discuss
13 extended Saturday hours. Currently the
14 Board has not adopted any hours on
15 Saturday.

16 MR. ANTHONY: You know, I am
17 going to make another motion. I kind of
18 enjoy breaking it up like this, because
19 that makes it a little easier for
20 everybody.

21 This election cycle will
22 probably be, you know, one of the busiest
23 we have ever had, generating more
24 excitement than I can remember. For those

1 older than I am, you probably have more
2 experience on this.

3 I recall last year there were a
4 couple of times where we had -- people
5 tend to wait until the last minute to
6 actually vote. What I am going to propose
7 is that we at least think about staying
8 open on Saturday.

9 And then I am going to do
10 another motion, extending the hours for a
11 period on Sunday as well. I can go ahead
12 and do a motion.

13 Do you want to talk about it,
14 or shall I go ahead and make my motion?

15 (No audible response)

16 MR. ANTHONY: I move that the
17 Board establish Saturday hours of
18 operation for in-person voting at the
19 Veterans Memorial, beginning from 8:00
20 o'clock to 5:00 p.m. for all Saturdays
21 during the 35-day early voting period.

22 MS. MARINELLO: I'll second
23 that.

24 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: We have a

1 motion and a second.

2 Do we have discussion or
3 thoughts about extending the voting,
4 in-person voting, to all Saturdays? I
5 have a few concerns.

6 As you stated, Mr. Chairman,
7 this is likely to be quite busy. You used
8 the word busiest of elections, and I think
9 we all might concur on that.

10 Certainly many of us involved --
11 and I have heard this said over and over
12 in my short tenure at the Board -- as much
13 as we think we know about the electoral
14 process, once you are at the Board and
15 looking inside of it there are a whole lot
16 of moving parts that are invisible to the
17 public eye unless they come down here and
18 spend some time with us.

19 My concern is while we continue
20 and just voted to extend weekday hours,
21 that we make voting as accessible and
22 convenient to voters. My concern too is
23 the efficient and effective operation of
24 the Board and the overtaxing of Staff

1 time.

2 My inclination is that maybe we
3 are going a little too far, and that we
4 revisit the idea of weekend hours based on
5 those concerns.

6 MR. DAMSCHRODER: I think one
7 thing for the Board to consider when it
8 looks at Saturday hours whether through
9 this motion or some other motion, is that
10 the Board has from time to time in the
11 past had some limited Saturday voting
12 hours, usually toward the end of the
13 process. And I think there is a concern
14 on the part of some, speaking primarily
15 for myself, that while the folks at Vets
16 have been very accommodating with the
17 schedule and made some arrangements during
18 the Universal Light Conference that we
19 have the room exclusively for security
20 purposes, I do have a concern that the
21 number of attendees at that conference
22 that weekend may not be complementary to
23 voting also taking place that Saturday. I
24 think it's the second Saturday of the

1 35-day period.

2 MR. STINZIANO: October 11th.

3 MR. DAMSCHRODER: October 11th.

4 I think that's something the Board might
5 want to consider as it looks at Saturdays.
6 Perhaps if not all the Board members can
7 agree on all five Saturdays, perhaps a
8 shorter window of maybe the last two
9 Saturdays might be a solution that we can
10 get unanimity on and allow us to avoid
11 extra congestion during the Universal
12 Light convention. And that's speaking
13 solely as the Deputy Director.

14 MS. MARINELLO: When does that
15 mailing go out that we wanted to include
16 these hours?

17 MR. DAMSCHRODER: It's being
18 printed as we speak.

19 MS. MARINELLO: Too late.

20 MR. STINZIANO: There is a
21 reference on the mailing to go to the
22 Franklin County Board of Elections Website
23 to view additional hours.

24 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: Well, would

1 it be in order or would it be acceptable
2 to the proposer of the motion to amend the
3 motion?

4 MR. ANTHONY: No, I'm not going
5 to amend it. I am going to leave it the
6 same.

7 I would like to see them open
8 for the four Saturdays. That one Saturday
9 would still be available October 4th for
10 same-day voting. I think that would be a
11 pretty big date for some folks.

12 We should probably do a roll
13 call vote.

14 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: Okay.

15 MR. STINZIANO: We have a motion
16 on the table that has been seconded for
17 Saturday hours of operation for in-person
18 voting at Vets Memorial from 8:00 a.m. to
19 5:00 p.m. for all Saturdays during the
20 35-day voting period.

21 Roll call vote, Chairman
22 Preisse?

23 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: No.

24 MR. STINZIANO: Mr. Colley?

1 MR. COLLEY: No.

2 MR. STINZIANO: Mr. Anthony?

3 MR. ANTHONY: Yes.

4 MR. STINZIANO: Ms. Marinello?

5 MS. MARINELLO: Yes.

6 MR. STINZIANO: We have a tie
7 vote on that motion.

8 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: I would like
9 to -- as we began the discussion, the
10 Chairman here said some cooperative
11 arrangement -- and we would agree that the
12 precedent has been set in the past.

13 I think I would like to note too
14 the Chairman mentioned that a lot of
15 people wait until the last minute. I
16 think we have seen certainly the trend
17 that as there are more and more options,
18 namely absentee no-fault voting, have come
19 on the line, more and more voters are
20 finding that a convenient way to avoid
21 late lines in voting.

22 So, therefore, I would like to
23 propose that maybe we certainly look at
24 the last two Saturdays of the cycle and

1 move forward with continuing onsite
2 absentee voting, solely the last two
3 Saturdays, when the last-minute voters as
4 you have suggested might avail themselves.

5 I will make that a motion.

6 MR. DAMSCHRODER: Are there times
7 as part of the motion?

8 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: The times
9 that we considered in the original.

10 What would be the optimal? This
11 original motion contemplated workday hours
12 8:00 to 5:00 in the schedule.

13 What are the thoughts of the
14 Staff?

15 MR. STINZIANO: I think it has
16 been the practice in the past to have it
17 open on Saturdays from 8:00 to noon.

18 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: I think we
19 could start there. This Board will be
20 meeting more times than we would even
21 anticipate in the next 80 days. There
22 will be ample opportunities for revision.

23 I will thank you for that helpful
24 observation, Mr. Director, and I will

1 include the hours 8:00 a.m. until 12:00
2 noon for the final Saturdays of this
3 election cycle 2008.

4 MR. STINZIANO: Is there a
5 second?

6 MR. COLLEY: Second.

7 MR. STINZIANO: We currently
8 have a motion on the table for
9 consideration of Saturday hours the last
10 two Saturdays, September 25 and November
11 1st during the early voting period from
12 8:00 a.m. until noon.

13 Is there a roll call vote --
14 October 25th, I'm sorry, to November 1st.
15 Chairman Preisse?

16 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: Yes.

17 MR. STINZIANO: Mr. Colley?

18 MR. COLLEY: Yes.

19 MR. STINZIANO: Mr. Anthony?

20 MR. ANTHONY: No.

21 MR. STINZIANO: Ms. Marinello?

22 MS. MARINELLO: No.

23 MR. STINZIANO: We have a tie
24 vote on that motion as well.

1 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: Do you want
2 to adjourn?

3 MR. ANTHONY: Not yet. I'm not
4 done.

5 Now that we have Saturdays kind
6 of discombobulated, I am looking at
7 Sundays now. I could have put them
8 together, but I think to keep us all
9 honest and keep us working and keep the
10 audience and everybody on bated breath, I
11 think we ought to be open on Sundays as
12 well. I guess I could have made the
13 motion to encompass all of that but
14 decided to do it separately here.

15 I am looking at Sunday hours in
16 the afternoon from 1:00 to 5:00, not the
17 whole day. That will be for all Sundays
18 from the start of this until the end of
19 it.

20 So I will move that the Board
21 establish Sunday hours of operation for
22 in-person voting at Vets Memorial from
23 1:00 o'clock p.m. until 5:00 p.m. for all
24 Sundays during the 35-day early voting

