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

MINUTES OF THE MEETING ON

11-19-10

APPROVED ON 12/15/2010

BY:

Douglas J. Preisse, Chairman

Michael F. Colley, Esq.

Kimberly E. Marinello

Zachary Manifold

ATTEST:

-William A. Anthony, Jr., Director - \$

MATTHEWM. DAMSCHOOER
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1 APPEARANCES:	
2 Franklin County Board of Elections 373 South High Street	S
Thirteenth Floor Columbus, Ohio 43215	
By Mr. Anthony E. Palmer, Junior Franklin County Prosecuting	
5 Attorney's Office,	
6 On behalf of the Department	#C
7 ALSO PRESENT:	
8 Suzanne Brown, Secretary	
9	
Renee Klco - Manager, Voter Servic	ces
Ben Piscitelli - Media Relations 11	
Charles Traylor - Liaison	
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- 1 I move that the minutes of the meeting of the Board
- 2 held on November 1st, 2010, be approved as
- 3 admitted.
- 4 DIRECTOR ANTHONY: Is there a second?
- 5 BOARD MEMBER MANIFOLD: Second.
- 6 DIRECTOR ANTHONY: All those in favor
- 7 say aye?
- BOARD MEMBERS: Aye.
- 9 DIRECTOR ANTHONY: The next item is the
- 10 provisional ballots. Matt, did you want to talk
- 11 about that?
- 12 DEPUTY DIRECTOR DAMSCHRODER: Sure. We
- 13 have four motions for the Board to consider. The
- 14 first three are kind of categories that are -- the
- 15 staff considers to be exceptions from the normally
- 16 accepted rules of validating provisionals that
- 17 require a little bit of review.
- 18 The normally accepted categories would
- 19 be, for instance, return of voter absentee ballot
- 20 and voted a provisional as well so that provisional
- 21 wouldn't count, et cetera, not a registered voter.
- 22 So the first category is a -- is a
- 23 series of 83 provisional ballots where the
- 24 provisional ballot was cast in the wrong precinct

- 1 as evidenced by the name of the precinct written on
- the envelope by the poll worker and/or the ballot
- 3 style and contained inside the envelope, but the
- 4 ballot was the -- the provisional ballot was cast
- 5 in the correct voting location, so it's the right
- 6 church, wrong pew issue.
- 7 Under the directive issued by the
- 8 Secretary of State earlier this year following the
- 9 Neoch consent order, the Secretary of State has
- 10 indicated that we're not permitted to invalidate a
- 11 provisional ballot that is in this right church,
- 12 wrong pew category if the error is attributable to
- 13 a poll worker mistake.
- 14 Unfortunately, the Court in its
- infinite wisdom did not decide to define what poll
- 16 worker error is, and there is no evidence before
- 17 this Board, or at least the staff, that any of
- 18 these provisionals are the result of provisional --
- 19 or of poll worker error. There is also no evidence
- 20 before the Board that it isn't a result of poll
- 21 worker error.
- Even before the Neoch decision, this
- 23 Board has taken a very broad approach in favor of
- voter and franchise and have counted such ballots,

- 1 and so even though other counties are interpreting
- 2 the directive to say that because there's no
- 3 evidence -- there's no affirmative evidence that
- 4 there was poll worker error and rejecting those
- 5 ballots, our staff recommendation is that we go
- 6 ahead and count those ballots.
- 7 BOARD MEMBER MARINELLO: What would be
- 8 an example of a voter error in that? How could
- 9 they do that wrong?
- 10 DEPUTY DIRECTOR DAMSCHRODER: In
- 11 particularly -- and part of the reason why we do it
- 12 in this county is because with our consolidated
- 13 voting location approach where there's a single
- 14 table and a single set of poll workers assigned to
- 15 the task of provisional ballots for all the
- 16 precincts in a location, it would be pretty
- 17 difficult in this county to conceive of a situation
- 18 where it would be a voter error.
- But, again, there's -- there's --
- 20 absent of a definition of poll worker error from
- 21 the Secretary of State or the Court, there's no
- 22 evidence before the Board that there is or there
- 23 isn't, so we're just giving our unique practices
- 24 here taking the guess that it is poll worker error,

- 1 although it might not be.
- 2 BOARD MEMBER MANIFOLD: How are we
- 3 doing overall with the past year results, and it
- 4 looks like we're looking at somewhere -- 90 percent
- 5 acceptance.
- And, in particular, how about the -- I
- 7 know it was contentious before, I think the printed
- 8 name on the envelope? I think we had that issue in
- 9 the past. Is that down? That looks like it's
- 10 pretty far down, I think, from maybe what it was in
- 11 the past.
- 12 DEPUTY DIRECTOR DAMSCHRODER: I'll let
- 13 Renee speak to it a little bit, also, but I think
- 14 it's this; Franklin County has traditionally, among
- 15 our sister urban counties, had a higher rate of
- 16 validation of provisionals than, again, our sister
- 17 urban counties, and I think this is even higher
- 18 than we've seen in the past.
- 19 MS. KLCO: This is the highest we've
- 20 had for accepting provisional ballots. The one
- 21 category that went down considerably is voting in
- 22 the wrong precinct, at 5.66 percent, and all the
- other county categories were down as well, and I
- 24 attribute a lot of that to the intense poll worker

- 1 training.
- DEPUTY DIRECTOR DAMSCHRODER: So if you
- 3 see Mary Hackett or Barcey McNeal, let them know
- 4 that their work is paying off in terms of poll
- 5 worker training.
- I think the new training manual, the
- 7 new approach to training that Mary and Barcey put
- 8 together this summer, I think has really, really,
- 9 helped, so if you see them, give them -- give them
- 10 our thanks.
- BOARD MEMBER MANIFOLD: Do we -- after
- 12 the election, this election, do we, like -- I'd
- 13 assume that we do -- do we take these, like -- do
- 14 we look for certain areas or locations where
- there's issues or possibly there's, like, a spike,
- like, you know, maybe the presiding judge of that
- 17 location isn't?
- 18 MS. KLCO: And we report the location,
- 19 and I would -- whether or not it's the paper ballot
- 20 judge or the roster judge who's sending people to
- 21 the wrong places, we report all those to Mary
- 22 Hackett so she can deal with that poll worker that
- 23 she sees -- sees fit.
- We also read all the problems and

- 1 correction pages from all the different workbooks
- and, also, recommend to Mary which poll workers
- 3 we'd like to keep, which ones we want cloned, and
- 4 which ones we really don't want to work with
- 5 anymore.
- 6 BOARD MEMBER MANIFOLD: You guys are
- 7 doing a great job.
- MS. KLCO: Uh-huh.
- 9 ATTORNEY PALMER: I need to jump in on
- 10 the issue that was raised about the provisional
- 11 ballots and poll worker error specifically.
- 12 I know in the Secretary of State
- 13 directives, poll worker error is not presumed. It
- 14 must be demonstrated through evidence.
- I know that the Supreme Court of Ohio
- 16 had weighed in on that in State versus Skaggs, and
- 17 said that, you know, if there's -- if there is
- 18 evidence that poll workers failed to perform their
- 19 statutorily required duties, then -- you know, then
- 20 you could reverse it.
- But the poll workers are going to be
- 22 presumed to have properly performed their duties
- 23 absent evidence of the contrary.
- 24 DIRECTOR ANTHONY: Any other discussion

- 1 on this or --
- BOARD MEMBER MARINELLO: So does this
- 3 change anything? No?
- 4 Mr. Chairman, I move that the Board
- 5 accept as valid those provisional ballots cast in
- 6 the wrong precinct but within the correct voting
- 7 location so long as the remaining, required
- 8 information is provided on the provisional ballot
- 9 envelope.
- 10 BOARD MEMBER MANIFOLD: I'll second it.
- 11 DIRECTOR ANTHONY: Is there a second?
- 12 All those in favor?
- BOARD MEMBERS: Aye.
- 14 Should we do a --
- 15 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: I didn't vote.
- 16 DIRECTOR ANTHONY: You didn't vote,
- 17 so --
- 18 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: I wanted to vote in
- 19 the negative.
- DIRECTOR ANTHONY: In the negative?
- 21 Okay. So should I do a voice vote?
- 22 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: No, you can just --
- 23 you just say those against.
- DIRECTOR ANTHONY: Those against?

- 1 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: No.
- DIRECTOR ANTHONY: All right. The
- 3 motion carries.
- 4 The next item on the agenda, it has to
- 5 do with -- we had a couple of ballots or some
- 6 concern about -- in a poll book we had, it had the
- 7 little stop sign in the poll book and it had a
- 8 three on it. And there was two precincts that --
- 9 that we had a lot of discussion with on election
- 10 night, that it was felt that they shouldn't have
- 11 been stopped, because that meant that if they had
- 12 stop three on it, they had to show identification
- 13 because we had sent them in the mail vote
- 14 verification, and it came back as undeliverable.
- And so when they showed that to a poll
- 16 worker on election day, they were required to show
- 17 identification that they did live at their current
- 18 address.
- 19 And there was two precincts out there
- 20 that we had those -- or these two -- two areas, the
- 21 Ohio Union and then Indianola Church of Christ
- 22 that -- that there was some concern that there was
- 23 an inordinate number of folks that the stop
- 24 three -- or that had received notification that

1 they had to verify their -- their address when they

- 2 went to the polls.
- And we got a ruling, or at least an
- 4 advisory statement, from the Secretary of State
- 5 that said we shouldn't have sent that out, and so,
- 6 at that point, we decided to go back and see how
- 7 many -- how many folks were impacted by that.
- And upon discovery we found that there
- 9 were a total of 30 -- 38 of them; is that right?
- 10 Thirty-eight of them -- folks were impacted by
- 11 that. And so what we would like to do is just not
- 12 count those as provisional, but count them as -- as
- 13 a regular ballot. So I guess that's what that
- 14 motion is.
- I know I kind of rambled on that.
- 16 Anybody want to add anything to it?
- 17 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: So the 38 folks from
- 18 two --
- 19 DEPUTY DIRECTOR DAMSCHRODER: It's
- 20 actually just from one. The 38 are from Ohio
- 21 Union. There were -- there were none --
- DIRECTOR ANTHONY: None in the --
- DEPUTY DIRECTOR DAMSCHRODER: -- from
- 24 Indianola Church of Christ, despite the human cry

- 1 that came up on election night from ODP.
- 2 DIRECTOR ANTHONY: And I might add
- 3 that -- I forget how many total provisional ballots
- 4 were cast, and the area -- the area where we found
- 5 the 38 was in the Ohio Union; and, Renee, how many
- 6 provisional ballots were there?
- 7 MS. KLCO: I'm sorry. I don't
- 8 remember.
- 9 DIRECTOR ANTHONY: You don't remember?
- 10 I think it was something like 80 some provisional
- 11 ballots.
- MS. KLCO: It was more than that.
- DIRECTOR ANTHONY: Yeah, I thought it
- 14 was 100.
- DEPUTY DIRECTOR DAMSCHRODER: It was
- 16 300 or something. It was a bunch.
- 17 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: These people -- so
- 18 describe for me again the circumstance in which
- 19 these people find themselves under.
- DEPUTY DIRECTOR DAMSCHRODER: It's been
- 21 the long time practice of this Board, when -- when
- 22 a -- when we mail -- when a person registers to
- vote, then we send a voter acknowledgement card.
- 24 If that card comes back as undeliverable, under

- 1 state law that person has to be flagged in the poll
- book as -- as having a voter provisional ballot,
- and we send a confirmation card to them asking them
- 4 to update their address.
- 5 We follow the same procedure if we
- 6 change a person's voting location. We send an
- 7 acknowledgement card letting them know their new
- 8 voting location. If that comes back as
- 9 undeliverable, we set them to inactive status, send
- 10 them a confirmation card asking them to update
- 11 their address, and we put them in the poll -- find
- 12 them in the poll book as having to cast a
- 13 provisional ballot because we have information with
- 14 the post office that they no longer live at the
- 15 address that they say they live at.
- 16 That long time practice was challenged
- 17 election night, and so I think it's going to be a
- 18 staff recommendation at a future meeting that the
- 19 Board ask the Prosecuting Attorney's Office for a
- 20 written opinion on whether our practice is within
- 21 the Board's discretion under Title 35, or if it's
- 22 outside that, our discretion, and, therefore, we
- 23 have to change that practice.
- But ODP only raised concerns about

- 1 these two voting locations, so we looked at them
- 2 carefully. On election night they wanted us to go
- 3 through all the provisionals in the whole county,
- 4 find all of them that were in this category and
- 5 just count them as regular ballots, but they --
- 6 they dropped that objection later in the evening.
- 7 So we looked at just these two
- 8 locations and, again, the 38 from Ohio Union are
- 9 all people who were flagged in the poll book as
- 10 having no provisional because they are -- the
- 11 address came back as not the address at which
- 12 they -- they lived.
- BOARD MEMBER MANIFOLD: Do you know,
- 14 did we -- did we go ahead and -- of the 38, would
- 15 they have already -- would they already -- even
- 16 just bringing the stop three, which, I think, is
- 17 the motion here, right? Is -- is it -- it would be
- 18 counted anyway, right?
- 19 DEPUTY DIRECTOR DAMSCHRODER: Yeah.
- BOARD MEMBER MANIFOLD: There wasn't
- 21 anything wrong? None of the --
- DEPUTY DIRECTOR DAMSCHRODER: All of
- 23 the information was contained on the envelopes.
- BOARD MEMBER MANIFOLD: Say, even if --

- MS. KLCO: I would have counted them
- 2 anyway.
- BOARD MEMBER MANIFOLD: So they're
- 4 all -- 38, they're getting -- they're all -- yeah,
- 5 38, there's nothing wrong with any of them?
- 6 MS. KLCO: No.
- 7 DEPUTY DIRECTOR DAMSCHRODER: No.
- 8 DIRECTOR ANTHONY: No.
- 9 BOARD MEMBER MANIFOLD: Okay.
- 10 DIRECTOR ANTHONY: It means moving from
- 11 a provisional status to a non-provisional status.
- 12 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: Why are we counting
- 13 them?
- 14 DEPUTY DIRECTOR DAMSCHRODER: Well, no,
- we're actually still counting them as provisionals.
- DIRECTOR ANTHONY: Oh, okay.
- DEPUTY DIRECTOR DAMSCHRODER: We're not
- 18 making them regular ballots.
- 19 DIRECTOR ANTHONY: Right.
- DEPUTY DIRECTOR DAMSCHRODER: We're
- 21 counting -- we're voting to count their -- count
- 22 those provisional ballots.
- BOARD MEMBER MANIFOLD: So do we even
- 24 need the motion, because if they get counted --

- 1 DEPUTY DIRECTOR DAMSCHRODER: I think
- the concern was given the unique issue that was
- 3 raised on election night. We wanted to keep --
- 4 keep them out and handle them separately so that
- 5 there was no confusion.
- 6 BOARD MEMBER MANIFOLD: Okay.
- 7 DEPUTY DIRECTOR DAMSCHRODER: After the
- 8 fact for when folks want to know what we did --
- 9 BOARD MEMBER MANIFOLD: Okay.
- 10 DEPUTY DIRECTOR DAMSCHRODER: -- to
- 11 respond to concerns that were raised at 7:20 p.m.
- 12 election night.
- 13 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: So we will -- we're
- 14 going to count them anyway?
- 15 DEPUTY DIRECTOR DAMSCHRODER: Yeah.
- 16 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: But even if they've
- 17 been set aside?
- 18 DEPUTY DIRECTOR DAMSCHRODER: Yeah.
- 19 BOARD MEMBER MARINELLO: Okay. Ready?
- 20 Mr. Chairman, each having all the
- 21 information otherwise required for a provisional
- 22 ballot to be counted, I move that the Board accept
- as valid those provisional ballots cast at the Ohio
- 24 Union (LID 3002) and Indianola Church of Christ

- 1 (LID 3028) by voters who were flagged in the
- 2 signature poll books for reason number three.
- 3 DIRECTOR ANTHONY: Is there --
- 4 BOARD MEMBER MANIFOLD: Second. I'll
- 5 second the motion.
- 6 DIRECTOR ANTHONY: Okay. Properly move
- 7 to second. All in favor say aye?
- BOARD MEMBERS: Aye.
- 9 DIRECTOR ANTHONY: Opposed same sign?
- 10 (No audible response.)
- 11 DIRECTOR ANTHONY: The ayes carry.
- The next item on the agenda has to do
- 13 with a provision -- two provisional ballots where a
- 14 voter has signed the poll book, and their -- the
- 15 precinct that was on file in the poll book, and
- 16 then they also voted provisional ballot at another
- 17 precinct --
- MS. KLCO: Yeah.
- 19 DIRECTOR ANTHONY: Is that -- is that
- 20 right? Yeah.
- MS. KLCO: Uh-huh.
- DIRECTOR ANTHONY: Okay. Do you want
- 23 to give more information on that?
- MS. KLCO: These two voters signed the

- 1 poll book and were given credit for voting in their
- 2 old precinct. There's no indication that they were
- 3 told then, oh, you have to go someplace else.
- 4 There's nothing written on any of the problems or
- 5 correction pages. Then these two voters went to
- 6 their new voting location and voted a provisional
- 7 ballot there.
- 8 DEPUTY DIRECTOR DAMSCHRODER: So we
- 9 really don't know whether they cast two ballots or
- 10 not. All of the evidence -- the signed poll book
- indicates that they voted -- they signed the poll
- 12 book and cast a regular ballot, because you're not
- 13 supposed to sign the poll book unless you've been
- 14 issued a regular -- the opportunity for you to vote
- 15 to cast a regular ballot, so...
- 16 BOARD MEMBER MANIFOLD: Did the
- 17 machine -- did the machines in those locations show
- 18 the right number? Wouldn't it show up at the under
- 19 vote or vote? Wouldn't it show up if we had two --
- MS. KLCO: I think they both showed up
- 21 with under votes. I think they --
- 22 BOARD MEMBER MANIFOLD: So there was a
- 23 long period. I see what you mean.
- MS. KLCO: Like two people didn't sign

- 1 the poll book.
- 2 BOARD MEMBER MANIFOLD: Okay.
- MS. KLCO: You see what I mean?
- 4 BOARD MEMBER MANIFOLD: I see.
- 5 DEPUTY DIRECTOR DAMSCHRODER: More
- 6 votes than signatures.
- 7 BOARD MEMBER MANIFOLD: Okay.
- BOARD MEMBER MARINELLO: Mr. Chairman,
- 9 I move that the Board reject as invalid the two --
- 10 excuse me -- identified provisional ballots from
- 11 voters who signed the signature poll book in their
- 12 former precinct, but voted a provisional ballot in
- 13 their precinct.
- 14 DIRECTOR ANTHONY: Is there a second?
- 15 BOARD MEMBER MANIFOLD: I'll second.
- 16 DIRECTOR ANTHONY: All those in favor
- 17 say aye?
- BOARD MEMBERS: Aye.
- 19 DIRECTOR ANTHONY: That motion carries.
- The next item on the agenda is the
- 21 remaining provisional ballots. And as you can see
- from the sheets, I guess there's something like
- 23 13,986 of them, rejection of 1,426.
- Are there any questions? Anybody

- 1 want -- Renee, you want to add anything to that?
- 2 MS. KLCO: No.
- 3 DIRECTOR ANTHONY: Okay. Any other
- 4 questions on that?
- 5 (No audible response.)
- 6 DIRECTOR ANTHONY: We will entertain a
- 7 motion.
- 8 BOARD MEMBER MARINELLO: Mr. Chairman,
- 9 I move that the Board accept the staff
- 10 recommendation for the validation of 13,986, and
- 11 rejection, 1,426, of the remaining provisional
- 12 ballots as submitted.
- DIRECTOR ANTHONY: Is there a second?
- 14 BOARD MEMBER MANIFOLD: Second.
- 15 DIRECTOR ANTHONY: All those in favor
- 16 say aye?
- BOARD MEMBERS: Aye.
- DIRECTOR ANTHONY: The motion carries.
- 19 The next matter is -- I guess we need
- 20 to go into executive session?
- 21 DEPUTY DIRECTOR DAMSCHRODER: I don't
- 22 think we need to, unless we -- unless we want --
- 23 unless there's anything in particular we want to
- 24 discuss?

- 1 DIRECTOR ANTHONY: No, let's not.
- The next item has to -- I mean, does
- 3 anybody want to go in executive session to
- 4 discuss --
- 5 BOARD MEMBER MANIFOLD: No. No.
- 6 DIRECTOR ANTHONY: Okay. It has to do
- 7 with accrual of comp time. What we would like to
- 8 do is have our policy reflect what the county
- 9 policy reflects as it relates to exempt employees.
- 10 BOARD MEMBER MARINELLO: I think that,
- 11 Mr. Chairman, I move that effective today the Board
- 12 amend its overtime and compensatory leave policy,
- as it relates to exempt employees, permitting the
- 14 Director and Deputy Director to accrue a maximum of
- 15 80 hours of personal administrative leave up from
- 16 the current maximum of 40 to closely follow the
- 17 policy adopted by the county commissioners covering
- 18 their exempt employees.
- BOARD MEMBER MANIFOLD: I'll second.
- DIRECTOR ANTHONY: All those in favor?
- BOARD MEMBERS: Aye.
- DIRECTOR ANTHONY: The motion carries.
- 23 And the next motion, we normally at the
- 24 end of the year allow our employees to have a --

- 1 our full-time employees, we give them some leeway
- 2 on some personal leave.
- Of course, this is my first year as
- 4 Director doing this, so, Matt, can you explain that
- 5 a little bit more?
- 6 DEPUTY DIRECTOR DAMSCHRODER: Sure. We
- 7 have in the past -- the Director and Deputy
- 8 Director have brought to the Board a request,
- 9 particularly in even numbered years where staff has
- 10 worked particularly hard and still has a lot of
- 11 stuff to do between now and the holidays, to give
- 12 staff four paid days of additional leave to use
- during the week before Christmas or the week before
- 14 New Years.
- The office will remain open to the
- 16 public. We'll have -- continue to have equal
- 17 numbers of Republicans and Democrats here to staff
- 18 the office, but it just gives folks four extra days
- 19 to take off around the holidays and spend time with
- 20 family and friends that they didn't get to see for
- 21 the last three months.
- DIRECTOR ANTHONY: Again, this is
- 23 something that we've done for a number of years.
- 24 DEPUTY DIRECTOR DAMSCHRODER: Correct.

- 1 DIRECTOR ANTHONY: Yes.
- BOARD MEMBER MARINELLO: I move that
- 3 the Board grant each regular full-time employee
- 4 32 hours of paid personal leave to be used between
- 5 December 20th and December 30th.
- 6 BOARD MEMBER MANIFOLD: I'll second.
- 7 DIRECTOR ANTHONY: All those in favor
- 8 say aye?
- 9 BOARD MEMBERS: Aye.
- 10 DIRECTOR ANTHONY: The motion carries.
- Before we adjourn, we've got some
- 12 upcoming meetings we want to advise everybody of.
- Next Tuesday, the 23rd, at 3:00 p.m.,
- 14 we're going to vote on the official certification
- of the election, and we're also going to draw
- 16 precincts, if you guys recall, for our post
- 17 election audit.
- 18 And then on Monday that following week,
- 19 Monday, December 6th, we're going to meet again to
- 20 certify results of recounts, if there are any, and
- 21 the post election audit and conduct other business
- 22 if needed.
- So those are two dates you need, the
- 24 23rd and December the 6th.

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