

BEFORE THE FRANKLIN COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS

- - -

In Re: :
: Regular Meeting. :

- - -

JANUARY 21, 2020

PROCEEDINGS OF THE

FRANKLIN COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS

before Chairman Douglas J. Preisse, Director Edward Leonard, and Board Members Bradley K. Sinnott, Kimberly E. Marinello, and Michael Sexton, at the Franklin County Board of Elections, 1700 Morse Road, Columbus, Ohio, on Tuesday, January 21, 2020, beginning at approximately 9:25 a.m., and concluding at approximately 11:13 a.m.

- - -

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

APPEARANCES:

FRANKLIN COUNTY PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE
By Timothy A. Lecklider, Esq.
Assistant Prosecuting Attorney
373 South High Street, 13th Floor
Columbus, Ohio 43215
(614) 525-3520,

On behalf of the Board.

Also present:

Steve Bulen
Corey Columbo, Esquire
Jeffrey Mackey
Susie O'Brien
Carla Patton
Bryce Sampson
Ben Wallace, Esquire
Antone White, Executive Assistant to the
Board, Director, and Deputy Director
Tiffany White

- - -

I N D E X

1		
2	- - -	
3	AGENDA ITEMS	PAGE
4	Approval of minutes of meetings of 11-22-19, 12-9-19, and 12-23-10	4
5	EMCS Contract	5
6	Requests for Reconsideration	7
7	Candidate Protests	37
8	Certification of Write-In Candidates	64
9	Requests for Candidate Withdrawal	65
10	Approve 2020 Election Administration Plan	68
11	Hire Sara Ziemba as Voter Services Supervisor	74
12		
13	Hire Heidi Beck as Fiscal Clerk	75
14	Department Transfer of Jim Bubutiev	76
15	Purchase of Blank Ballot Card Stock	77
16	Full-Time Employee 2% Pay Raise	80
17	Youth at the Booth	81
18	Adjourn	88
19	- - -	
20	BOARD EXHIBITS	PAGE
21	Exhibit A - Write-In Candidate Declarations Recommended for 3-17-20 Primary Election Ballot	64/65
22		
23	Exhibit B -	89
24	Notarized statements, 5 pages	
25	- - -	

1 Tuesday Morning Session
2 January 21, 2020
3 9:25 a.m.

4 - - -

5 DIRECTOR LEONARD: We'll go ahead
6 and call the meeting to order. Let the record note
7 that all members of the Board are present at this
8 time. I don't know I need to call roll.

9 The first order of business is to
10 approve the minutes of the November 22nd, 2019,
11 meeting, the December 9th meeting, and the
12 December 23rd meeting of the Board of Elections.
13 They have been presented previously and --

14 MEMBER SINNOTT: I move that the
15 Board approve the minutes of the November 22, 2019,
16 December 9, 2019, and December 23, 2019 meetings of
17 the Franklin County Board of Elections as
18 submitted.

19 MEMBER SEXTON: Second.

20 DIRECTOR LEONARD: All in favor say
21 aye.

22 (Vote taken.)

23 DIRECTOR LEONARD: Any votes
24 against.

25 (No response.)

 DIRECTOR LEONARD: Hearing none, the

1 resolution is approved.

2 The next issue on the agenda is the
3 contract for EMCS. EMCS is the company that
4 provides the support for the Integrity voter
5 registration software system and the Election
6 Management software. As we are moving towards the
7 implementation of the Tenex election desk software
8 system we still are operating under the current
9 election management system, the Integrity software
10 system. This contract would provide us with
11 support through 2020 and give us the option of
12 extending through 2021 if for some reason we need
13 to continue to operate with the Integrity software
14 system. But it also provides us with the ability
15 to implement this as scheduled -- in the Tenex
16 software as scheduled and that we'd be able to
17 terminate the EMCS contract mid-year when we move
18 off of Integrity.

19 The contract hourly rates for
20 additional services remain the same. The amount
21 for the annual consulting fee has gone up from
22 where it was in the previous contract. But in all
23 other respects the contract is identical in terms.
24 The only thing I haven't done is I haven't had the
25 opportunity to have this reviewed by legal counsel,

1 but I don't anticipate there being any issues
2 because the contract is the same as it's been in
3 the past. So that's why I'd ask the Board to
4 authorize the execution of the contract pending
5 approval from the county prosecutor's office.

6 MEMBER SINNOTT: And all of the
7 proposals that we approve, 65,000 and change,
8 you're expecting us to spend much less than that?

9 DIRECTOR LEONARD: If we go
10 through -- It's invoiced on a quarterly basis. So
11 if we're able to make the transition to Tenex then
12 we would be able to terminate the contract mid-year
13 or by the third quarter. So, yes, we would be able
14 to spend less than that.

15 Do I have a motion to approve?

16 MEMBER SEXTON: Mr. Chariman, I move
17 that the Board authorize the Director and Deputy
18 Director to enter into a contract pending approval
19 of the county prosecutor with Election Management
20 Consulting Services in the amount of \$65,155.07 for
21 continued support of the Integrity system in
22 calendar year 2020.

23 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: Second.

24 DIRECTOR LEONARD: I have a motion
25 and a second.

1 All in favor say aye.

2 (Vote taken.)

3 DIRECTOR LEONARD: Hearing all
4 voting in favor, the resolution is approved.

5 Next item on the agenda is the
6 review of the requests for reconsideration. At the
7 last meeting the Board approved certified
8 candidates to the ballot. Since such time, we've
9 received requests for reconsideration by six
10 candidates who were not certified to the ballot.
11 And so at this time we can address those six
12 requests for reconsideration.

13 The first three of those requests
14 for reconsideration all present the same question,
15 and the question relates to the omission of the
16 portion of the candidate petition that is the --
17 the Board members recall there's a portion at the
18 bottom of the petition for candidacy for central
19 committee that reads that the undersigned electors
20 whose voting residence is within that district.
21 It's the portion that the voter -- that sits above
22 where the voters sign their signatures.

23 And Jeff, I don't know if you want
24 to speak to that question.

25 I believe within the packet you have

1 a summary from our staff with regard to what was
2 presented, and then you have the actual request for
3 reconsideration from each of the three candidates,
4 Eric Bellomy, Travis Buskirk, and Ibrahima Sow.

5 MR. MACKEY: Each of their letters
6 also has a copy of the petition there that you can
7 see for reference. Part of it's cut off. In the
8 kind of administrative document I highlighted the
9 applicable sections in the election official manual
10 and the Revised Code I think including the form of
11 the ballot. So we adjudicated this fairly
12 thoroughly at the last meeting, I think.

13 DIRECTOR LEONARD: The question
14 seems to relate to substantial compliance, what
15 would constitute substantial compliance. And each
16 of the protestors present the fact that they were
17 told by staff or that somebody affiliated with
18 their group was told that that was not a fatal
19 defect, the lack of that portion of the petition
20 was not fatal.

21 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: Upon filing? Is
22 that what you're saying, Ed?

23 DIRECTOR LEONARD: No.

24 MR. MACKEY: I don't think
25 necessarily upon filing. Possibly upon filing, but

1 possibly before that as well. Like I indicated in
2 my previous presentation that --

3 DIRECTOR LEONARD: In Mr. Buskirk's
4 request for reconsideration he states that he
5 worked with a team that flagged this as an issue,
6 they spoke with the staff at the Board of Elections
7 who reviewed a petition similar to mine on
8 December 16th or 17th before the December 18th
9 filing deadline, and that the staff had advised
10 them that the petition was okay and that they had
11 been approved in the past.

12 MR. LECKLIDER: Mr. Chariman, if I
13 may.

14 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: Yes.

15 MR. LECKLIDER: Of course the
16 Director is a correct, the standard is one of
17 substantial compliance. I would add, as I did in
18 the previous meeting, that case law suggests that
19 the Board is to consider whether there's evidence
20 of fraud or deception. Also, what is the
21 likelihood that the omission is misleading to any
22 petition signer. And then, is there a vital public
23 purpose or public interest by rejecting the
24 petition.

25 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: Okay. Well, why

1 don't we take these one by one. And I think
2 that's -- I think we can try to quickly and
3 efficiently look at each of the three of these.

4 Mr. Bellomy is the first on the
5 list. Is Mr. Bellomy here or anyone representing
6 him? Doesn't look like it.

7 Jeff, do you want to walk us through
8 briefly as you did last time, but sort of putting
9 it in context for us again here fresh of what we're
10 looking at and, you know, what your administrative
11 document lays out for us.

12 MR. MACKEY: Sure.

13 As Mr. Lecklider pointed out, there
14 are sections of the election official manual here
15 that puts in your power to determine whether items
16 have substantially complied. There is even a
17 section in 11-4 of the election official manual
18 that highlights this particular nominating petition
19 portion and leaving it up to the Board to determine
20 whether that meets the substantial compliance
21 statute. I just copied the form of the ballot
22 there below that from the Revised Code which says
23 that the form of the ballot should substantially --
24 I should probably read it -- substantially similar
25 to what the Revised Code presents.

1 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: And tell us
2 again -- Do we have a copy of Mr. Bellomy's
3 petition here?

4 MR. MACKEY: Yes. It is attached to
5 his letter there requesting reconsideration. See
6 the area petition for candidate is there, the title
7 portion of it, but not the portion of substance.

8 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: Say that again.

9 MR. MACKEY: The title of the
10 petition in the candidate section is right there at
11 the bottom, that kind of highlighted bar there,
12 petition's candidate, but not the substance of that
13 section which would include the --

14 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: So you're saying
15 below the highlighted bar petition for candidate
16 the additional portion of the petition form is
17 missing?

18 MR. MACKEY: Right.

19 DIRECTOR LEONARD: And actually, if
20 you look at the next one in that packet,
21 Ms. Barnett, you can actually see the full length
22 one. You can see what is actually missing from --

23 MEMBER SEXTON: So it's all this
24 language below petition for candidate, and then on
25 Mr. Bellomy's petition it says in the first line

1 petition shall be circulated only by a member of
2 the same political party as stated above by the
3 candidate, and it's missing the declarations with
4 the political party and name of the candidate.

5 MEMBER SINNOTT: I think I
6 understand Mr. Bellomy's protest, and we dealt with
7 this issue less than a month ago. I continue to
8 believe that on Mr. Bellomy's candidacy petition he
9 had people sign a statement that the statement was
10 no part of the petition. So there's no indication
11 as to what these people were attesting to. He
12 simply was using a flawed form. If the Board had
13 approved the use of such a flawed form in the past,
14 that was a mistake; but that doesn't bind us to
15 continue the mistake indefinitely into the future.
16 So on that basis, I would move to deny the request
17 for reconsideration of Eric Bellomy.

18 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: I would second
19 that.

20 DIRECTOR LEONARD: There's been a
21 motion and a second.

22 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: Any discussion?

23 DIRECTOR LEONARD: Is there any
24 discussion?

25 MEMBER SEXTON: No. I'm fine.

1 DIRECTOR LEONARD: So I have a
2 motion and a second.

3 All in favor say aye.

4 (Vote taken.)

5 MEMBER MARINELLO: I abstain.

6 DIRECTOR LEONARD: I have one
7 abstention.

8 CHARIMAN PREISSE: Do you want to
9 take a roll call or --

10 DIRECTOR LEONARD: Okay.

11 Mr. Sinnott.

12 MEMBER SINNOTT: Yes.

13 DIRECTOR LEONARD: Mr. Preisse.

14 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: Yes.

15 DIRECTOR LEONARD: Mr. Sexton.

16 MEMBER SEXTON: Yes.

17 DIRECTOR LEONARD: Ms. Marinello.

18 MEMBER MARINELLO: Abstain.

19 DIRECTOR LEONARD: Thank you.

20 Do we want to take the next one,

21 Ibrahima Sow? So Jeff, the same exact issue?

22 MR. MACKEY: Yes, it is.

23 DIRECTOR LEONARD: All three,

24 Ibrahima Sow, Travis Buskirk, and Mr. Bellomy were
25 all the same.

1 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: Is Mr. Sow here
2 or anyone representing him?

3 Yes, sir.

4 MR. SAMPSON: I would like to speak
5 on behalf of.

6 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: Would you stand
7 at the podium and for the record state your name
8 and address, please.

9 MR. SAMPSON: Yes.

10 Bryce Sampson, B-r-y-c-e,
11 S-a-m-p-s-o-n.

12 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: Welcome. Thank
13 you.

14 MR. SAMPSON: Thank you.

15 Going back to -- which I should have
16 said for Erick's also -- I was one of the people
17 that did ask the Board about the approval myself.
18 And we were told on all three accounts that it was
19 fine as long as they on the back signed their name,
20 the address, and I believe date, which they all
21 signed off to the side.

22 MEMBER SINNOTT: You said that you
23 asked the Board.

24 MR. SAMPSON: Or the staff. Not the
25 Board.

1 MEMBER SINNOTT: Who did you speak
2 with?

3 MR. SAMPSON: It was a woman. I
4 don't remember her name, honestly.

5 MEMBER SINNOTT: Do you remember the
6 time of the conversation?

7 MR. SAMPSON: It would have been
8 sometime in the middle of the day. I don't
9 remember exactly. It was either like the 16th or
10 17th.

11 MEMBER SINNOTT: Of?

12 MR. SAMPSON: December.

13 MEMBER SINNOTT: December.

14 MR. SAMPSON: So it was like the
15 days that Jeff stated. Someone asked on the 16th
16 and then I asked on the 17th also. And we were
17 told that they would all be accepted, which they
18 were, and then you guys denied.

19 I also did bring a --

20 MEMBER SINNOTT: Was it an in-person
21 conversation?

22 MR. SAMPSON: Yes, it was in person.
23 I was here. Yep.

24 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: Was that upon
25 filing?

1 MR. SAMPSON: It was not upon
2 filing. Those were all filed on the 18th.

3 MEMBER SINNOTT: And you recollect
4 that you spoke to a woman, but you don't know her
5 name?

6 MR. SAMPSON: I do not remember her
7 name. She was an older woman. I don't remember
8 her name, though.

9 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: What were you
10 doing, checking the signatures?

11 MR. SAMPSON: We were checking it to
12 make sure it was valid. Yeah, we were checking the
13 signatures. And then we also asked -- we noticed
14 that they were cut off, so we asked, like, hey, is
15 this going to be okay or do we need to go out and
16 redo the whole petition and go get new signatures.
17 And she said that it would be fine, that as long as
18 they -- which, if you look at the back of the
19 petitions -- as long as they sign their name,
20 address, and I believe it's the date are the three
21 things off to the side.

22 DIRECTOR LEONARD: She was referring
23 to the back of the petition where the circulator's
24 address information is cut off?

25 MR. SAMPSON: Yes. But we did ask

1 about the front also. And she said the front part
2 since it's basically repetitive of what's already
3 stated on the petition that it doesn't -- that it's
4 fine that it's missing as long as they sign the
5 back part at the bottom.

6 MEMBER SEXTON: But these petitions
7 were not acquired from Franklin County Board of
8 Elections. Is that correct?

9 MR. SAMPSON: They were not printed
10 from the Board site, no. They were printed from
11 home computers.

12 I do also -- In regards to another
13 petition that I found, I did not protest this
14 petition, but it is also missing part of the
15 petition, which I find if this part is important to
16 the full petition I also believe that the top part
17 is, stating what the petition actually is. And I
18 believe that if this petition is accepted that the
19 other three should also be accepted.

20 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: What is that
21 petition?

22 MR. SAMPSON: So this is David
23 Neubauer's for Bexley 1. But if you look, it's
24 missing the top part which actually states what it
25 even is. I think it's missing right here. And not

1 having that there, nobody actually even knows what
2 they're signing for based on what you guys are
3 saying that the bottom part is missing also.

4 MR. LECKLIDER: Mr. Chairman, I
5 believe you asked the witness whether the petition
6 was printed from the county's website. He said it
7 was printed from a home computer. I don't believe
8 that the question was fully answered, for purposes
9 of the record. What website?

10 MR. SAMPSON: It was printed -- I'm
11 not exactly sure what website it was printed at. I
12 think they were sent the form, like through an
13 email, and then printed. I don't believe they were
14 printed -- I don't believe they were printed
15 directly off the Board of Elections' website.

16 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: Okay. Anyone
17 have any questions?

18 MEMBER SINNOTT: No.

19 MEMBER MARINELLO: No.

20 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: Thank you.

21 MR. SAMPSON: Yep.

22 DIRECTOR LEONARD: Is there a motion
23 with regard to --

24 MEMBER SINNOTT: Well, there's going
25 to be here in a moment.

1 DIRECTOR LEONARD: Yeah.

2 MEMBER SINNOTT: I cannot find any
3 appreciable difference between Mr. Bellomy's
4 situation and Mr. Sow's. It remains the case that
5 the candidacy petition submitted by Mr. Sow has no
6 statement on it for the voters to attest.
7 Signatures are completely divorced from any
8 statement that the signatures are designed to
9 verify presumably. The fact that there was a
10 representation that an unnamed staff person at the
11 Board said that the form was fine doesn't change
12 any legal requirement and could not under any
13 circumstance.

14 So I move that the Board deny the
15 request for reconsideration of Ibrahima Sow.

16 MEMBER SEXTON: I'll second.

17 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: Any discussion?

18 DIRECTOR LEONARD: I have a motion
19 and a second.

20 All in favor say aye.

21 (Vote taken.)

22 MR. LECKLIDER: Take a roll call.

23 DIRECTOR LEONARD: We'll have a roll
24 call vote.

25 Mr. Sinnott.

1 MR. SINNOTT: Yes.

2 DIRECTOR LEONARD: Mr. Preisse.

3 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: Yes.

4 DIRECTOR LEONARD: Mr. Sexton.

5 MEMBER SEXTON: Yes.

6 DIRECTOR LEONARD: And

7 Ms. Marinello.

8 MEMBER MARINELLO: Yes.

9 DIRECTOR LEONARD: All right. The
10 next reconsideration is for Travis Buskirk. The
11 same circumstances set forth in the request for
12 reconsideration as have been set forth in the
13 previous two.

14 And I do not know if Mr. Buskirk is
15 here.

16 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: Is Mr. Buskirk
17 here or anyone representing him? Doesn't look like
18 it.

19 And Jeff, these are exactly the same
20 circumstances as the previous two?

21 MR. MACKEY: Correct.

22 DIRECTOR LEONARD: Yes.

23 MEMBER SINNOTT: I think that we
24 apprehend the basis for the request for
25 reconsideration presented by Mr. Buskirk. I cannot

1 distinguish his situation from those of Mr. Bellomy
2 or Mr. Sow. It remains the case that he submitted
3 a candidacy petition that does not contain the
4 statement that the signers are purportedly
5 verifying. For that reason, it's defective.

6 I move that we deny the request for
7 reconsideration from Travis Buskirk.

8 MEMBER SEXTON: Second.

9 DIRECTOR LEONARD: I have a motion
10 and a second. Roll call.

11 Mr. Sinnott.

12 MEMBER SINNOTT: Yes.

13 DIRECTOR LEONARD: Mr. Preisse.

14 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: Yes.

15 DIRECTOR LEONARD: Mr. Sexton.

16 MEMBER SEXTON: Yes.

17 DIRECTOR LEONARD: Ms. Marinello.

18 MEMBER MARINELLO: Yes.

19 DIRECTOR LEONARD: The next
20 reconsideration is a request from Lauren Barnett.
21 She sets forth that she submitted her petition at
22 4:07 on the date of the filing deadline, and the
23 deadline for submission is 4:00 on December 18th.
24 And again, hers was submitted on or around 4:07.

25 Jeff, do you have anything you want

1 to add to that?

2 MR. MACKEY: I believe our date
3 stamp actually indicates actually 4:09. And in
4 addition to that, she does indicate some
5 substantial compliance sections of the OEM and
6 Revised Code. And I would put forth that the
7 deadline is not one for substantial compliance but
8 one for strict compliance, which is how we have
9 treated it in the past.

10 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: Is her protest
11 letter here?

12 MR. MACKEY: It's probably under
13 Ms. Alleger's.

14 DIRECTOR LEONARD: I don't think I
15 have anything else to present on behalf of the
16 Board.

17 Jeff?

18 MR. MACKEY: No.

19 DIRECTOR LEONARD: It's matter of
20 strict compliance.

21 MR. SEXTON: Can I just ask a
22 question?

23 Jeff, I know sometimes having worked
24 here with filing deadlines sometimes there's lines,
25 sometimes people have a hard time getting there,

1 you know, by 4:00, 4:01, 4:02, 4:05, or whatever.

2 But is there anything you recall that day that --

3 MR. MACKEY: I believe all lines had
4 been exhausted. We had several people stationed in
5 the lobby area of both the office and the petition
6 area.

7 DIRECTOR LEONARD: We actually
8 did -- The candidates -- the central committee
9 candidates would come to the front of the counter
10 and get clocked in, and then we had a separate
11 queueing in the petitions. And the Deputy Director
12 and I were standing in the lobby just because we
13 expected we would have individuals showing up late
14 and we wanted to be there to explain to them that
15 they could still file but that 4:00 deadline had
16 passed.

17 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: And Ms. Barnett
18 is referencing the election manual from the
19 Secretary of State.

20 But Jeff, you concluded from a
21 paragraph from 3513 of the Revised Code which
22 specifically says must be filed by 4:00 p.m.?

23 MR. MACKEY: Yes.

24 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: Is Lauren Barnett
25 here or anyone representing her? It doesn't look

1 like it.

2 MEMBER SINNOTT: Well, I believe we
3 understand the issue raised by Ms. Barnett's
4 request for reconsideration. However, the fact
5 remains that she did not timely file her candidacy
6 petition.

7 I accordingly move that the Board
8 deny the request for reconsideration made by Lauren
9 Barnett.

10 MEMBER MARINELLO: Second.

11 DIRECTOR LEONARD: I have a motion
12 and a second.

13 Mr. Sinnott.

14 MR. SINNOTT: Yes.

15 DIRECTOR LEONARD: Mr. Preisse.

16 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: Yes.

17 DIRECTOR LEONARD: Mr. Sexton.

18 MEMBER SEXTON: Yes.

19 DIRECTOR LEONARD: Ms. Marinello.

20 MEMBER MARINELLO: Yes.

21 DIRECTOR LEONARD: The next request
22 for reconsideration is Mary Alleger. And in her
23 request for reconsideration it indicated that she
24 had filed two of her signatures and that members --
25 Actually, Mr. Sampson and other members of their

1 group came in shortly but didn't filed any
2 additional petitions. So she only had two
3 signatures that had been filed which is not
4 sufficient.

5 And Jeff, is there anything else I'm
6 missed on her request for reconsideration?

7 MR. MACKEY: I've just cited the
8 Revised Code section here that requires that the
9 declaration of candidacy and all separate petition
10 papers be filed at the same time as one instrument.
11 Also, I believe, probably a matter for strict
12 compliance. I don't believe we can accept the
13 additional parts that she filed with her request
14 for reconsideration.

15 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: And that is drawn
16 from 3513 of the Revised Code?

17 MR. MACKEY: Correct.

18 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: Well, it does not
19 appear that that happened. So I would move that --

20 Is Mary Alleger here or anyone
21 representing her? It doesn't appear so.

22 So I'm going to move -- what's the
23 proper motion? -- to reject or decline the request
24 of the protest for reconsideration of Mary Alleger.
25 That's the motion.

1 MEMBER SINNOTT: Second.

2 DIRECTOR LEONARD: I have a motion
3 and a second.

4 Mr. Sinnott.

5 MR. SINNOTT: Yes.

6 DIRECTOR LEONARD: Mr. Preisse.

7 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: Yes.

8 DIRECTOR LEONARD: Mr. Sexton.

9 MEMBER SEXTON: Yes.

10 DIRECTOR LEONARD: Ms. Marinello.

11 MEMBER MARINELLO: Yes.

12 DIRECTOR LEONARD: And that

13 resolution passes and the request for
14 reconsideration is rejected.

15 The last of that group is Ms. Connie
16 Spohn, and this is relating to the name that she
17 filed under.

18 Jeff, do you want to speak to that,
19 please.

20 MR. MACKEY: So Ms. Spohn's petition
21 there, if you want to flip to that, it came in as
22 Connie Spohn. And a review of the database of
23 registered electors does not indicate a registered
24 elector of that name. So we had initially
25 recommended against considering her petition for

1 certification. Her letter indicates that she is
2 registered but under a different name, Connie
3 Revercomb.

4 DIRECTOR LEONARD: In her request
5 for reconsideration she states that she updated her
6 driver's license at the BMV and assumed the BMV
7 would communicate with the Secretary of State and
8 the Board of Elections regarding the name change.

9 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: And that is not
10 the common practice or protocol?

11 DIRECTOR LEONARD: No. Typically, a
12 voter may update their registration at the BMV.

13 MR. MACKEY: That does not appear
14 that that happened in this instance.

15 DIRECTOR LEONARD: Right.

16 I had asked the staff to research
17 that to confirm whether or not there was some
18 registration from BMV, and that was not the case.

19 MR. MACKEY: I do have a copy of her
20 voter record on my document, as well. You can see
21 that there is a Connie Revercomb at the correct
22 address, an active voter. You can see that there
23 is a previous name from when she went from Spohn to
24 Revercomb upon her marriage. We do have that in
25 the record. I don't know if that assists you in

1 your deliberations at all, but I wanted to point
2 that out. This is a unique situation, one that I
3 have not run across before.

4 MEMBER SEXTON: Is this the one
5 you're noting here changed on 5-31-2016?

6 MR. MACKEY: That's when it was
7 processed here, yeah, the name change.

8 MEMBER SINNOTT: Well, I'm satisfied
9 that her candidacy petition does not match in name
10 her voter registration. But to back up, what is it
11 that requires the candidate to register as a
12 candidate in the name of the candidate's voter
13 registration?

14 MR. MACKEY: Right. I found no
15 direction on that specific matter. I have cited
16 the Revise Code section here that says each member
17 of a controlling committee shall be a resident and
18 qualified elector of the district or the precinct
19 that the member is elected to represent.

20 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: We deal with some
21 frequency with the interpretation of names and the
22 issue we always wrestle with is derivatives of
23 names, common nicknames or derivatives of names.

24 What authority are we pointing to
25 when we're discussing --

1 MR. MACKEY: There is some direction
2 in the Election Official Manual, and I believe it
3 mostly revolves around first names or first
4 name/middle names, not last names, for the nickname
5 section or derivative section.

6 MEMBER SINNOTT: Tim, can you help
7 us on this? It's one of those where it's kind of a
8 pop quiz. But can you think of anything in Ohio
9 law that requires a candidate to register as a
10 candidate in his voter registration name?

11 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: Should we pause
12 and move on maybe?

13 DIRECTOR LEONARD: In the Mingo
14 situation, she had been registered under both Mingo
15 and Miles. And so there was -- even though she
16 chose in that instance to use her maiden name, she
17 had been registered Mingo/Miles or she had used
18 that. But this is a slightly different situation.

19 MR. MACKEY: She would certainly be
20 eligible to vote on probably a provisional ballot
21 and once she provided documentation of the name
22 change or whatever that she was that person. I
23 think we would probably count that.

24 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: Well, you just
25 suggested once they provided evidence of a name

1 change, but we don't have any existing evidence of
2 the name change.

3 MR. MACKEY: Absent her letter here,
4 yes.

5 MS. MARINELLO: She's not here.
6 Correct?

7 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: Is Connie Spohn
8 here or anyone representing her?

9 Bryce, would you like to speak to
10 this again?

11 MR. SAMPSON: Yes.

12 I do know -- I don't remember
13 exactly the code number, but one of the codes does
14 state something about a name based on marriage.
15 And that shouldn't -- that should still be accepted
16 if it is -- like if their voter registration isn't
17 accepted. That was my understanding of it at
18 least. I don't remember which code it was. I
19 thought it was like 3507 maybe. It's whichever one
20 is based on like filing as the wrong name.

21 MR. MACKEY: I think that one he's
22 referring to is the one that deals with having to
23 list your former name on the petition.

24 MR. SAMPSON: Yes.

25 MR. MACKEY: And then having that

1 listed on the ballot and not applying to you for
2 reasons of marriage.

3 MR. LECKLIDER: I believe the
4 correct cite is the 3513.271.

5 MR. SINNOTT: What does that say,
6 Tim, in substance?

7 MR. LECKLIDER: You want me to read
8 it?

9 MR. SINNOTT: No. Relevant to this
10 question about needing to file under a registered
11 name.

12 MR. LECKLIDER: I guess the question
13 is -- you know, this speaks to marriage, a name
14 change -- you know, does it apply in the case of a
15 divorce. And is there any evidence that, in fact,
16 she did effectuate a name change.

17 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: I don't think we
18 have evidence. She's asserted -- I didn't read
19 that particular line. But Ed, you said she said
20 she changed her license?

21 DIRECTOR LEONARD: The middle of
22 the -- or the request for reconsideration.

23 MEMBER SINNOTT: So it's fresh in
24 our mind, Tim, what does .271 say on the subject of
25 marriage?

1 MR. LECKLIDER: The title is
2 effective change of name on statement candidacy and
3 nominating petition. If any person desiring to
4 become a candidate for public office has had a
5 change of name within five years immediately
6 preceding the filing of his statement of candidacy
7 both his statement of candidacy and nominating
8 petition must contain immediately following the
9 person's present name the person's former names.
10 It goes on.

11 MR. SINNOTT: Okay. That's not this
12 situation, though, it doesn't seem.

13 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: I think maybe it
14 is, but --

15 MEMBER SINNOTT: Well, again,
16 please, Ed, if you would. I don't think we have
17 .271 in front of us.

18 What was that that you just read to
19 us, Tim?

20 MR. LECKLIDER: If any person
21 desiring to become a candidate for public office
22 has had a change of name within five years
23 immediately preceding the filing of his statement
24 of candidacy, both his statement of candidacy and
25 nominating petition must contain immediately

1 following the person's present name the person's
2 former names.

3 MEMBER MARINELLO: So she would have
4 had to have Spohn there?

5 MR. SAMPSON: I believe if you keep
6 going farther it says something about marriage
7 toward the end.

8 MR. SINNOTT: But that's still not
9 this situation.

10 MR. LECKLIDER: So the second
11 paragraph, This section does not apply to a change
12 of name by reason of marriage. It doesn't state
13 that by reason of divorce, but --

14 DIRECTOR LEONARD: Change of marital
15 status, but it doesn't say that.

16 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: Corey, are you
17 representing Connie?

18 MR. COLUMBO: I am not, Mr. Preisse,
19 but if I could speak on this issue. I'm here on
20 behalf of the Franklin County Democratic United.
21 They are a group that --

22 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: Would you state
23 your name for the record.

24 MR. COLUMBO: Corey Columbo with
25 McTigue & Columbo.

1 I wasn't planning to speak on this
2 one, but if I could. We did -- Our client is a 527
3 political organization that facilitated the
4 circulation and recruitment of candidates and the
5 filing of petitions. So I would like to add my
6 thoughts on this particular reconsideration
7 request.

8 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: Please do within
9 a reasonable time.

10 MR. COLUMBO: Yeah. This won't take
11 long.

12 I agree with Mr. Sinnott's
13 interpretation of the law that this is -- and
14 you're right, too, Mr. Preisse, -- these marriage
15 questions come up in different fashions and
16 different laws apply.

17 In my opinion, this is not the
18 situation where the allegation is they have had a
19 name change and they were required to place both
20 names on the ballot. We're not in that situation
21 here. This is a situation where it's just more
22 cut-and-dry that what name does a person choose to
23 use on a candidate's nominating petition.

24 I would mention this is
25 significantly different than the Judge Mingo Miles

1 protest that was filed last year. In that case,
2 she had actually changed her voter registration
3 prior to circulating the petition, which was a
4 significant factor in the case law on that topic,
5 that if they took that step it's a matter of the
6 petition name used matching the name in the records
7 at the Board of Elections. And that's more a
8 protection to the people who signed the petition.

9 If they see the name Connie Spohn,
10 go to the Board records, go to the Board database,
11 they're not going to find anyone by that particular
12 name. It's a little more basic than some of the
13 other complex issues with marriage and change of
14 names. It's simply a matter of you have to use the
15 name on the petition that matches your Board of
16 Election record.

17 And this Board has a long-standing
18 precedence of rejecting petitions where that's the
19 standard of the name used, it has to be the name in
20 your registration records. So that's why -- for
21 that reason we would agree the Board made the
22 correct decision the first time based on its past
23 standards with use of name that this petition
24 should not have been certified to the ballot.
25 Thanks.

1 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: Thank you.
2 Anybody have any questions for
3 Mr. Columbo?

4 Thank you, Corey.

5 MEMBER SINNOTT: Well, I think now I
6 understand the basis for the request for
7 reconsideration as described in Ms. Spohn's
8 January 3, 2020, request. This situation seems
9 really fundamental. She explains in her request
10 for reconsideration that when she changed her name,
11 the last name, on motor vehicle records she
12 assumed, her term, that the Bureau of Motor
13 Vehicles would communicate the change of name to
14 the Secretary of State's office and the Board of
15 Elections. That was a mistake in assumption on her
16 part. So what she has done in this instance is she
17 has submitted a candidacy petition under a name
18 that is different than her voter registration name.
19 And for that reason, I move that we deny the
20 request for reconsideration.

21 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: Second.

22 DIRECTOR LEONARD: I have a motion
23 and a second.

24 Mr. Sinnott.

25 MR. SINNOTT: Yes.

1 DIRECTOR LEONARD: Mr. Preisse.

2 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: Yes.

3 DIRECTOR LEONARD: Mr. Sexton.

4 MEMBER SEXTON: Yes.

5 DIRECTOR LEONARD: Ms. Marinello.

6 MEMBER MARINELLO: Yes.

7 DIRECTOR LEONARD: All right. That
8 addresses all of the requests for reconsideration
9 that were presented.

10 Now we have seven -- or I'm sorry --
11 eight candidate protests that were submitted,
12 timely submitted. There are seven of them that
13 were submitted by a single individual, Ethan Young.
14 And after review by staff there were questions with
15 regard to whether Mr. Young has standing based on
16 the Bender case.

17 And again, I'll ask Mr. Lecklider to
18 correct me if I'm wrong. But from the Bender case
19 that we had with regard to the Libertarian
20 candidate we had previously, that in order to have
21 standing to protest the individual must be of the
22 same party as the candidate they are protesting and
23 they must reside in the same district. So in the
24 Bender case it was a Reynoldsburg ward race. In
25 this instance, it would be the central committee

1 district. And in each of these instances Mr. Young
2 does not reside in the ward that he is challenging
3 for the candidate that he's challenging.

4 Jeff, his standing with regard to
5 partisanship, is he a Democrat or is he
6 unaffiliated?

7 MR. MACKEY: Our records indicate
8 unaffiliated. I believe he would have the
9 opportunity to establish a party standing
10 either right now, but that doesn't overcome the
11 lack of residence standing.

12 DIRECTOR LEONARD: So, again, with
13 regard -- that's the extent of what was presented
14 from the staff here at the Board is that, again,
15 our records reveal that Mr. Young -- and I should
16 say he challenges seven individuals, Mary Duffey,
17 Averi Townsend, Cheryl Saul, Deborah Roberts,
18 Vallerie Raimey, Charles Kirby, and Julius Palazzo.
19 And in each of those instances he does not reside
20 in the ward that he is challenging the candidate.
21 And I know that Mary Duffy is present. I don't
22 know if there are any other candidates who are
23 being challenged that are here or if Mr. Ethan
24 Young is here.

25 MR. YOUNG: I am present.

1 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: Are you
2 Mr. Young?

3 MR. YOUNG: Yes.

4 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: Do you wish to
5 speak?

6 MR. YOUNG: Sure.

7 In regards to the Bender case, which
8 I was aware of, I can speak to why --

9 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: Would you please,
10 if you're going to speak on these matters, go to
11 the podium and state your name and address for the
12 record, please.

13 MR. YOUNG: My name is Ethan Young,
14 E-t-h-a-n, Y-o-u-n-g.

15 DIRECTOR LEONARD: I this is
16 speaking to standing in terms of -- for him to
17 address the question.

18 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: Yeah. I'm not
19 sure we need to hear about -- I think speak
20 directly to the issue that --

21 MR. YOUNG: To my standing here or
22 to the petition to reconsider certifying these
23 candidates?

24 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: Well, yeah. Make
25 the statement you've undoubtedly conceived and wish

1 to make.

2 MR. YOUNG: In terms of the
3 petitions?

4 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: Yeah.

5 MR. YOUNG: So in regards to the
6 Secretary of State's directive regarding petitions
7 and signatures, it states that the signatures on
8 any petition must match that which the Board of
9 Elections possesses. These seven cases were some
10 of the more blatant inconsistencies regarding
11 signatures on file with the Board of Elections.
12 There were petitions that were not submitted that
13 also contain inconsistencies and clear forgeries of
14 spouses for their spouse on their petition.
15 However, we brought forward these seven in regards
16 to not being consistent with the Board of Elections
17 data. This directive by the Secretary of State was
18 in regards to including but not limited to Ohio
19 Revised Code 301 and his interpretation of that
20 code.

21 DIRECTOR LEONARD: I guess I also
22 should state that there was a motion to dismiss the
23 protest filed by Mr. Young, and that motion was
24 made by Mr. Columbo.

25 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: Right.

1 Any questions for Mr. Young?

2 MEMBER SINNOTT: First of all,
3 Mr. Young, did you have a full opportunity to say
4 everything you wanted to say on the subject of your
5 protest?

6 MR. YOUNG: Yes, sir.

7 MEMBER SINNOTT: You live at
8 600 West Goodale Street, Apartment 544, in
9 Columbus?

10 MR. YOUNG: Yes, sir.

11 MEMBER SINNOTT: Do you have a
12 theory to advance as to why you would be a proper
13 protestor as to candidates who are not in your
14 ward?

15 MR. YOUNG: Sure. I have not
16 considered the legal ramifications of the Bender
17 case in preparation for today. So I can't fully
18 argue from --

19 MEMBER SINNOTT: Set aside the
20 Bender case because Bender doesn't really deal with
21 that. Do you have an idea about why you can
22 protest candidates in other wards?

23 MR. YOUNG: So in terms of
24 participating in countywide Democratic politics, I
25 believe everybody should be able to voice those

1 concerns and bring that forward to a countywide
2 board. And the same in terms of our city council
3 since we don't have a ward system to consider --
4 you know, people who have the time, energy, and
5 resources to discuss and be involved in politics,
6 as such, I believe I represent the interest of
7 people who could not be here today. So that's why
8 I brought this forward.

9 MEMBER SINNOTT: Presently, you're
10 not affiliated with a political party by our voter
11 registration records. Are you a Democrat?

12 MR. YOUNG: I have been a life --
13 ever since I've been registered to vote I have been
14 a Democrat. I have lived in three states. I
15 believe I have voted in every election. I've lived
16 in Ohio and that's been three years. I resided in
17 North Canton for a year and a half prior to moving
18 to Columbus. So I always vote Democratic, I always
19 vote in Democratic primaries.

20 MEMBER SINNOTT: And as to the
21 candidates who are the subject of your protest, are
22 any of them candidates in your ward?

23 MR. YOUNG: I am not aware of that.

24 MEMBER SINNOTT: Okay. Those are
25 all the questions I have for Mr. Young. Thank you

1 very much.

2 DIRECTOR LEONARD: Jeff, do we know
3 what ward and precinct Mr. Young lives in?

4 MR. MACKEY: Yes. Ward 14.

5 MEMBER SINNOTT: Do any of the
6 candidates that are the subject of the protest, are
7 they candidates in Ward 14?

8 MR. MACKEY: No. I'm sorry. It's
9 Columbus Ward 14.

10 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: Any other
11 questions for Mr. Young?

12 Then I think -- do we have -- Thank
13 you. I think we already know Mr. Columbo is here,
14 and I'm guessing he wishes to address the Board.

15 MR. WALLACE: Mr. Preisse, my name
16 is Ben Wallace, also with --

17 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: Are you going to
18 be the one?

19 MR. WALLACE: Yes. I'm an attorney
20 with McTigue & Columbo and I'll address the motion
21 to dismiss just very briefly.

22 As the Board has already discussed,
23 this is a question of standing. Standing is
24 established by the Ohio Revised Code 3513.05. As
25 Mr. Lecklider mentioned, the Bender case requires

1 the protester in order to file a valid protest be
2 able to vote on the candidacy at issue, be a member
3 of the party. And as the Board has already
4 discussed and as Mr. Young has essentially
5 conceded, he does not meet those requirements and
6 therefore the protest is not validly brought and
7 should be dismissed for lack of standing.

8 I'm happy to answer any questions
9 about the motion to dismiss.

10 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: Any questions for
11 Mr. Wallace?

12 MEMBER SINNOTT: Well, Mr. Wallace,
13 what would be the statutory authority for
14 dismissing the protest as opposed to denying the
15 protest?

16 MR. WALLACE: Well, I think the
17 proper course of action would have been to never
18 grant a hearing in the first place because the
19 protest was not properly brought. There is no
20 standing. The Board can make that determination on
21 its own, you know. I'd like to hear
22 Mr. Lecklider's thoughts on that. But the protest
23 should be dismissed because there is no proper
24 protestor. So there is no authority to grant or
25 deny the protest.

1 MEMBER SINNOTT: All right. Thank
2 you.

3 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: Any other
4 questions?

5 Thank you.

6 DIRECTOR LEONARD: I do note that we
7 have -- one of the candidates who is being
8 protested is present. I don't know if the Board
9 wanted to provide an opportunity.

10 MR. LECKLIDER: Mr. Chairman, the
11 proper procedure would be to allow the protestor a
12 rebuttal if he'd like one.

13 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: Mr. Young, would
14 you like to rebut that statement by Mr. Columbo's
15 colleague, Mr. Wallace?

16 MR. YOUNG: No.

17 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: Okay. Thank you.
18 Does Mary wish to be heard?

19 MS. DUFFEY: Yes, sir.

20 Mary Duffey running for Central
21 Committee for Washington Township. Members of the
22 Board, you have to be an elector to be able to
23 protest. Elector isn't defined as I could find it,
24 but I submit that the mayor of Cleveland is an
25 elector in Cleveland but he certainly is not an

1 elector in Washington Township. Furthermore, I
2 would not by any means endanger my law license by
3 falsifying any part of my petition. Also, my name
4 is Mary Duffey, not Mark. And since I personally
5 witnessed all of my signatures at their homes, I'm
6 pretty darn sure they're good.

7 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: Any questions for
8 Mary?

9 Thank you, Mary.

10 MEMBER SINNOTT: Well, I think I
11 understand the basis for the protest.

12 Because Mr. Young is not an elector
13 and does not reside in any of the wards involved in
14 his protest, I move that the Board deny the protest
15 made by Mr. Young relative to the candidacies of
16 Charles Kirby, Deborah Roberts, Averi Townsend,
17 Cheryl Saul, Julius Palazzo, Vallerie Raimey, and
18 Mary Duffey.

19 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: Second.

20 DIRECTOR LEONARD: I have a motion
21 and a second.

22 Mr. Sinnott.

23 MR. SINNOTT: Yes.

24 DIRECTOR LEONARD: Mr. Preisse.

25 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: Yes.

1 DIRECTOR LEONARD: Mr. Sexton.

2 MEMBER SEXTON: Yes.

3 DIRECTOR LEONARD: Ms. Marinello.

4 MEMBER MARINELLO: Yes.

5 DIRECTOR LEONARD: The resolution is
6 approved the protest is rejected.

7 The next protest that we have is a
8 protest of Tiffany White's petitions to the 25th
9 House District. The petition states grounds that
10 the --

11 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: The protest?

12 DIRECTOR LEONARD: The protest
13 should be the last packet or last group in your
14 packet of protests that were clipped together.

15 It is a protest filed by Mr. Oscar
16 Woods. It was timely filed. And in it he states
17 the grounds and challenges. The signature of
18 Miss White on one of her part petitions was
19 invalid, and then also that there were two other
20 signatures that were invalid; and thus, would
21 result in her having less than 50 signatures
22 required to be certified to the ballot.

23 Jeff, is there anything you want to
24 add as relates to what I've described to the Board?

25 MR. MACKEY: Certainly.

1 I believe Mr. Woods does reside in
2 the 25th Ohio House District. He is registered as
3 a Democrat in our voter registration system. I
4 believe he checks both of those boxes as far as
5 standing to file the protest.

6 I have prepared some analysis there.
7 I concur with the contention that Miss White should
8 not have been -- well, we should not have counted
9 her signature on her petition for both reasons
10 stated, that a candidate cannot sign their own
11 petition and a circulator cannot sign a petition
12 that they have circulated. I've prepared for your
13 review there the two additional signatures that
14 they are contesting if you want to review those as
15 well.

16 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: So could we look
17 at what you're calling your administrative document
18 and analysis on the issue of Tiffany White's own
19 signature on her part petition here.

20 Is that purportedly her signature on
21 line 21?

22 MR. MACKEY: Line 22.

23 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: 1204 Woodnell or
24 whatever that is?

25 MR. MACKEY: Yes.

1 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: Okay. Does
2 Mr. Woods wish to speak to this?

3 MR. COLUMBO: Mr. Preisse, I'm his
4 legal counsel. If I could speak on his behalf.

5 MR. PREISSE: Yes, please.

6 MR. COLUMBO: He couldn't be here
7 today.

8 So we're the legal counsel for Oscar
9 Woods. This isn't one of those protests that's
10 going to require a lengthy hearing or witnesses or
11 you know -- It really comes down asking the Board
12 to look at these documented. And as Mr. Mackey
13 conceded, that signature of Tiffany White as the
14 candidate and the circulator should have been
15 rejected for two different reasons which we've
16 outlined in the protest. Those are both clear
17 principles under Ohio law and in the Secretary of
18 State's manuals and handbooks. So that would take
19 her down to 49 signatures, below the required 50
20 threshold.

21 As this is more of a signature match
22 issue on the two other ones we raised, I would note
23 the first time the Board reviewed her petition they
24 determined it only had 47 signatures and then did a
25 second review and added three back in. We would

1 just simply ask the Board to take a look at those.
2 And we didn't bring a handwriting expert or
3 anything of that sort because she had already
4 fallen below the 50; but we would just argue the
5 Board made the correct decision on the first
6 pass-through of her petition. So we would ask for
7 those to be removed as they initially were, taking
8 her down to 47, and ask that her name be removed
9 from the ballot.

10 I'd be happy to answer any questions
11 you have.

12 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: So, Jeff, walk us
13 through, please, this -- I think you prepared --
14 Wait a minute.

15 Is the candidate here?

16 MS. WHITE: Yes, I'm here.

17 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: The candidate is
18 here.

19 If you'd like to address the Board,
20 please.

21 MS. WHITE: Good morning. How are
22 you?

23 So I'm Tiffany White and I'm
24 obviously here to defend my name to be on the
25 ballot for the 25th.

1 I have signed statements from Ronnie
2 Fitzgerald, Virginia Davis, as well as some
3 others, -- because I reviewed all of my petitions
4 and there were some that said not genuine, so I
5 actually got statements from all of those --
6 Tiffany Harmon, Terry Dwayne Rue, and Mark L.
7 Smoot.

8 So if you take a look at my
9 petitions in their entirety, I have over 50
10 signatures even if you take the one out. And I
11 have copies of these for you guys.

12 MEMBER SINNOTT: Make sure you give
13 a copy to Mr. Columbo.

14 MS. WHITE: Absolutely.

15 MR. COLUMBO: Thank you.

16 MS. WHITE: You're welcome.

17 On Tiffany Harmon's it's printed
18 signature on petition number 000689. It's line
19 number --

20 MR. COLUMBO: I would just like to
21 raise an objection to the introduction of new
22 evidence. This was not -- this was set for a
23 protest hearing, the time to ask for signatures to
24 be added back in. It's improper for it to be made
25 today without any notice to the Board or to any

1 other parties involved. This is basically sprung
2 on us when the protest was filed close to 20 days
3 ago.

4 MS. WHITE: Actually, I did not
5 receive an email about the protest until the 9th.
6 I didn't receive anything in the mail until after
7 that fact. So I should have the opportunity to
8 defend actually the signatures that you also are
9 saying that aren't genuine.

10 MR. COLUMBO: I didn't say it. The
11 Board of Elections did.

12 MS. WHITE: Gotcha.

13 But they also counted those two
14 signatures back in and you're saying that
15 they're --

16 MR. COLUMBO: Well, that's
17 certainly --

18 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Is he allowed
19 to talk or can she present her case?

20 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: Mr. Columbo, I
21 think that we should have the opportunity to take a
22 look at what's been presented to us here.

23 MR. COLUMBO: Yeah. But I wanted to
24 get the --

25 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: So let her

1 finish.

2 MR. COLUMBO: I wanted to get the
3 objection in. You have to object at the time it is
4 presented.

5 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: I think that's
6 been noted. Thank you.

7 MR. COLUMBO: Thank you.

8 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: I kind of lost my
9 track here.

10 MS. WHITE: I'm sorry.

11 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: Back to your
12 observations about -- is it the signature of
13 Tiffany --

14 MS. WHITE: Since someone protested
15 and looked at one of five sheets that I submitted,
16 when I turned in my paperwork that said this is how
17 I want my name on the ballot, I actually have
18 copies of my signatures. At that time I had no
19 idea that there was a protest. I wasn't advised
20 until 3 p.m. on the 9th, and from, that time I have
21 been chasing down individuals to verify that, yes,
22 you did sign my petition, yes, this was your
23 intent. So that's where I'm at. I mean, we have
24 the line numbers, the petition numbers. I
25 appreciate someone wanting to disqualify me.

1 However, I think you need to do your due diligence
2 and look at every single petition. Because if
3 you're saying that the Board made an error
4 initially, how can you say that they didn't making
5 an error on any of the other petitions. And
6 Virginia Davis, she said that she signed it Denise
7 Davis, that the D in her signature is the same D
8 that's on the petition and the Davis is exactly the
9 same and her address is legible.

10 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: I don't see --

11 MS. WHITE: Those were not included
12 in any of the documents that I received. The only
13 thing that was included as an attachment as far as
14 an exhibit was my signature personally. But in the
15 letter from Mr. Woods, he would like Virginia Davis
16 disqualified as well as Ronnie Fitzgerald. And
17 they provided me their phone numbers, as well, if
18 the Board --

19 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: I'm sorry?
20 Please say that again.

21 MS. WHITE: They provided me their
22 cell phone numbers, as well, if the Board wanted to
23 reach out to confirm that I actually did do this.

24 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: Any other
25 questions for the witness?

1 All right. And then, Mr. Columbo,
2 do you wish to address the matter?

3 MR. COLUMBO: Yes, if I could.
4 Thank you.

5 Two of the names raised in the
6 protest to ask the Board to look at again were
7 Ronnie Fitzgerald and Virginia Davis. So I think
8 it was fair game that she would address those as a
9 response to the protest.

10 I would note that these are
11 defective affidavits. They are not properly
12 notarized by a notary public. It has a stamp
13 there, but not the required language to make it a
14 binding sworn statement. So for that reason, I
15 would ask these affidavits not be considered as
16 they're not proper. And additionally, for the
17 reason I stated, nothing was filed with the Board
18 to request that these be considered today. These
19 were signed yesterday. They could have submitted
20 them to the Board or she could have notified the
21 Board she would like for additional signatures to
22 be added back. She's asking us now, you know, spur
23 of the moment without even having reviewed these
24 signatures to add back in more. So you have
25 improper affidavits in front of you. Should you

1 choose to take Ronnie and Virginia's as good, you
2 know, that's up to you, of course; but with her
3 signature being taken off she's below the 50 level
4 and then you're left with just affidavits that are
5 defective that do not carry any legal weight.

6 Thank you.

7 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: Any questions for
8 Mr. Columbo?

9 MEMBER SINNOTT: Okay. So as I
10 understand it, Jeff, the staff has now changed its
11 view from December as to the sufficiency of the
12 number of signatures -- valid signatures on
13 Miss White's petition. Is that correct?

14 MR. MACKEY: The staff agrees that
15 it should not have counted Tiffany White's
16 signature.

17 MEMBER SINNOTT: And you have an
18 opinion on nothing else related to the protest?

19 MR. MACKEY: I have provided copies
20 of the two additional signatures.

21 MEMBER SINNOTT: Well, do you think
22 they match?

23 MR. MACKEY: I believe they fell
24 within the threshold of giving them credit for
25 those two.

1 MEMBER SINNOTT: So you think they
2 match?

3 MR. MACKEY: Yes.

4 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: And those were of
5 Parnell Cochran and Terry Dwayne Rue?

6 MR. MACKEY: No. This is the Ronnie
7 Fitzgerald and Virginia Davis.

8 MEMBER MARINELLO: Well, they were
9 already counted as --

10 MR. MACKEY: They were counted as
11 good, yes.

12 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: Where are you?

13 MR. MACKEY: It's the administrative
14 document of the protest, which included the Tiffany
15 White signature. This is the document that
16 addresses the protested signatures.

17 MEMBER SINNOTT: So you continue to
18 believe that the signatures on the petition match
19 the signatures we have on file?

20 MR. MACKEY: Yes.

21 MEMBER SINNOTT: And those
22 signatures are properly counted?

23 MR. MACKEY: They are currently
24 properly counted at this point.

25 MEMBER SINNOTT: If those are

1 counted, then, setting aside Miss White's
2 signature, how many valid signatures are there?

3 MR. MACKEY: 49.

4 MEMBER SEXTON: Just so I'm clear,
5 we're talking about those two are Ronnie Fitzgerald
6 which is on Part 688, Line 1?

7 MR. MACKEY: Correct.

8 MEMBER SEXTON: And Virginia Davis,
9 Part 688, Line 16?

10 MR. MACKEY: Correct.

11 MEMBER SINNOTT: Based on the
12 staff's view, do you find a match with Davis and
13 Fitzgerald?

14 MR. MACKEY: I do, yes.

15 MEMBER SINNOTT: And that would take
16 the petition to 49?

17 MR. MACKEY: Correct, if we do not
18 count Tiffany White's. The second document I
19 presented there I put together because there was a
20 gentleman working on Miss White's behalf in the
21 office last week checking signatures. And I jotted
22 the signatures down that they were working with in
23 the event that they were presented today so that
24 you would have them available to you.

25 MR. SINNOTT: Well, I don't know

1 what that's relevant to.

2 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: They haven't been
3 presented today.

4 MEMBER SINNOTT: Mr. Woods' protest
5 relates to the signatures of White, Davis, and
6 Fitzgerald. Correct?

7 MR. COLUMBO: That's correct.

8 And so two of the affidavits they
9 brought for you today were signatures that are
10 already -- have already been accepted by the Board.

11 MR. SINNOTT: Yes.

12 MR. COLUMBO: So they don't need to
13 be added back in if the Board relies on the staff's
14 recommendation that signatures match. The other
15 three are new ones that Miss White is bringing to
16 the Board's attention for the first time at a
17 protest hearing. So especially since the
18 affidavits are improper, we would ask that they not
19 be considered.

20 MR. SINNOTT: Well, I would agree
21 that these are statements that have been presented
22 to us today, not affidavits. They're notarized
23 statements. I think it's also the case that the
24 only three signatures raised by the protest would
25 be the White, Davis, and Fitzgerald signatures.

1 MR. LECKLIDER: Mr. Chariman, I
2 would like to remind the Board that the protester
3 has the burden of proof, and the burden of proof in
4 this case is a preponderance of the evidence. I
5 haven't seen what's been presented to you by the
6 protester nor do I need to. But I'd remind you
7 that in this quasi-judicial setting that you have a
8 responsibility to consider all of the evidence
9 that's been presented to you.

10 MS. WHITE: May I approach the
11 Board? I have copies of my actual petitions if you
12 need to look at those to compare the signatures.

13 MEMBER SINNOTT: So given the three
14 signatures of -- that are the subject of the
15 protest, all three would have to be counted as
16 valid in order for there to be a sufficient number
17 on the candidacy petition?

18 MR. MACKEY: Correct.

19 MEMBER SINNOTT: I will make a
20 motion at the conclusion of my explanation of
21 motion.

22 So relative to Davis and Fitzgerald,
23 I am satisfied that there is a sufficient signature
24 match to count those two signatures. And I also
25 think that the Scott case suggests that we ought to

1 give consideration to and weight to the statements,
2 even if not affidavits, of Davis and Fitzgerald
3 presented to us at this protest hearing in which
4 Miss Davis and Mr. Fitzgerald affirm that they
5 signed the candidacy petition. So my motion will
6 count the Davis and Fitzgerald signatures.
7 However, the White signature, the candidate's own
8 signature, appears on a part petition which the
9 candidate circulated. That doesn't seem to be at
10 issue. She's -- And I believe the candidate has
11 also signed her own nominating petition. So for
12 those two reasons having to do with the shared
13 identity of a signator and the candidate, I would
14 not count the White signature as valid.

15 For those reasons, I move that the
16 Board count as valid the signatures of Virginia
17 Davis and Ronnie Fitzgerald but not count as valid
18 the candidacy petition signature of Tiffany White.

19 MEMBER MARINELLO: I second.

20 DIRECTOR LEONARD: There's a motion
21 and a second.

22 Is there any discussion?

23 Hearing no discussion, then I'll
24 roll call the vote.

25 Mr. Sinnott.

1 MEMBER SINNOTT: Yes.

2 DIRECTOR LEONARD: Mr. Preisse.

3 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: Yes.

4 DIRECTOR LEONARD: Mr. Sexton.

5 MEMBER SEXTON: Yes.

6 DIRECTOR LEONARD: And

7 Ms. Marinello.

8 MEMBER MARINELLO: Yes.

9 DIRECTOR LEONARD: Mr. Sinnott's
10 motion is approved.

11 MEMBER SINNOTT: Well, we sustained
12 the protest as to one signature, which leaves us
13 at, I believe, 49 signatures.

14 DIRECTOR LEONARD: 49 signatures.

15 So, then, previously Miss White had
16 been certified. So I think the Board should make a
17 motion that by virtue of granting the protest --

18 MEMBER SINNOTT: If we want to
19 confirm the outcome, we have just sustained the
20 protest as to Miss White's signature and the
21 implication of that is that she has 49 valid
22 signatures.

23 So I move that we sustain the
24 protest to the candidacy of Miss White and remove
25 her from the ballot.

1 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Wait. We
2 presented other signatures and also statements that
3 those people said, yes, we intended to sign, and
4 yes, this is our signature. So we went over and
5 above. We're actually at 52.

6 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: Hang on one
7 moment, please.

8 Did we have a motion?

9 DIRECTOR LEONARD: There is a
10 motion. There's no second. A motion on the floor
11 to accept the protest.

12 MEMBER SINNOTT: To sustain the
13 protest and remove Miss White as a candidate from
14 the ballot because she has an insufficient number
15 of signatures on the candidacy petition. That's
16 the motion.

17 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: Is there a
18 second?

19 MEMBER MARINELLO: Second.

20 DIRECTOR LEONARD: We have a motion
21 and a second. I'll take the vote.

22 Mr. Sinnott.

23 MEMBER SINNOTT: Yes.

24 DIRECTOR LEONARD: Mr. Preisse.

25 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: Yes.

1 DIRECTOR LEONARD: Mr. Sexton.

2 MEMBER SEXTON: Yes.

3 DIRECTOR LEONARD: And

4 Ms. Marinello.

5 MS. MARINELLO: Yes.

6 DIRECTOR LEONARD: All right. Then

7 Mr. Sinnott's motion is approved.

8 The next item on the agenda is the
9 certification of write-in candidates.

10 Jeff, do you want to speak to
11 Exhibit A that the Board members have? That's all
12 of the write-in candidates.

13 MR. MACKEY: In front of you I have
14 Exhibit A. It is a list of candidates who filed
15 declarations of intent to be a write-in candidate.
16 There are 30 names on your exhibit. Staff has
17 examined all those declarations and found them to
18 be timely filed, valid, and sufficient. 29 of them
19 are central committee and one Libertarian for U.S.
20 House of Representatives in the 12th District.

21 DIRECTOR LEONARD: Any questions?

22 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: None from me.

23 DIRECTOR LEONARD: I'd ask for a
24 motion to approve.

25 MEMBER MARINELLO: I move that the

1 Board certify the 30 candidates listed on Exhibit A
2 as valid write-in candidates for the offices they
3 are seeking on the March 17, 2020, primary election
4 ballot.

5 DIRECTOR LEONARD: Do I have a
6 second?

7 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: Second.

8 DIRECTOR LEONARD: All in favor say
9 aye.

10 (Vote taken.)

11 DIRECTOR LEONARD: Any nay votes?

12 (No response.)

13 DIRECTOR LEONARD: Hearing none, the
14 motion is approved.

15 The next item on the agenda is a
16 request for candidate withdrawal. We have already
17 had some candidates who have submitted a request to
18 withdrawal.

19 Jeff, do you wish to speak to that
20 for us, please?

21 MR. MACKEY: I received requests for
22 withdrawal from Greg Beswick in Dublin Ward 3,
23 Democratic County Central Committee; Bill DeMora,
24 Democratic County Central Committee, Columbus Ward
25 12; Pat Melton, Republican County Central

1 Committee, Columbus Ward 63; and Richard Schack,
2 Democratic County Central Committee in -- I forget.

3 DIRECTOR LEONARD: I noticed one of
4 those was listed as late, and that is
5 Mr. DeMora's --

6 MR. MACKEY: Mr. DeMora's name or
7 withdrawal was presented to us after the 70-day
8 deadline, so his name will not be able to come off
9 the ballot. So we will post notices in the voting
10 machines at the voting locations, in the early
11 voting and absentee center and included with
12 absentee mail ballots that he has withdrawn and
13 votes for him will not be counted.

14 DIRECTOR LEONARD: We'll address
15 those as separate.

16 MEMBER SINNOTT: I move that the
17 Board accept the request for withdrawal from the
18 March 17, 2020 primary election ballot of Pat
19 Melton, candidate for Republican County Central
20 Committee, Columbus Ward 63; Greg Beswick,
21 Democratic County Central Committee, Dublin Ward 3;
22 and Richard Schack, Democratic County Central
23 Committee, Columbus Ward 26; and that they shall
24 not appear on the primary election ballot.

25 DIRECTOR LEONARD: Do I have a

1 second?

2 MEMBER SEXTON: Second.

3 DIRECTOR LEONARD: All in favor say
4 aye.

5 (Vote taken.)

6 DIRECTOR LEONARD: Any nay votes?

7 (No response.)

8 DIRECTOR LEONARD: Hearing none, the
9 resolution is approved.

10 Next is the candidate withdrawal for
11 Mr. DeMora, since we're doing him separately.

12 MEMBER SINNOTT: Do we have a
13 writing that shows that Mr. DeMora has withdrawn?

14 DIRECTOR LEONARD: We do have an
15 email from Mr. DeMora.

16 MEMBER SEXTON: I move the Board
17 accept the late request for withdrawal from the
18 March 17th, 2020, primary election ballot of Bill
19 DeMora, Democratic County Central Committee, Ward
20 12, and that any votes cast for Bill DeMora shall
21 not be tabulated.

22 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: Second.

23 DIRECTOR LEONARD: All in favor say
24 aye.

25 (Vote taken.)

1 DIRECTOR LEONARD: All opposed.

2 (No response.)

3 DIRECTOR LEONARD: Hearing none, the
4 resolution is approved.

5 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: Two-minute pause.
6 Chairman's prerogative.

7 DIRECTOR LEONARD: Certainly.

8 (Brief recess taken.)

9 DIRECTOR LEONARD: The next item on
10 the agenda is the approval of the 2020 Election
11 Administration Plan. We're required by the
12 Secretary of State to present a detailed plan of
13 how we are going to carry out the responsibilities
14 that the Board of Elections has to perform the
15 election.

16 And so what we've done is taken the
17 plans that we've previously submitted to the
18 Secretary of State and updated them for 2020,
19 making sure that we incorporate some of the cyber
20 security requirements that the Secretary of State
21 has made as a result of their directive from July
22 of 2019 as well as, again, giving a very critical
23 eye to ensure that we are addressing all of the
24 necessary things that we need to address. There is
25 not a copy of that. We have a copy of it

1 available. We received input from all of the
2 managers from each of the divisions. They go
3 through their sections and update the information
4 relative to their particular divisions.

5 MEMBER MARINELLO: Is that available
6 online?

7 MR. WHITE: Not currently, but it
8 will be.

9 DIRECTOR LEONARD: And we had Antone
10 shepherd this process with our staff to make sure
11 that each manager provided input for the plan, that
12 we made sure that all of them agreed with one
13 another internally so there wasn't one manager
14 saying something different than what another
15 manager might address in their section, making sure
16 we had internal consistency within the plan and
17 making sure that it addressed all of the areas that
18 we needed to address, from communications, how we
19 handle precinct election officials, how we handle
20 the operations activity, logistics, voting
21 locations, and all the tasks that we perform at the
22 Board of Elections are covered in that.

23 Again, I want to commend Antone for
24 the work that he did in kind of coordinating this
25 with all the members of the team and also all the

1 members of the staff who helped make sure it was
2 comprehensive and addressed the things that we
3 needed to address.

4 MEMBER MARINELLO: Thank you
5 everybody.

6 DIRECTOR LEONARD: So we're asking
7 the Board -- we've submitted it to the Secretary of
8 State. It was due on Friday. But we also told
9 them we were going to submit it to the Board for
10 approval.

11 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: What happens at
12 the SOS now that it's been submitted?

13 DIRECTOR LEONARD: Susie O'Brien, if
14 you want to speak to that.

15 MS. O'BRIEN: I didn't hear what the
16 question was.

17 DIRECTOR LEONARD: Asking you about
18 what happens with regard to the Election
19 Administration Plan now that it has been submitted
20 to the Secretary of State.

21 MS. O'BRIEN: It is reviewed by our
22 office to make sure that it's complete and is a
23 solid plan. I don't think it's going to be on the
24 internet or on your website. The reason why is
25 that it's for your protection, it's your security

1 plan.

2 DIRECTOR LEONARD: Right.

3 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: Do we anticipate
4 hearing some affirmation back from the Secretary of
5 State's office that it's passed, okayed, approved,
6 or something?

7 MS. O'BRIEN: Yes. And I will
8 confirm that.

9 DIRECTOR LEONARD: I would be
10 certain that if there are some deficiencies in it
11 I'm sure the Secretary of State will let us know
12 where we can make improvements. So my hope would
13 be that it meets with their approval and that we'll
14 hear the same.

15 MEMBER MARINELLO: I move the Board
16 accept the 2020 Election --

17 MEMBER SINNOTT: Hang on a second.

18 So as I understand it, this document
19 is being presented to us for the first time right
20 now? The Board members are being asked to approve
21 it and plainly we haven't read it or had an
22 opportunity to read it. Is that right?

23 DIRECTOR LEONARD: Correct.

24 MEMBER SINNOTT: David is not here
25 today. Has David reviewed this document?

1 DIRECTOR LEONARD: Yes. It's been
2 reviewed by both of us as well as each manager from
3 the divisions that reviewed their particular
4 section. So again, we get input from them and then
5 the two of us review it. I've given feedback and
6 he's given feedback as well.

7 Antone can speak to that.

8 MR. WHITE: That's correct. And
9 also it's an updated version of previously
10 submitted plans that this Board has approved for
11 previous elections, most recently the 2018 general
12 election.

13 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: That was sort of
14 the nature of my question as it relates to the
15 Secretary of State. Because I haven't read this.
16 We dug in in previous years and discussed many of
17 the details and read through it. I haven't done
18 that with this one. That's kind of why I was
19 pointing to the Secretary of State's office for
20 their affirmation that, yeah, this is great. And I
21 think I heard --

22 MS. O'BRIEN: It was due on Friday
23 or it's like due right now, basically. And so I'm
24 sure that the Secretary of State has not read it
25 yet, our office has not read it yet; but they will

1 definitely get back to you if it's lacking or needs
2 improvement.

3 MR. WHITE: We submitted it on
4 Friday by the deadline with the note and caveat
5 that the final plan would be approved by this Board
6 at today's meeting and that we would then resubmit
7 the plan with the required Board signatures.

8 MEMBER SINNOTT: Well, -- and Ed,
9 I'll address this to you -- I notice that in this
10 document that the Board has not seen until now
11 there's some 12 pages of discussion of a
12 communication plan, and the idea of spending tax
13 dollars on radio and television ads is a
14 controversial one at this point right now. There
15 is nothing in this communication plan you're asking
16 us to approve that speaks to the purchasing of
17 television ads or radio ads. Is that correct?

18 DIRECTOR LEONARD: That's correct.

19 MEMBER SINNOTT: Okay.

20 MS. MARINELLO: I move that the
21 Board accept the 2020 Election Administration Plan
22 and authorize staff to send it to the Secretary of
23 State.

24 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: Second.

25 DIRECTOR LEONARD: All in favor say

1 aye.

2 (Vote taken.)

3 DIRECTOR LEONARD: Are there any nay
4 votes?

5 (No response.)

6 DEPUTY LEONARD: Hearing none, the
7 resolution is approved.

8 The next item on the agenda is we've
9 got a couple of positions that the Board has -- a
10 couple of individuals, I should say, that the Board
11 hired to fill some of the vacancies that have
12 existed as result of some departures.

13 And the first one is Sara Ziemba as
14 the voter services supervisor to replace Alicia
15 Healy, and she has been with us for quite a few
16 years now as a seasonal employee and has done a
17 great job for us. She has been a seasonal employee
18 of the precinct election official division and has
19 worked well for us and done a great job for us.
20 And David and I recommended that she be elevated to
21 the position of voter services supervisor.

22 MEMBER SINNOTT: I move that the
23 Franklin County Board of Elections hire Sara Ziemba
24 as the supervisor in voter services, a full-time
25 position, beginning Monday, January 6th, 2020, at a

1 rate of \$22.12 per hour.

2 MEMBER SEXTON: And I will second
3 the motion.

4 DIRECTOR LEONARD: I have a motion
5 and a second.

6 All in favor say aye.

7 (Vote taken.)

8 DIRECTOR LEONARD: And the motion is
9 approved.

10 The next is to hire Heidi Beck as
11 our fiscal clerk. As many of you know, Allison
12 Murray -- or Allison Waters has taken on a position
13 with another county agency and that position has
14 remained vacant for a while, but that we brought
15 Heidi Beck in to fill that role. She's worked for
16 us as a seasonal on a number of occasions on and
17 off over the last several years and whenever she's
18 worked with us has done a tremendous job. So,
19 again, is recommended to be placed in that
20 position. She's been with us for a couple of weeks
21 and I know Tu is very happy to have her and she's
22 doing well.

23 I don't know, Heidi, if you want to
24 raise your hand so the Board members can see you.

25 MEMBER SINNOTT: I move that the

1 Franklin County Board of Elections hire Heidi Beck
2 as a fiscal clerk, a full-time position, beginning
3 Monday, January 6, 2020, at a rate of \$19.24 per
4 hour.

5 MEMBER SEXTON: Second.

6 DIRECTOR LEONARD: I have a motion
7 and a second.

8 All in favor say aye.

9 (Vote taken.)

10 DIRECTOR LEONARD: Any nay votes?

11 (No response.)

12 DIRECTOR LEONARD: Hearing none, the
13 resolution is approved.

14 Next is with the departure of Mike
15 Weil in the operations section working with Carla
16 and a lot of the programming of the election, it's
17 created a vacancy there. And so there's a
18 recommendation to move Jim Bubutiev into that role.
19 Jim has been with us for a short while now, but in
20 the time that he's been with us he's really
21 demonstrated himself to be very conscientious,
22 attention to detail, and those who've worked with
23 him found him to be a great asset to the Board of
24 Elections and we think he would perform
25 exceptionally well in that role working with Carla

1 in the operations division.

2 MEMBER SEXTON: I move the Board
3 approve the transfer of Jim Bubutiev from computer
4 services department to the operations department
5 and increase his salary to \$22.12 per hour.

6 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: Second.

7 DIRECTOR LEONARD: I have a motion
8 and a second.

9 All in favor say aye.

10 (Vote taken.)

11 DIRECTOR LEONARD: The resolution is
12 approved.

13 Next order of business is the
14 purchase of blank ballot stock. In order to
15 prepare for the election, one of the things that
16 we're going to need is the ballot stock that the
17 Board uses for the ExpressVote, the ballot marking
18 machines, and it's a particular type of thermal
19 paper that we need to buy. And so what we're
20 asking is the ability to buy 700,000 sheets at a
21 cost -- of this thermal ballot paper at a cost not
22 to exceed \$78,000.

23 MEMBER SINNOTT: Would you explain
24 that in simple terms, Ed? What is it that we're
25 doing?

1 DIRECTOR LEONARD: Purchasing ballot
2 card stock. This is the thermal paper that we can
3 put into the ExpressVote. So when a voter uses the
4 touch screen voting device, the first step in the
5 process is to insert a ballot blank card. And on
6 that card when the voter finishes their process of
7 selections those selections are printed onto that
8 thermal ballot card and then that ballot card is
9 then inserted into the scanner. And those are
10 specialized thermal paper. And we have explored
11 looking at other vendors for them, but given where
12 we are in the election process we felt it safer to
13 go through this election buying them directly from
14 ES&S to ensure that they will function properly
15 with the equipment.

16 MEMBER SINNOTT: And these 700,000
17 sheets will get us through the primary and the
18 general election?

19 DIRECTOR LEONARD: I'll have to
20 check with Carla.

21 Carla?

22 MS. PATTON: Any unused stock that's
23 returned will be used in future elections, whether
24 it be for special elections or to supplement the
25 general election as well.

1 MEMBER SINNOTT: So it sounds as
2 though we expect to get through the primary and the
3 general election with 700,000 of these?

4 MS. PATTON: There may be a smaller
5 supplemental order for the general election
6 depending upon the turnout at the primary election,
7 but the plan is for the bulk of those to carry over
8 for the general election as well.

9 DIRECTOR LEONARD: I mean, that is
10 the benefit of this is that this is not election
11 specific and anything that's not used can be used
12 for subsequent elections.

13 MEMBER SINNOTT: Thank you.

14 DIRECTOR LEONARD: Do I have a
15 motion?

16 MEMBER SEXTON: I move that the
17 Board authorize the purchase of 700,000 sheets of
18 blank ballot thermal paper card stock in an amount
19 not to exceed \$78,000.

20 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: Second.

21 DIRECTOR LEONARD: I have a motion
22 and a second.

23 All in favor say aye.

24 (Vote taken.)

25 DIRECTOR LEONARD: Any nay votes?

1 (No response.)

2 DIRECTOR LEONARD: Hearing none, the
3 resolution is approved.

4 The next item on the agenda is
5 regarding employee pay raises, a cost of living
6 increase. The County Commissioners have authorized
7 for a two percent increase to our salary lines for
8 a cost of living increase for full-time employees.
9 That has already been placed in our budget and is
10 available to be disbursed. So the Deputy Director
11 and I would ask that the Board authorize our
12 payroll staff to increase all full-time employees
13 by the two percent cost of living increase.

14 MEMBER MARINELLO: I move that the
15 Board accept the supplemental appropriation from
16 the Franklin County Commissioners for a two percent
17 pay increase for all full-time, non-bargaining
18 employees of the Board of Elections and that this
19 pay increase be made retroactive to the pay period
20 beginning December 23rd, 2019.

21 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: Second.

22 DIRECTOR LEONARD: All in favor say
23 aye.

24 (Vote taken.)

25 DIRECTOR LEONARD: Any nay votes?

1 (No response.)

2 DIRECTOR LEONARD: Hearing none, the
3 resolution is approved.

4 The last item on the agenda we have
5 relates to the Youth at the Booth program. The
6 Youth at the Booth program, we've worked with an
7 entity that's kids voting through the education
8 service center here in central Ohio. And we've
9 spoken with the individuals that are tasked to us
10 from the educational service center to facilitate
11 the Youth at the Booth program for Franklin County,
12 and they're looking to retire. And they approached
13 us and expressed that they thought it would be more
14 beneficial for the Board of Elections to simply
15 bring the program into the Board of Elections, the
16 Youth at the Booth program into the Board of
17 Elections, that we would probably do it a lot more
18 efficiently and more cost effectively.

19 Steve, did you want to speak at all
20 to the --

21 We have Steve Bulen who heads the
22 precinct election official division. He was
23 brought into that conversation and agreed that he
24 thought that this is a function that is vital to
25 what we do, they do help train the young people

1 that work at the polls and that Youth at the Booth
2 program is a valuable program to our operation and
3 it was worthwhile for us to bring that under the
4 umbrella of the Board of Elections rather than
5 contracting with the educational service center.
6 Because in the past the Board has approved
7 contracts that -- I think the last contract was
8 \$45,000 a year, a contract with the educational
9 service center for the services that they provided
10 to conduct the Youth at the Booth program.

11 So Steve, is there more that you
12 wanted to address as it relates to that?

13 MR. BULEN: I think, Director
14 Leonard, you've covered it. We believe that by
15 moving it in-house with a seasonal position that
16 we'll be able to increase the value of the program
17 and build upon the strong foundation that the Kids
18 Voting staff has provided for us. So we're really
19 excited about the opportunity and believe that the
20 program is just going to continue to grow and get
21 even better as a result. So this will be a
22 seasonal position. You have the figures in front
23 of you of what we have contracted with the Kids
24 Voting prior to this and we have calculated out the
25 cost of the seasonal position moving it in-house.

1 DIRECTOR LEONARD: Because
2 essentially we already have an individual who works
3 for us on a seasonal basis who works with the staff
4 on the Youth at the Booth program already. So this
5 individual would just simply take on more
6 responsibility than she currently has as it relates
7 to the Youth at the Booth program.

8 MR. BULEN: Correct.

9 DIRECTOR LEONARD: Lori is back
10 there.

11 MR. BULEN: We at the Board have
12 responsibility working with Kids Voting, and Lori
13 was assigned to complete those responsibilities.
14 So we just thought it would be a natural
15 progression to -- And the report that you have,
16 Lori put those ideas together. So she's -- we're
17 trying to keep up with her because she's well
18 moving forward on let's take this program to the
19 next level.

20 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: Are we accepting
21 any increased liability in any way with this
22 transformation?

23 DIRECTOR LEONARD: No.

24 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: Legal liability.

25 DIRECTOR LEONARD: Because, again,

1 our trainers are involved in training Youth at the
2 Booth. So the liability would remain the same.

3 MR. BULEN: We will continue with
4 the processes that were in place by Kids Voting.
5 So there's information sent to parents, information
6 sent to students. We will continue that.

7 DIRECTOR LEONARD: Coordination with
8 the schools in terms of times when training is
9 going to be conducted; but in terms of liability
10 issues, our staff would still be going out just as
11 they are now to conduct some of the training.

12 MEMBER SINNOTT: And the fiscal end
13 of this is that we used to give \$50,000 to Kids
14 Voting to do this and we're going to pay Lori less
15 than 25,000 to do the same thing.

16 MR. BULEN: Correct.

17 MEMBER SINNOTT: So we'll be saving
18 25,000 in the process?

19 MR. BULEN: Correct.

20 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: Do kids drive
21 themselves to the polling locations?

22 MR. BULEN: They are responsible for
23 getting there themselves.

24 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: And there's a
25 note in here that -- Is it currently just high

1 school seniors that are eligible?

2 MR. BULEN: That is correct.

3 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: But there's an
4 initiative headed by the elections officials
5 association to lower that age or lower the class?

6 MR. BULEN: I'm not privy to that
7 information. I know --

8 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: There's a note in
9 here. I just wondered.

10 MR. BULEN: We've had some
11 discussions about getting some juniors involved in
12 the process as well, but they wouldn't be actual
13 poll workers. But they could be like technical
14 advisors to help us with some of the technical
15 devices that we use. But that's just on the
16 horizon. We're just beginning discussing that.

17 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: Thank you.

18 DIRECTOR LEONARD: Do I have a
19 motion?

20 MEMBER SINNOTT: In that Kids Voting
21 is no longer performing the tasks of recruiting and
22 training high school students to be poll workers, I
23 move that the Board grant authorization for the
24 Youth at the Booth program to be run exclusively by
25 staff at the Board of Elections.

1 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: Second.

2 DIRECTOR LEONARD: I have a motion
3 and a second.

4 All in favor say aye.

5 (Vote taken.)

6 DIRECTOR LEONARD: Thank you, Steve.
7 The resolution is approved.

8 The only other item we wanted before
9 we concluded was the February 3rd meeting, whether
10 we need to have a February 3rd meeting. Normally
11 we conduct our regular board meeting on the first
12 Monday of the month, but I'm not aware of anything
13 that would need to be addressed at the February 3rd
14 meeting.

15 MEMBER SINNOTT: Well, let's not
16 meet just for the sake of meeting. If there's
17 nothing to be done, I think we could wait until
18 March.

19 DIRECTOR LEONARD: Right. The only
20 other issue will be paper ballot allocations and
21 machine allocations, but we can do those at --

22 MS. PATTON: Within 30 days of the
23 election.

24 DIRECTOR LEONARD: Right. So a
25 March meeting would be sufficient.

1 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: The 2nd or 3rd.
2 That's plenty of time to anticipate challenges for
3 the 17th is what you're saying?

4 DIRECTOR LEONARD: Right. And if we
5 have any contracts or anything that might need
6 approval by the Board, we can do that.

7 MEMBER SINNOTT: And since the
8 primary is Tuesday, the 17th of March, do we need
9 to meet on Monday, March 16th, to open the polls?

10 DIRECTOR LEONARD: Yes, we could
11 meet then.

12 MEMBER SINNOTT: That would seem to
13 make sense, wouldn't it?

14 DIRECTOR LEONARD: As opposed to
15 having a March 2nd meeting, you're saying?

16 MEMBER SINNOTT: Yeah.

17 MEMBER MARINELLO: You have to get
18 that approval 30 days before the election?

19 MS. PATTON: Applications must be
20 approved for the second time within 30 days of the
21 election. So basically anytime from February 15th
22 to March 16th we would move forward --

23 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: The election
24 meaning election day and not early voting?

25 MS. PATTON: We don't have to do

1 anything with the early voting.

2 MEMBER SINNOTT: So on March 16th we
3 could do the second?

4 DIRECTOR LEONARD: Yes.

5 MEMBER SINNOTT: Well, why don't we
6 think in terms of having our March meeting on the
7 16th, then.

8 DIRECTOR LEONARD: It would be a
9 reschedule of the regularly scheduled Board
10 meeting.

11 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: If something
12 comes up, you'll tell us and we can have an
13 emergency meeting.

14 MEMBER SEXTON: Regular time on the
15 16th?

16 DIRECTOR LEONARD: 3 o'clock.

17 MR. WHITE: So we will cancel
18 February and reschedule March.

19 MEMBER SINNOTT: I move we adjourn.

20 MEMBER MARINELLO: Second.

21 DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: All in
22 favor.

23 (Vote taken.)

24 DIRECTOR LEONARD: We are adjourned.

25 - - -

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

Thereupon, documents were marked for purposes of identification as Exhibit B.

- - -

Thereupon, the proceedings were adjourned at approximately 11:13 a.m.

- - -

EXHIBIT A

Write-in Candidate Declarations Recommended
for Board Certification to the
March 17, 2020 Primary Election Ballot

Exhibit A: Declarations of Intent to be Write-in Candidates Recommended for Board Certification to the March 17, 2020 Primary Election Ballot

US House of Representatives: John S. Stewart (Libertarian)
12th District Full Term

County Central Committee: Aristotle L. Hutras (Democratic)
Brown Township Full Term

County Central Committee: Greg Sharp (Republican)
Brown Township Full Term

County Central Committee: Jonathon Field (Republican)
Columbus Ward 03 Full Term

County Central Committee: Julie Kyle (Republican)
Columbus Ward 06 Full Term

County Central Committee: Tiffany White (Democratic)
Columbus Ward 06 Full Term

County Central Committee: Jordan Tucker (Republican)
Columbus Ward 08 Full Term

County Central Committee: Nazar Zhdan (Republican)
Columbus Ward 08 Full Term

County Central Committee: Dan Bonner (Republican)
Columbus Ward 13 Full Term

County Central Committee: April Herbster (Republican)
Columbus Ward 17 Full Term

County Central Committee: Dan Coleman (Republican)
Columbus Ward 26 Full Term

County Central Committee: Nathan T. Slonaker (Republican)
Columbus Ward 28 Full Term

Exhibit A: Declarations of Intent to be Write-in Candidates Recommended for Board Certification to the March 17, 2020 Primary Election Ballot

County Central Committee: Jim Heinlein (Republican)

Columbus Ward 29 Full Term

County Central Committee: Brian Holycross (Republican)

Columbus Ward 44 Full Term

County Central Committee: Shareeque Arife Sadiq (Republican)

Columbus Ward 44 Full Term

County Central Committee: Lauren V. Barnett (Democratic)

Columbus Ward 47 Full Term

County Central Committee: Erick Bellomy (Democratic)

Columbus Ward 49 Full Term

County Central Committee: Glenna Keys (Republican)

Columbus Ward 50 Full Term

County Central Committee: Chris Bartony (Republican)

Columbus Ward 55 Full Term

County Central Committee: Blair Cathcart (Republican)

Columbus Ward 55 Full Term

County Central Committee: Adam Kuhn (Republican)

Columbus Ward 59 Full Term

County Central Committee: Stephen Katona (Republican)

Columbus Ward 61 Full Term

County Central Committee: John A. Guthrie (Republican)

Columbus Ward 74 Full Term

County Central Committee: Kerri Hoover (Democratic)

Columbus Ward 76 Full Term

Exhibit A: Declarations of Intent to be Write-in Candidates Recommended for Board Certification to the March 17, 2020 Primary Election Ballot

County Central Committee: William A. Dodson, Jr. (Republican)

Columbus Ward 83 Full Term

County Central Committee: Mary Alleger (Democratic)

Columbus Ward 84 Full Term

County Central Committee: John M. Hicks (Republican)

Gahanna Ward 03 Full Term

County Central Committee: Quinton Heisler (Republican)

Norwich Township Full Term

County Central Committee: Dan Miller (Democratic)

Whitehall Ward 2 Full Term

County Central Committee: Lee Stahley (Republican)

Whitehall Ward 2 Full Term



My name is Tammy D Rue I reside at 2264 Holt. I am a qualified elector in Franklin County, Ohio. I certify that this is my signature on Line 19 of petition Number 000689. I certify that I signed the petition for Tiffany White to run for The Ohio House of Representatives 25th District on December 7 2019.

Tammy D Rue
Tammy D Rue Signature
1/20/20 Date

LINDA STUBBS
State of Ohio
Commission expires 04/08/20

My name is Tiffany Harman I reside at 1999 Dorset Ave. I am a qualified elector in Franklin County, Ohio. I certify that this is my signature on Line 6 of petition Number 000689. I certify that I signed the petition for Tiffany White to run for The Ohio House of Representatives 25th District on December 7 2019.

Tiffany Harman Signature
1/19/20 Date

LINDA STUBBS
State of Ohio
Commission expires 04/08/20

My name is Mark Snoot, I reside at 1612 Cordell!. I am a qualified elector in Franklin County, Ohio. I certify that this is my signature on Line 11 of petition Number 000689. I certify that I signed the petition for Tiffany White to run for The Ohio House of Representatives 25th District on December 7 2019.

Mark Snoot Signature

1/20/20 Date

LINDA STUBBS
State of Ohio
Commission expires 04/08/20

My name is Ronnie Fitzgerald I reside at 2564 Rainwood I am a qualified elector in Franklin County, Ohio. I certify that this is my signature on Line 1 of petition Number 000688. I certify that I signed the petition for Tiffany White to run for The Ohio House of Representatives 25th District on December 7 2019.

Ronnie Fitzgerald Signature
1/19/2020 Date

LINDA STUBBS
State of Ohio
Commission expires 04/08/20

My name is Virginia Davis, I reside at 4136 Clayridge I am a qualified elector in Franklin County, Ohio. I certify that this is my signature on Line 16 of petition Number 000688. I certify that I signed the petition for Tiffany White to run for The Ohio House of Representatives 25th District on December 7 2019.

Virginia Davis Signature
1-19-20 Date

LINDA STUBBS
State of Ohio
Commission expires 04/08/20