

BEFORE THE FRANKLIN COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS

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In Re: :
Special Meeting. :

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MAY 26, 2020

PROCEEDINGS VIA ZOOM OF THE
FRANKLIN COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS

before Chairman Douglas J. Preisse, Director Edward Leonard, Deputy Director David Payne, 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 Monday, May 26, 2020, beginning at approximately 1:29 p.m., and concluding at approximately 1:44 p.m.

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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:

Matt Kelly
Carla Patton
Antone White, Executive Assistant to the
Board, Director, and Deputy Director

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AGENDA ITEMS

PAGE

Selection of Voting Precincts for Recount

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Tuesday Afternoon Session
May 26, 2020
1:29 p.m.

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DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: I'm going to
take roll here.

Kim Marinello.

MEMBER MARINELLO: Here.

DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: Mike Sexton.

MEMBER SEXTON: Here.

DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: Doug
Preisse.

CHAIRMAN PREISSE: I'm here.

DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: And Brad
Sinnott.

MEMBER SINNOTT: Here.

DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: We have a
quorum.

Thank you for getting on today. We
received notice on Friday afternoon from Delaware
County that -- they're the most populous county in
the 19th Senate District and they indicated that
there is a need for a recount. So that's why we're
here today. And what we'll want to do is select
the precincts in the 19th State Senate District
State Committee race in order to do a recount.

1 So what I would entertain now, if
2 possible, is a motion to -- for the selection of
3 voting precincts and recount in the race for
4 Republican State Central Committee in the 19th
5 State Senate District.

6 MEMBER SEXTON: Mr. Chairman,
7 Michael Sexton. I would move that the results from
8 the Republican State Central Committee, 19th State
9 Senate District requires a recount, and I move that
10 the Board conduct a recount by precincts using the
11 precinct names for each of the precincts in the
12 19th State Senate District.

13 DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: Is there a
14 second?

15 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: This is Doug
16 Preisse. I second the motion.

17 DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: Motion
18 carries.

19 What I'd like to do before we get to
20 this is actually turn it over to Matt Kelly. We
21 did have recounts in three other races, Matt, that
22 we did this morning. You want to give a report on
23 that real quick?

24 MR. KELLY: Good morning. Or
25 afternoon, I should say.

1 This morning the absentee and
2 operations department conducted three recounts in
3 the contests for Democratic Central Committee race
4 in Grove City Ward 4, the Republican Central
5 Committee race in Grove City Ward 4, and the
6 Republican Central Committee race in Columbus Ward
7 55.

8 To conduct the recounts, three teams
9 of sworn Board of Elections employees containing
10 one Republican and one Democrat were formed to
11 check and balance the hand recount of five percent
12 of the ballots in each of these contests.

13 In the first race, for Democratic
14 Central Committee in Grove City Ward 4, a hand
15 recount was conducted in Grove City 4G resulting in
16 no changes in the results of the official previous
17 vote tally, with candidate Alecia Chenault
18 receiving 25 votes and candidate Rodney French
19 receiving 21 votes and a total of 18 under votes.
20 Upon verification of no changes in Grove City 4G, a
21 complete recount of all the Democratic ballots in
22 Grove City Ward 4 was conducted by electronic
23 scanner. The total recount resulted in no changes
24 to the officially reported tally of 288 votes for
25 candidate Alecia Chenault and 287 votes for

1 candidate Rodney French and a total of 170 under
2 votes.

3 The race for Republican Central
4 Committee in Grove City Ward 4 a hand count was
5 also conducted. This time we chose Grove City 4B
6 resulting in no changes in the results of the
7 official previous vote tally with candidate Steven
8 Robinette receiving 39 votes and candidate R. Roby
9 Schottke receiving 43 votes and a total of seven
10 under votes. Upon verification of no changes in
11 Grove City 4B, the complete recount of all the
12 Republican ballots in Grove City Ward 4 was
13 conducted by electronic scanner. The total recount
14 resulted in no changes to the officially recorded
15 tally of 259 votes for candidate Steven Robinette
16 and 261 votes For candidate R. Roby Schottke and a
17 total of 50 under votes.

18 In the third race, the race for
19 Republican Central Committee, Columbus Ward 55, a
20 hand recount was conducted in Columbus 55A. This
21 resulted in no changes in the results from the
22 official previous vote tally with write-in
23 candidate Chris Bartony receiving one vote and
24 write-in candidate Blair Cathcart receiving zero
25 votes. This count also included two votes for a

1 non-valid write-in candidate and a total of seven
2 under votes. Upon verification of no changes in
3 Columbus 55A, a complete recount of all the
4 Republican ballots in the remainder of Columbus 55
5 was conducted by hand because both candidates in
6 the contest were, in fact, write-in candidates.
7 This total hand recount of all Republican ballots
8 cast in Columbus Ward 55 resulted in no changes to
9 the officially recorded tally of five votes for
10 write-in candidate Chris Bartony and five votes for
11 write-in candidate Blair Cathcart and a total of 33
12 under votes.

13 DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: Matt, this
14 is David Payne. You may want to remind the Board
15 that we had a coin toss in that final race.

16 MR. KELLY: Correct.

17 In Columbus Ward 55 at the last
18 Board meeting the coin toss was won by Chris
19 Bartony; therefore, with no results changing, the
20 coin toss would stand.

21 DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: Very good.
22 Thank you, Matt.

23 MEMBER MARINELLO: Thanks, Matt.

24 DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: Now we'll go
25 back to the 19th State Central Committee Republican

1 Senate District.

2 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: David, I don't
3 know if you're about to call for a vote or not.
4 Could you tell us who are the candidates involved
5 here?

6 DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: I'm sorry.
7 It's Eileen Watts and Melanie Leneghan.

8 MR. PREISSE: Thank you.

9 DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: You're
10 welcome.

11 So what I thought I would do is turn
12 it over to Carla Patton to explain the process of
13 drawing the precincts that we'll recount.

14 MEMBER SINNOTT: David, I believe
15 there's a motion pending.

16 MR. PREISSE: Yeah. We didn't
17 actually vote.

18 DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: On?

19 MEMBER SINNOTT: On Chairman
20 Sexton's motion.

21 DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: Oh, I'm
22 sorry.

23 Okay. So there's a motion pending
24 regarding the counting -- on the recount in the
25 19th State Senate Central Committee District.

1 All those in favor of the motion
2 signify by saying aye.

3 MEMBER MARINELLO: Kim Marinello,
4 aye.

5 MEMBER SEXTON: Aye, Mike Sexton.

6 DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: And Doug
7 Preisse.

8 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: Aye.

9 DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: And Brad
10 Sinnott.

11 MEMBER SINNOTT: Yes.

12 DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: Motion
13 carries.

14 Now let's go to the explanation of
15 the drawing of the precincts.

16 MS. PATTON: Good afternoon.

17 So the purpose of this is to draw
18 the precincts to get to the five percent of the
19 total ballots cast within that district pursuant to
20 the Revised Code that we must hand-count five
21 percent of the ballots cast in the race and scan
22 those in. As long as everything matches, then we
23 recount the rest of the race using the scanners.

24 Right now -- So in that district we
25 had 3,195 Republican ballots cast for State Central

1 Committee in the 19th Senate District. Five
2 percent of the 3,195 ballots is 160. On the table
3 here -- and Ed is showing you a picture -- we have
4 91 precincts in that district of Franklin County.
5 There is a slip for 91 precincts laying here on the
6 table. On each of those slips the precinct is
7 identified as well as the number of ballots cast
8 within that district. Each row has ten slips,
9 there's nine rows of slips, with one -- a tenth row
10 with one slip in there.

11 DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: We're not
12 seeing anything on the --

13 MS. PATTON: It's on Director
14 Leonard's screen. Can you zoom in on one so you
15 can see a ballots cast? So you can see there's a
16 precinct on there along with the number, and that
17 bottom number represents the number of ballots cast
18 within that precinct for the Republican primary.
19 We're going to put all these slips into a tin and
20 we will randomly draw precincts out of here until
21 we reach 160 votes or greater to hand-count.

22 Do you have any questions?

23 Okay. The bipartisan team to draw
24 the votes is?

25 MR. KELLY: This is Matt Kelly,

1 Democrat.

2 MS. PATTON: Carla Patton,
3 Republican.

4 MR. KELLY: The first one is
5 Columbus 71F, 8 votes.

6 The second one, Columbus 59C, 45
7 votes.

8 The next one, Columbus 53C, 70
9 votes.

10 The next is Columbus 42C, 22 votes.

11 DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: I've got us
12 at 146. Is that right so far? Okay.

13 MR. KELLY: The next one is Columbus
14 59F, 25 votes.

15 DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: In my math,
16 that gives us the number we need, 171.

17 MR. KELLY: That's verified here as
18 well.

19 MS. PATTON: So these are the
20 precincts that we will hand count and then scan the
21 ballots. Provided that the ballot results count
22 through the scanner the same as the hand-count,
23 then we'll continue with the full district using
24 the scanning.

25 DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: I believe

1 what is required is for us to give notification to
2 both of the candidates, give a five-day notice. So
3 that would put us at a recount of June 1st. Is
4 that correct?

5 MR. WHITE: Yes, that's correct.

6 DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: Great.

7 And do we have -- Matt Kelly, do we
8 have a start time on --

9 MR. KELLY: 9:00 a.m.

10 DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: 9:00 a.m. on
11 June 1st here at the Franklin County Board of
12 Elections, 1700 Morse Road.

13 MR. KELLY: Correct.

14 DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: And the
15 campaigns are entitled to have observers here for
16 the recount?

17 MR. KELLY: Correct.

18 DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: Does anybody
19 have any questions, comments, or concerns regarding
20 the process or anything?

21 If not, I believe that concludes
22 today's board meeting. I would be looking for a
23 motion to adjourn.

24 MEMBER MARINELLO: So moved,
25 Mr. Chairman. This is Kim Marinello.

1 DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: Is there a
2 second?

3 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: Second, Doug
4 Preisse.

5 DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: I'll go
6 ahead and take roll.

7 Kim Marinello.

8 MEMBER MARINELLO: Yes.

9 DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: Mike Sexton.

10 MEMBER SEXTON: Yes.

11 DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: Doug
12 Preisse.

13 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: Yes.

14 DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: And Brad
15 Sinnott.

16 Fantastic. We are adjourned. Thank
17 you.

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19 Thereupon, the proceedings were
20 concluded at approximately 1:44 p.m.

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THE STATE OF OHIO:

SS:

COUNTY OF FRANKLIN:

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

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

That the foregoing occurred at the aforementioned time and place;

That I am not an attorney for or relative of any of the parties and have no interest whatsoever in the event of this matter.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and official seal of office at Columbus, Ohio, this 5th day of July, 2020.

/s/Carla D. Castle
Notary Public, State of Ohio

My Commission Expires: September 29, 2021.

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