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FRANKLIN COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS

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In Re:
Regular Meeting

- - -

April 1, 2024

Before Chairman Douglas Preisse,
Director Antone White, Deputy Director David Payne,
Member Michael Sexton, Member Kimberly Marinello,
Member Meredith Freedhoff, taken before me,
Kimberly A. Kaz, Registered Professional Reporter
and Notary Public in and for the State of Ohio, at
the Franklin County Board of Elections, on Monday,
April 1, 2024, commencing at approximately
3:05 p.m. and concluding at approximately 3:37 p.m.

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ALSO PRESENT:
Erin Gibbons
Travis Simmons
Sara Ziemba
Jeff Mackey
Brian Zagrocki, Esq.

Higgins & Associates
Court Reporting - Legal Video - Videoconference
4889 Sinclair Road, Suite 102
Columbus, Ohio 43229
**614.985.DEPO (3376) *888.244.1211*

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P R O C E E D I N G S

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3 DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: Looks like
4 we're all here, but I'll go ahead and take roll.

5 Kim Marinello.

6 MEMBER MARINELLO: Here.

7 DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: Mike Sexton.

8 MEMBER SEXTON: Here.

9 DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: Doug
10 Preisse.

11 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: Here.

12 DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: And Meredith
13 Freedhoff.

14 MEMBER FREEDHOFF: Here.

15 DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: We have a
16 quorum, Mr. Chairman.

17 The first item on the agenda is the
18 approval of minutes from the March 18th, 2024
19 meeting of the Franklin County Board of Elections.
20 And I believe Erin sent those out to everybody and
21 hopefully you had a chance to peruse those.

22 MEMBER MARINELLO: Yes.

23 Mr. Chairman, I move the Board approve the minutes
24 of the March 18th, 2024 meeting of the Franklin

1 County Board of Elections as submitted.

2 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: Second.

3 DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: It's been
4 properly moved and seconded. All those in favor of
5 the motion, signify by saying aye.

6 (Vote taken.)

7 DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: All opposed,
8 same sign.

9 (No response.)

10 DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: The motion
11 carries.

12 The next item on the agenda is
13 provisional ballots, and I will turn that over to
14 the voter services department, Travis or Sara or
15 both.

16 MR. SIMMONS: I'll start and then
17 Sara will take over as normal.

18 DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: Fantastic.

19 MR. SIMMONS: Good afternoon. I'm
20 Travis Simmons. I'm the manager of the voter
21 services department and I wanted to briefly
22 overview the steps that we take to process
23 provisional ballots before Sara, the supervisor of
24 our department, as normal, gives a very detailed

1 presentation of our exhibit for the
2 March 19th, 2024 primary election with provisional
3 totals recommended for Board approval, rejection
4 and also consideration.

5 As all of you know, early voting for
6 the March 19th, 2024 primary election began on
7 February the 21st and our staff processed the daily
8 intake of early vote provisional ballots beginning
9 the 22nd. Our early vote provisional ballots were
10 processed before election day by bipartisan teams
11 in our department, and the total number of early
12 vote provisional ballots that we intook [sic] was
13 694 early vote provisional ballots.

14 Every election night, our staff
15 intakes and counts the election day provisional
16 ballots from the voting locations for this
17 election. There were 304 voting locations for this
18 March primary. On election night, we collected
19 1,026 provisional ballots, which gives us a total
20 of 1,720 provisional ballots combining early vote
21 and election day.

22 Election night, we count the
23 provisional ballots for a preliminary count and the
24 next morning, we recount the provisional ballots to

1 confirm that our totals were correct. Later that
2 day, after we confirm the totals were correct, we
3 worked in 18 bipartisan teams that processed the
4 provisional ballots. These bipartisan teams
5 included our full-time staff, our seasonal staff,
6 PEO trainers, voting location managers and staff
7 from the early vote center. We're always thankful
8 for the assistance we get from other departments to
9 help us process these provisional ballots in,
10 particular from the absentee department and the PEO
11 department.

12 Our staff completed the process of
13 election day provisional ballots in a day and a
14 half and we spent one extra day with cleanup and
15 verifying the counts. You may also want to know,
16 and Sara may get into this in her presentation, but
17 19 voters came into the BOE before the deadline on
18 Saturday, March the 23rd, to cure their provisional
19 ballots. These voters cured their provisional
20 ballots because they did not show
21 proper -- successfully cure their provisional
22 ballots because they did not show proper photo
23 identification at the time in which they cast their
24 ballot.

1 So after this brief discussion, just
2 really going to give it to Sara 'cause Sara can
3 walk you through the entire exhibit with the number
4 of ballots we wish to be approved and to be
5 rejected. Thank you.

6 DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: Thank you,
7 Travis.

8 DIRECTOR WHITE: Thank you, Travis.

9 MS. ZIEMBA: Good afternoon,
10 everyone. I'm Sara Ziemba, the supervisor in the
11 voter services department, and I am going to go
12 over the Exhibit A that you should all have in your
13 packet regarding the provisional ballots that voter
14 services, after our bipartisan review, is going to
15 recommend that the Board accept or approve, reject,
16 and then 11 that we have for consideration that
17 will take an action by the Board to determine if
18 they'll be approved for rejected.

19 The first item that we have are the
20 1,405 provisional ballots that we are recommending
21 that the Board move to approve today. And in order
22 for a provisional ballot to be approved by the
23 Board and counted in the official certification of
24 the election, the voter has to meet two criteria

1 and provide five required pieces of information
2 according to Ohio Revised Code 3505. And the two
3 conditions that every voter has to meet are that
4 they have to be registered to vote somewhere in the
5 State of Ohio for 30 days before the election, and
6 they cannot have cast another ballot for the given
7 election that they have cast the provisional ballot
8 that you would approve.

9 And then the five required pieces of
10 information that every voter has to provide are
11 their name, their date of birth, a valid
12 residential address in Franklin County, their
13 signature, and, of course, a piece of photo
14 identification, which is an unexpired
15 identification with their picture that matches who
16 they are reasonably, that is either your State of
17 Ohio Driver's License or state ID card, US passport
18 or passport card and US military ID, Veteran's
19 Affair card or Ohio National Guard card. And those
20 names have to match the name that is in the voter
21 registration database and the picture and has to
22 match and it can't be expired. So all of the 1,405
23 voters that we are going to recommend that you
24 approve their ballots today met the two conditions

1 and gave us all five required pieces of
2 information.

3 And without further ado, we have a
4 team of all of our staff waiting back in the ballot
5 vault, so if there aren't any questions to open
6 these, we would ask that the Board make a motion to
7 approve the ballots and then give us authorization
8 to extract and remake any that might need to be
9 remade when we open them.

10 DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: And you said
11 1,405?

12 MS. ZIEMBA: 1,405.

13 MEMBER SEXTON: Mr. Chairman, I move
14 the Board approve the counting of 1,405 provisional
15 ballots, and that all provisional ballots deemed
16 valid will be counted and included in the official
17 canvass for the March 19th, 2024 primary election.

18 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: Second.

19 DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: It's been
20 properly moved and seconded. All those in favor of
21 the motion, signify by saying aye.

22 (Vote taken.)

23 DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: All opposed,
24 same sign.

1 (No response.)

2 DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: The motion
3 carries.

4 I think you're asking now for a
5 motion for the extraction of those 1,405?

6 MS. ZIEMBA: That's right.

7 MEMBER MARINELLO: Mr. Chairman, I
8 move that the Board authorize the staff to extract
9 the approved provisional ballots.

10 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: Second.

11 DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: It's been
12 properly moved and seconded. All those in favor of
13 the motion, signify saying aye.

14 (Vote taken.)

15 DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: All opposed,
16 same sign.

17 (No response.)

18 DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: Motion
19 carries.

20 The next item on the agenda is the
21 rejection of provisional ballots. And, again, I'll
22 turn that over to Sara.

23 MS. ZIEMBA: Great. Thank you,
24 David.

1 All right. For the next section,
2 and I guess I should say it louder so they can
3 hear, we have Debbie Curry and Steve Losbach [sic]
4 in the ballot vault who are organizing our team to
5 extract those ballots, so, hopefully, they heard
6 that and are getting started on that.

7 The grand total that we recommend
8 that the Board reject today is 304 provisional
9 ballots, and I'll go through and detail the reason
10 why we would recommend that the Board reject these
11 ballots. As is the case for the Board to approve
12 the ballot, if the voter does not meet the two
13 required criteria, being registered and not casting
14 another ballot, or if they fail to provide any of
15 the five required items, which, again, is the name,
16 date of birth, photo ID, valid residential address
17 in Franklin County and the signature, any -- the
18 lack of any one of those required items is reason
19 enough for the Board to reject the provisional
20 ballot in accordance with Ohio Revised Code 3505
21 and Secretary of State directives that are issued
22 each election.

23 So for the first category, we have
24 175 voters who fall into this category, and these

1 are voters who are not registered anywhere in the
2 State of Ohio. And just as background for every
3 provisional ballot that our team receives, our
4 bipartisan processing teams will conduct three
5 searches within the Franklin County registration
6 database to try and locate the voter to see if
7 they're registered, and then they conduct an
8 additional three searches in the Ohio Secretary of
9 State's statewide voter registration database. And
10 if, at any point during the three searches in
11 either database that the voter is not found after
12 we do all of those searches, our first
13 pair -- processing pair assigns that one as a not
14 registered to vote.

15 In order to make sure that every
16 ballot in Franklin County is thoroughly researched,
17 any ballot that we're going to talk about that I'm
18 recommending that the Board would reject, we have
19 another team in addition to the first team go
20 through and do another set of checks to make sure
21 that any ballot we're bringing to you today to be
22 rejected has truly been thoroughly researched and
23 vetted by at least four sets of eyes before we
24 bring it to you today.

1 So for those 175 that were not
2 registered in the state, they were not found within
3 Franklin County voter registration database or
4 within the statewide voter registration database
5 and are, therefore, determined to be not registered
6 in the State of Ohio 30 days before the election,
7 and so that's why they are classified as not
8 registered.

9 The next item is wrong precinct and
10 location. We have 11 voters that fall under that
11 category. And the wrong precinct and wrong
12 location means that the voter showed up to vote on
13 election day, they told the precinct election
14 official, the PEO, their name and their current
15 address --

16 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: Keep going.

17 MS. ZIEMBA: Okay.

18 -- and the address that the voter
19 gave to the poll worker did not vote at the
20 location where they presented themselves to vote.
21 The poll workers will inform the voter that they
22 need to go cast their ballot in the location that
23 is assigned to their address, and in these 11
24 cases, for whatever reason, if it was the end of

1 the day or the voter didn't want to travel to the
2 other location, they told the poll worker, give me
3 a ballot. I would like to vote here.

4 Unfortunately, when that happens,
5 the voter can't get the correct ballot for their
6 address because they're in the wrong location, and
7 so in those cases, they didn't vote on the right
8 candidates and issues, and, therefore, because they
9 voted in the wrong location, we are recommending
10 that the Board reject those 11 voters who voted in
11 the wrong precinct and the wrong location.

12 The next item on our list is no
13 printed name. We only had one voter that fell into
14 this category, and this was a voter who just
15 omitted their name on the provisional. Other
16 things might have been filled out on there, but for
17 whatever reason, they didn't put the name, so we
18 can't assign a vote or a ballot to a person that
19 didn't give us their name, and that's why that one
20 should be -- or we would recommend that you would
21 reject it.

22 The next item on the list are six
23 voters who failed to provide a valid current
24 address, and these six voters, when they wrote

1 their address on the affirmation statement, it is
2 either a USPS Post -- P.O. Box or something that
3 was not classified as a valid residence within our
4 database when we went to enter the address into the
5 system. I can tell you that at least four of these
6 voters also gave us an address that was outside of
7 Franklin County, so maybe they said they lived in
8 Delaware or Union County, and so, therefore, they,
9 obviously, didn't vote -- you know, they didn't
10 give us a valid Franklin County address. So for
11 these six voters, because they didn't provide a
12 valid address that is recognized in the Franklin
13 County database as being a valid residence in this
14 county, we'd recommend that the Board reject those
15 six ballots.

16 The next item on the list are 88
17 missing or mismatched IDs. And, again, voters must
18 show provisional, regular, absentee -- or not
19 absentee, provisional or regular voters must show
20 valid photo identification. So, again, it has to
21 be your State of Ohio Driver's License or state ID,
22 US passport or passport card or US military,
23 Veteran's ID or Ohio National Guard. The photo has
24 to resemble the voter, the name has to match, and

1 it cannot be expired.

2 And so these 88 voters, when they
3 appeared to vote, they did not show valid ID to the
4 poll workers, and, additionally, there are four
5 days that every voter has after the election to
6 come to the Board of Elections and present a valid
7 photo ID. So for instance, if they showed up on
8 election day, cast a provisional because they
9 realized their driver's license had expired, they
10 have four days to go get the new temporary
11 paperwork that would be valid and bring it here to
12 us. Even after that four days elapsed, these 88
13 voters still had not brought valid photo ID to the
14 Board of Elections here.

15 Again, when every voter cast their
16 provisional ballot, they're given a provisional
17 ballot notice, and on that notice gives them the
18 information. So it gives them the four days that
19 they have to cure their ballot here at the Board of
20 Election, it gives them the provisional hotline
21 phone number that rings to us, and it's spoken the
22 message that will say you have four days to bring
23 your ballot, you know, and that's the time period
24 before your ballot will no longer be considered

1 valid.

2 So after that time again, like
3 Travis said, this time, we actually had 35 total
4 people come in to give us ID, but only 19 of them
5 actually needed to bring it. Sometimes people get
6 nervous that their vote might not count, so they'll
7 bring an ID, even though they showed one at the
8 polls. And so we had 16 people that were already
9 approved but still brought in ID and 19 that
10 actually needed to bring in their ID.

11 So for the other 88, however,
12 unfortunate as it is, we would recommend that the
13 Board reject those 88 ballots because the voters
14 failed to provide a valid photo identification on
15 election day or during the cure period.

16 And we've got a few more categories
17 here. The next one is voter already voted. We
18 have ten ballots that fall under that category, and
19 this means that the voter has already received a
20 vote credit for this election in addition to the
21 provisional ballot that's here. So the provisional
22 would be the second vote for this person, and,
23 therefore, we ask that the Board reject those
24 ballots because every voter should only have one

1 vote per election. Three of these voters --

2 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: Were these
3 instances where people went to vote and the poll
4 workers said our records show you've already voted?

5 MS. ZIEMBA: Yes. Exactly. So
6 three of them had requested an absentee ballot in
7 advance. And so if you request an absentee ballot
8 and it's a valid request and we've sent you a
9 ballot, no matter what, you're going to be voting a
10 provisional on election day. There's a note on the
11 touch pads or poll books: Must vote provisional.
12 Requested absentee.

13 And so there were three voters that
14 maybe they mailed their absentee ballot back,
15 didn't know if it would get here in time, and so
16 they voted a provisional just in case. And so if
17 we got their absentee ballots back, that counted,
18 and so we would reject the provisional as the
19 second vote for three of them.

20 For the other seven out of these
21 ten, they were voters who had an early vote in the
22 early vote center and then went on election day and
23 cast a provisional ballot. And so for those seven
24 voters in particular and for all of these are

1 investigator, Jim Bubutiev, will contact the
2 voters, ask them why did you attempt to cast two
3 ballots for this election, and then if there's
4 anything that needs to be addressed by the Board or
5 the directors, he'll submit a report about that
6 following his interviews.

7 Sometimes people -- we hear a lot of
8 things, I won't go into the reasons, but people
9 forget they voted on the first day of early vote
10 and then find out it's election day and go to their
11 polling location at home. That's what we've heard
12 in the past, so we'll see what Jim finds out this
13 time. But there are ten of those who we want to
14 make sure everybody only gets one vote, and so
15 that's why we'd recommend that the Board reject
16 those ten for already having another vote for this
17 election.

18 The next category on there is the
19 date of birth was missing off of the envelope. So,
20 again, like I say every time, these are different
21 from the ones that you'll look at here in a minute
22 in that the date of birth of these ten was
23 entirely -- it was just left off. It was blank.
24 And in the case where a voter completely leaves off

1 one of the required pieces of information, there's
2 not an avenue for the Board to take action to
3 approve it, unlike the ones that we'll talk about
4 later. So for the lack of one of their five
5 required items, these ten, we would recommend that
6 the Board reject.

7 And then our last one here, no valid
8 in envelope, and we had three of those. Because
9 there's no -- they were just an empty envelope and
10 they were -- I think I've said before, there are
11 holes in the provisional where you can see if
12 there's a paper or a ballot in there. These ones,
13 they were opened, they were empty, and for whatever
14 reason, the voter decided not to put a ballot in
15 it. We'll still use the information on the
16 envelope to update the voter's information or to
17 register them if they are not registered, but
18 there's nothing to approve as far as a ballot goes,
19 so we would ask that the Board reject those three
20 for not having a ballot.

21 And unless there are any questions,
22 the grand total here that we are recommending that
23 the Board reject today are 304 provisional ballots
24 for all of those reasons that I just went through.

1 And I should say that in all of these cases, we'll
2 always use -- even in the approved ones, we'll use
3 the front of the provisional envelope as a
4 registration form to make sure that the next time
5 people come to vote in November, their information
6 will be updated, everyone will be registered at
7 their address, and any of the forms that are
8 missing information, we send follow-up letters out
9 to the voters to have them give us the correct
10 information, so we make sure that their record in
11 our database is correct going forward. So, again,
12 304 to reject -- that we recommend that you reject.

13 If there are any questions, I'll
14 take them, or we can move onto the motion to reject
15 them.

16 MEMBER SEXTON: Just a couple
17 questions.

18 So if you -- if someone already
19 votes, like, say, they -- give example, they vote
20 the first day of early vote and you go to the
21 polls, so say they go to early vote, vote the first
22 day and then they go to their polling place on
23 election day and we get two ballots, so we only
24 count one of them?

1 MS. ZIEMBA: That's right.

2 MEMBER SEXTON: And we count the
3 first one that was voted?

4 MS. ZIEMBA: Exactly. So we would
5 count -- the one at early vote, they would have
6 been a regular voter and came into the machines and
7 put their ballot in the ballot counter, so that
8 would have already been scanned in. We have no way
9 to get that back. So much like if you request an
10 absentee, there's a special note on the touch pads
11 or the poll books that says must vote provisional,
12 or requested absentee, there will be a must vote
13 provisional, voted early notation in the touch pad
14 when they come to vote on election day informing
15 the poll workers to direct them straight over to
16 the paper table so that they don't put another
17 ballot through the machine that we wouldn't be able
18 to get that.

19 MEMBER SEXTON: Okay. And then we
20 are -- you're saying -- recommending that we not
21 approve the 304 additional provisional ballots.
22 And then are there anymore that we will reject
23 today besides the 304?

24 MS. ZIEMBA: I hope not. The last

1 11 that we have are for the Board review, and
2 they're the date of birth issues where everything
3 is correct on the envelope and they didn't vote and
4 they're registered, they just have a discrepancy in
5 the date of birth where they put, like, today's
6 date or they messed up the month and the day. And
7 there are 11 of those that the Board has the
8 ability to approve or reject, depending on your
9 pleasure. But the 304 is the total amount that we
10 will recommend to reject.

11 MEMBER SEXTON: Okay. Well, I don't
12 know if anyone else has any other questions,
13 Mr. Chairman. If not, I move the Board approve the
14 counting of 304 -- well, I move the Board approve
15 the counting -- approve -- the Board reject 304
16 additional provisional ballots and that all
17 provisional ballots deemed valid and be counted and
18 be included in the official canvass results for the
19 March 19, 2024 primary election.

20 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: Second the
21 motion.

22 DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: It's been
23 properly moved and seconded. All those in favor of
24 the motion, signify by saying aye.

1 (Vote taken.)

2 DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: All opposed,
3 same sign.

4 (No response.)

5 DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: Motion
6 carries.

7 The next item on the agenda is the
8 provisional ballots for consideration that you had
9 mentioned, Sara. There are 11 of those?

10 MS. ZIEMBA: That's right. We have
11 11, and David will pass them out so you can see
12 them, if you like. There are 11 provisionals where
13 the voter has met the two criteria, so they are
14 registered to vote, they did not cast another
15 ballot, they've provided information on all of the
16 required fields; however, on their date of birth
17 fields, they have some discrepancy with what we
18 have in our database. So for three of them, they
19 wrote, like, the date of their vote as the date of
20 birth. So if it was an early vote, they might have
21 put that date that they were in the early vote
22 center. Election day, they might have wrote
23 3-16-2024 as their date of birth. And then eight
24 of them transposed or there were a difference in

1 the day and the month on their birthday, so that's
2 a total of 11 of those.

3 And in accordance with Ohio Revised
4 Code 3505, and I'll read this for the record and
5 for your reference, there's an exception that
6 allows the Board to sort of approve these even with
7 that small discrepancy. And this is quoted: If
8 the affirmation statement contains the voter's date
9 of birth, but the month and day are different from
10 the month and day in the statewide voter
11 registration database, the Board must reject the
12 provisional ballot unless the voter's date of birth
13 in the database is 1-1-1800 or the Board of
14 Elections finds by a vote of at least three of its
15 members that the voter has met all of the other
16 requirements of the division.

17 And like I mentioned earlier, all of
18 these voters do meet all of the requirements. They
19 are registered, they have not cast another ballot,
20 and they've given us their name, address, valid
21 photo ID, signature. The only place there's that
22 discrepancy is in the date of birth. And so we
23 would -- the voter services department would
24 recommend that the Board does approve the -- take a

1 vote to approve these ballots, as been our
2 historical practice. As long as all of the other
3 requirements are met, the Board usually will vote
4 to approve these additional ballots.

5 And I can take questions or
6 anything.

7 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: So all 11 have
8 something written in the DOB line?

9 MS. ZIEMBA: That's correct.

10 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: And these 11 have
11 something other than what we have on record as the
12 accurate date of birth?

13 MS. ZIEMBA: That's correct.

14 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: And you just
15 quoted the Ohio Revised Code that you must reject
16 unless two, what was the --

17 MS. ZIEMBA: The 1800.

18 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: The 1800 and --

19 MS. ZIEMBA: The Board votes by at
20 least three of its members that the voter has met
21 all the other requirements.

22 MEMBER FREEDHOFF: It's so weird.
23 Some of these are, like, one day off of their
24 birthday.

1 MS. ZIEMBA: I know.

2 MEMBER FREEDHOFF: They forgot their
3 own birthday?

4 MS. ZIEMBA: Or maybe we have it
5 wrong. You know, it's possible, so we'll do that
6 research on the flip side.

7 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: I don't want to
8 see.

9 MEMBER FREEDHOFF: You're not
10 interested in this?

11 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: Very interested,
12 but you have quoted code and you got all the other
13 criteria correctly.

14 MS. ZIEMBA: Yep. Absolutely.

15 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: Either/or, and
16 this is the or.

17 MS. ZIEMBA: This is the or,
18 exactly.

19 MEMBER FREEDHOFF: It's a lesson
20 just for people to be really careful of that
21 because it's something that can really mess up
22 their ballot.

23 MS. ZIEMBA: I know.

24 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: Unless they were

1 trying to pretend they were younger than they are.

2 MEMBER FREEDHOFF: I do that all the
3 time.

4 MEMBER SEXTON: Mr. Chairman,
5 without other any questions, I move the Board
6 approve the counting of 11 provisional ballots and
7 that all provisional ballots deemed valid will be
8 counted and included in the official canvass
9 results for the March 19th, 2024 election.

10 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: Second the
11 motion.

12 DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: It's been
13 properly moved and seconded. All those in favor of
14 the motion, signify by saying aye.

15 (Vote taken.)

16 DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: All opposed,
17 same sign.

18 (No response.)

19 DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: Motion
20 carries.

21 Now I think we probably want the
22 authorization to extract these?

23 MS. ZIEMBA: We do.

24 MEMBER MARINELLO: I move that the

1 Board authorize the staff to extract the additional
2 11 approved provisional ballots.

3 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: Second the
4 motion.

5 DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: It's been
6 properly moved and seconded. All those in favor of
7 the motion, signify by saying aye.

8 (Vote taken.)

9 DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: All opposed,
10 same sign.

11 (No response.)

12 DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: Motion
13 carries.

14 I think it's been past
15 practice -- actually, I know it's been past
16 practice to authorize the Board to remake any
17 provisional ballots that need to be remade in case
18 they're soiled and not readable, and then what,
19 typically, the Board will do is the members will
20 come back and give a report on any remade ballots.

21 MEMBER MARINELLO: I move that the
22 Board authorize the staff to remake provisional
23 ballots, and that these remade ballots shall be
24 tabulated and included in the official canvass of

1 the results for the March 19th, 2024 primary
2 election, with a report to be made to the Board
3 later today.

4 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: Second the
5 motion.

6 DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: All those in
7 favor of the motion, signify by saying aye.

8 (Vote taken.)

9 DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: All opposed,
10 same sign.

11 (No response.)

12 DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: Motion
13 carries.

14 The next -- thank you, Sara.

15 MS. ZIEMBA: Thank you very much.

16 DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: The next
17 item on the agenda are independent candidates that
18 filed, and I will turn that over to Jeff Mackey for
19 a report.

20 MR. MACKEY: Jeff Mackey, manager of
21 petition and campaign finances.

22 You have before you Exhibit B. We
23 had three candidates file petitions by the Monday,
24 March 18th deadline to run as independent

1 candidates in the general election. These
2 petitions were reviewed by staff, and though they
3 were timely filed, we were unable to find
4 sufficient valid signatures on any of the three
5 petitions, so they're insufficient, and, therefore,
6 staff does not recommend them for certification for
7 the November 5th, 2024 general election.

8 MEMBER FREEDHOFF: Am I reading this
9 first one right, that 25 signatures were submitted,
10 but there were 2,621 required?

11 MR. MACKEY: That's correct. I did
12 discuss that with the filer when he dropped them
13 off.

14 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: Where are you
15 seeing that?

16 MR. MACKEY: He asked us to move
17 forward. The congressional one, Mr. Amicucci.

18 MEMBER SEXTON: Mr. Chairman, I move
19 the candidates on Exhibit B, Alexander Amicucci,
20 candidate for congress, 3rd District; Brandy
21 Seymour, candidate for Ohio House, District 9; and
22 Alicia Ward, candidate for Ohio House, District 9,
23 have their independent candidate petitions rejected
24 for certification for the November 5th, 2024

1 general election for lack of valid signatures.

2 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: Second the
3 motion.

4 DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: It's been
5 properly moved and seconded. All those in favor of
6 the motion, signify by saying aye.

7 (Vote taken.)

8 DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: All opposed,
9 same sign.

10 (No response.)

11 DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: Motion
12 carries.

13 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: The rest of
14 regular business, we have a guest -- rather, a
15 request from Ms. Karen Rankin to speak.

16 Karen, you addressed the Board the
17 last time on these or similar issues. I'm going to
18 ask that you'll meet with the staff, who are
19 anxious to meet with you to learn if there's
20 anything new and other details. Appreciated your
21 discourse last time, but I think you and we would
22 be better served if you get down to the nitty
23 gritty, if there is any, with the staff and they'll
24 report to us. And you're, of course, welcome to

1 come back and speak another time. Thank you.

2 DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: I don't
3 think there's anything else on the agenda.

4 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: Well, since I had
5 to second everything today, I feel a little
6 overworked. I think it's 'cause there was a
7 thought you might not be here. I should
8 have -- move to adjourn.

9 MEMBER FREEDHOFF: I'll second for
10 you.

11 DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: Seeing no
12 objections, we're adjourned.

13 - - -

14 Thereupon, the meeting concluded at
15 approximately 3:37 p.m.

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C E R T I F I C A T E

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THE STATE OF OHIO:

SS:

COUNTY OF FRANKLIN:

I, Kimberly Kaz, Registered 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 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 either party and have no interest whatsoever in the event of this litigation.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and official seal of office at Columbus, Ohio, this 6th of May 2024.

/s/Kimberly Kaz, RPR _____

Notary Public, State of Ohio

My Commission Expires: March 31, 2028.

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