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FRANKLIN COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS

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In Re:  
Regular Meeting

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

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1  
2  
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.

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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

- - -

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.

- - -

BOARD MEMBERS: Douglas J. Preisse, Chairman ★ Meredith Freedhoff ★ Kimberly E. Marinello ★ Michael E. Sexton

Antone White, DIRECTOR      David R. Payne, DEPUTY DIRECTOR

<b>EXHIBIT A</b>	
<b>March 19, 2024 Primary Election Provisional Ballots Recommended for Board Approval, Rejection, and Consideration</b>	
<b>GRAND TOTAL RECOMMENDED TO ACCEPT</b>	<b>1405</b>
<b>REASONS FOR REJECTION</b>	
Not Registered in the State	175
Wrong Precinct and Location	11
No Printed Name	1
Failed to Provide Valid Current Address	6
Missing or Mismatched ID	89
Voter Already Voted	10
DOB Missing	10
No Ballot in Envelope	3
<b>GRAND TOTAL RECOMMENDED TO REJECT</b>	<b>305</b>
<b>FOR BOARD REVIEW</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>GRAND TOTAL ALL PROVISIONALS CAST</b>	<b>1721</b>

# EXHIBIT B

## Candidates Not Recommended for Certification for the November 5, 2024 General Election

### Invalid Statement of Candidacy

R.C. 3513.09 If the petition required by section [3513.07](#) of the Revised Code to be filed with a declaration of candidacy consists of more than one separate petition paper, the declaration of candidacy of the candidate named need be signed by the candidate, or of an attorney in fact acting pursuant to section [3501.382](#) of the Revised Code, on only one of such separate petition papers, but the declaration of candidacy so signed shall be copied on each other separate petition paper before the signature of electors are placed on it.

AMICUCCI, ALEXANDER                    **Ballot Name:** Alex Amicucci                    **Party:** No Party  
Representative to Congress (3<sup>rd</sup> District)

**Deficiency:** Insufficient Valid Signatures: 25 signatures were submitted of which 15 were found to be valid (2,621 required)

SEYMOUR, BRANDY                    **Ballot Name:** Brandy Seymour                    **Party:** No Party  
State Representative (9<sup>th</sup> District)

**Deficiency:** Insufficient Valid Signatures: 418 signatures were submitted of which 338 were found to be valid (345 required); None of the separate petition papers filed contains an original signature of the candidate in the statement of candidacy.

WARD, ALICIA                    **Ballot Name:** Alicia A. Ward                    **Party:** No Party  
State Representative (9<sup>th</sup> District)

**Deficiency:** Insufficient Valid Signatures: 454 signatures were submitted of which 307 were found to be valid (345 required)