

THE FRANKLIN COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS

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In Re: :  
:  
Special Meeting. :

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APRIL 15, 2024

PROCEEDINGS OF THE

FRANKLIN COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS

before Chairman Douglas J. Preisse,  
Director Antone White, Deputy Director  
David Payne, Board Members Michael Sexton,  
Kim Marinello, and Meredith Freedhoff, on Monday,  
April 15, 2024, beginning at approximately 3:12  
p.m., and concluding at approximately  
3:19 p.m.

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ALSO PRESENT:

Erin Gibbons  
Carla Patton  
Brian Zagrocki, Esq.  
Audience

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Higgins & Associates  
Court Reporting - Legal Video - Videoconference  
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Columbus, Ohio 43229  
\*614.985.DEPO (3376) \*888.244.1211

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E X H I B I T S

EXHIBITS

Exhibit A - March 19, 2024,  
Summary Results Report

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Monday Afternoon Session  
April 15, 2024  
3:12 p.m.

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

MR. PAYNE: I'll call roll.

Kim Marinello.

MEMBER MARINELLO: Here.

MR. PAYNE: Mike Sexton.

MEMBER SEXTON: Here.

MR. PAYNE: Doug Preisse.

CHAIR PREISSE: Here.

MR. PAYNE: Meredith Freedhoff.

(No response.)

MR. PAYNE: We have a quorum,  
Mr. Chairman.

The first item on the agenda --

DIRECTOR WHITE: Dave, I'm sorry.  
Point of order. Do you need a motion to come out  
of recess?

CHAIR PREISSE: That's an  
interesting point. Are we still in recess? I  
guess we are.

DIRECTOR WHITE: We are. We  
recessed the meeting.

1 MEMBER MARINELLO: Couldn't hurt. I  
2 move to come back from recess.

3 CHAIR PREISSE: We're in recess  
4 subject to the call of the chair.

5 MEMBER MARINELLO: That's you.

6 CHAIR PREISSE: Let's do it to be  
7 safe.

8 Counselor, advice.

9 MR. ZAGROCKI: Just to be safe, I  
10 think that would be a good motion.

11 CHAIR PREISSE: Okay. Do we have a  
12 motion to come out of recess?

13 MEMBER MARINELLO: Second.

14 CHAIR PREISSE: We're out of recess.  
15 All right.

16 MR. PAYNE: First item on the agenda  
17 is the state representative recount of the  
18 March 19th primary election, and then that will be  
19 followed up by the recount of the central committee  
20 race primary.

21 MEMBER MARINELLO: Mr. Chairman, I  
22 move that the board accepts and declare --

23 CHAIR PREISSE: Do we have -- I  
24 think we're going to --

1 MR. PAYNE: We're going to hear a  
2 report from Matt Kelly, if you don't mind, and  
3 then --

4 MR. KELLY: I'll be brief.

5 MR. PAYNE: -- from the absentee  
6 department.

7 MR. KELLY: And I will cover both  
8 the 10th District Democratic primary race as well  
9 as the county central committee race all with this  
10 report.

11 Good afternoon. By order of the  
12 board, the operations and absentee departments  
13 conducted recounts for two races from the  
14 March 19th, 2024, primary election that fell within  
15 the mandatory recount range. The race -- two races  
16 were, number one, the republican member of the  
17 county central committee for Columbus Ward 4, and  
18 the second race was the democratic primary race for  
19 state representative in Ohio House District 10.

20 Each recount was conducted by using  
21 a four-person bipartisan hand recount team which  
22 consisted of four full-time staff members from the  
23 Board of Elections on each team. And the recount  
24 was conducted starting -- it started on Friday,

1 April 12th, with observers from campaigns present.

2 In the race for republican member of  
3 the county central committee for Columbus Ward 4,  
4 every ballot was -- that was cast in that race was  
5 recounted by hand since the race was exclusively  
6 between two write-in candidates and there was only  
7 four precincts involved in the contest in total.

8 In the race for the democratic  
9 candidate for the Ohio House District 10, a random  
10 5 percent sample of all ballots cast underwent a  
11 hand recount and then a machine recount to verify  
12 the results of the 5 percent sample. Once those  
13 results were verified, the remaining 95 percent of  
14 all ballots cast were scanned by machine to verify  
15 the total results for that contest.

16 The results of both recounts are as  
17 follows, and they are included in the recount  
18 results exhibit that should be before the board.

19 In the recount for the republican  
20 member of the county central committee Columbus  
21 Ward 4, write-in candidate Lucas Denney received  
22 five votes, write-in candidate Jay Hout received  
23 five votes. Non- -- a nonvalid write-in candidate  
24 received one vote.

1                   And if you remember, during  
2 certification on April 5th, candidate Hout was  
3 declared the elected winner by method of coin toss.

4                   In the recount for the democratic  
5 candidate for Ohio House of Representatives  
6 District 10, democratic candidate Sarah Pomeroy  
7 received 2,309 votes, two-three-zero-nine, and  
8 democratic candidate Mark Sigrist received 2,329 --  
9 2,329 votes.

10                   In both recounts, there were no  
11 changes in the official results that were certified  
12 by this board on Friday, April 5th, 2024. And the  
13 declared -- declared winners of those contests, as  
14 per the certification, are confirmed. Therefore,  
15 there is no need to amend the certified official  
16 results for the March 19th, 2024, primary election.

17                   However, we will submit the official  
18 recount results summary that's before you. We will  
19 submit that to the Ohio Secretary of State's office  
20 upon board approval of these recount results.

21                   And that is all, unless there's  
22 questions.

23                   CHAIR PREISSE: What is the -- under  
24 "Statistics" at the top, that's -- that's 10th

1 House District overall report?

2 MR. KELLY: Carla, in the top here,  
3 this represents the 10th District, correct?

4 MS. PATTON: It would incorporate  
5 the, I believe, 40 ballots from the Fourth Ward as  
6 well --

7 MR. KELLY: Okay.

8 MS. PATTON: -- in that.

9 CHAIR PREISSE: Oh.

10 MR. KELLY: So those are just the  
11 statistics for the recount races.

12 CHAIR PREISSE: Oh.

13 MR. KELLY: And the recount results  
14 that you need to review and approve would be the  
15 two below the -- the bold line.

16 CHAIR PREISSE: Right. I just  
17 didn't understand why the total votes cast on the  
18 top did not match the total votes cast for the  
19 10th, but you're saying the central committee is in  
20 on that too?

21 MR. KELLY: Right.

22 CHAIR PREISSE: Okay. No questions  
23 from me.

24 MEMBER MARINELLO: All right.



1 Mr. Chairman, I move that the board accept and  
2 declare as final the results of the recount in the  
3 race for the democratic state representative in the  
4 10th District.

5 CHAIR PREISSE: Second.

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

9 (Ayes heard.)

10 MR. PAYNE: All opposed, same sign.

11 (No response.)

12 MR. PAYNE: Motion carries.

13 CHAIR PREISSE: Excellent.

14 Now, any questions on Central  
15 Committee? Not from me.

16 MEMBER MARINELLO: I don't have any.

17 MEMBER SEXTON: Mr. Chairman,  
18 Michael Sexton. I move that the board accept and  
19 declare as final the results of the recount in the  
20 race for republican county central committee  
21 Columbus Ward 4.

22 CHAIR PREISSE: Second the motion.

23 MR. PAYNE: It's been properly moved  
24 and seconded. All those in favor of the motion

1 signify by saying "aye."

2 (Ayes heard.)

3 MR. PAYNE: All opposed, same sign.

4 (No response.)

5 MR. PAYNE: Motion carries.

6 We've already indicated the date and  
7 time for the audit. And it doesn't require, I  
8 don't believe, anything else from the --

9 MR. KELLY: No.

10 MR. PAYNE: -- board. That's  
11 April 22nd until finished, starting --

12 MR. KELLY: Correct.

13 MR. PAYNE: -- at 10:00 a.m.

14 MR. KELLY: Yeah.

15 MEMBER MARINELLO: Cool.

16 CHAIR PREISSE: Well, unless there's  
17 something we want to do for or to Meredith, in her  
18 absence, we'll entertain a motion to adjourn.

19 MEMBER MARINELLO: So moved.

20 MEMBER SEXTON: Second.

21 MR. PAYNE: No objections, we're  
22 adjourned.

23 (Thereupon, the hearing concluded at  
24 3:19 p.m. on Monday, April 15, 2024.)

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I, Linda D. Riffle, Registered  
Diplomate Reporter, Certified Realtime Reporter,  
Certified Realtime Captioner, and Notary Public in  
and for the State of Ohio, hereby certify that the  
foregoing is a true and accurate transcript of the  
proceedings hereinbefore set forth, as reported in  
stenotype by me and transcribed by me or under my  
supervision.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Linda D. Riffle, Registered  
Diplomate Reporter,  
Certified Realtime Reporter,  
and Certified Realtime  
Captioner

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