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FRANKLIN COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS
REGULAR MEETING
1700 Morse Road
Columbus, Ohio 43229

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Wednesday, November 20, 2024
9:00 a.m.

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- BEFORE:
- Douglas J. Preisse, Chairman
- Meredith Freedhoff
- Michael E. Sexton
- Kimberly E. Marinello
- Anton White, Director
- David Payne, Deputy Director
- Erin Gibbons, Executive Manager

- - -

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1 APPEARANCES:

2 ON BEHALF OF THE FRANKLIN COUNTY BOARD OF
3 ELECTIONS:

3

G. Gary Tyack, Esquire
Franklin County Prosecutor
By: Jeanine Hummer, Esquire
Assistant County Prosecutor
and
Brian Zagrocki, Esquire
Assistant County Prosecutor
373 South High Street
Columbus, Ohio 43215
(614) 525-3555

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ALSO PRESENT:

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Sara Ziemba
Carla Patton
Jeffrey Mackey

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SPEAKERS

PAGE

Sara Ziemba

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Carla Patton

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Jeffrey Mackey

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1 DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: Mr.
2 Chairman, it looks like we have a quorum, but I'll
3 go ahead and take roll.

4 Kim Marinello?

5 MEMBER MARINELLO: Here.

6 DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: Mike Sexton?

7 MEMBER SEXTON: Here.

8 DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: Doug
9 Preisse?

10 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: Here.

11 DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: Meredith
12 Freedhoff?

13 MEMBER FREEDHOFF: Here.

14 DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: We indeed
15 have a quorum. The first item on the agenda is a
16 provisional ballot count amendment report from
17 Sara.

18 MS. ZIEMBA: Good morning. I'm Sara
19 Ziemba, the supervisor of the Voter Services
20 Department; and we just have a small amendment to
21 the provisional exhibit that we presented on
22 Monday.

23 After we opened and extracted the
24 ballots on Monday afternoon, we found that there

1 were two previously approved ballots that inside of
2 their envelop there were two invalid ballots
3 inside, and so we are going to ask that we move
4 those to the rejected category.

5 One of the ballots was a preprinted
6 sample ballot from the Board of Elections' website,
7 and the other was an absentee ballot inside of an
8 absentee envelope.

9 So those two could not -- were not
10 given to the voter at the poll on Election Day by
11 the precinct election official. So, therefore,
12 they're invalid.

13 We moved those to -- from the
14 approved category to the rejected category, and
15 then also on your amended exhibit, we moved the 57
16 previously categorized board reviewed provisionals
17 up into the approved category.

18 So now the grand total accepted is
19 going to be 15,337. Grand total rejected 4,277.
20 And the total provisionals cast is still 19,614. I
21 can take any questions, if there are any, about
22 that.

23 All right. Thank you.

24 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: Thank you, Sara.

1 DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: Next, I'll
2 call on Carla Patton, our operations manager, to
3 give an overview of the certified election results.

4 MS. PATTON: Good morning. Before
5 you are the official results for Franklin County
6 for the November 5, 2024 General Election.

7 We have in this report included the
8 15,337 provisional ballots as well as including any
9 absentee ballots that were received within the four
10 days after the election that were appropriately
11 postmarked.

12 In bipartisan teams, we reviewed
13 through all of the ballots that were cast on
14 Election Day to ensure that every ballot that was
15 completed by a voter and was eligible to be counted
16 was indeed included in the official canvass for
17 this election.

18 We had over the 903,000 registered
19 voters. Of those 608,855 voters cast a ballot on
20 Election Day or through the early vote center, the
21 absentee mail process or a provisional ballot for a
22 total turnout of 67.39 percent.

23 We ask that you certify the results
24 that are before you. I will include that at this

1 time there are no races that are in recount nor are
2 any races close to being in the recount.

3 So for awhile now, we have an
4 election that we don't have to actually do a
5 recount.

6 We would ask that you certify the
7 results as they are before you on the report.

8 MEMBER MARINELLO: Mr. Chairman, I
9 move the Board certify and declare as final the
10 official canvass of the votes cast at the
11 November 5, 2024 General Election as submitted by
12 staff.

13 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: Second the
14 motion.

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

18 (All members of the Board voted unanimously by
19 saying aye.)

20 DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: All opposed
21 same sign.

22 Motion carries.

23 The next item on the agenda is
24 discussion of the post-election audit which is

1 required of us by the Ohio Secretary of State as
2 well as the other 87 boards of elections.

3 So to discuss the post election,
4 I'll turn it over to Jeff Mackey who's petition and
5 filings manager.

6 MR. MACKEY: Morning. As David
7 said, per Section 3505.331 of the Ohio Revised Code
8 and Section 11.03 of the Ohio Election Official
9 Manual, after declaring the official results of the
10 general election, the Board of Elections shall
11 audit those results.

12 So the Board must audit not less
13 than three contested races or issues as directed by
14 the Secretary of State. The Secretary has
15 instructed us to audit the contest for President
16 and US Senate. We get to pick another countywide
17 contested race. So you may choose one of those.

18 Typically, the Board uses a
19 percentage-based audit protocol which requires
20 bipartisan teams of election officials to
21 physically examine and hand count a number of
22 randomly sampled ballots equal to at least five
23 percent of the total ballots cast in the county of
24 those races.

1 And no later than the time the Board
2 meets to certify the official results of the
3 election, the Board must select the date and place
4 that the audit will commence and determine whether
5 it will conduct its post-election audit by
6 precinct, by polling location or by individual
7 voting machine.

8 Because the vote tabulators in our
9 voting locations are not precinct specific, we are
10 allowed to -- and we prefer for the sake of
11 efficiency to audit by polling location.

12 And for the last several locations
13 we've been using a website, random.org, to help us
14 randomly draw the voting locations that will be
15 used in the audit.

16 Couple of motions you guys need to
17 make so we can proceed with all of that.

18 MEMBER FREEDHOFF: Chairman,
19 Meredith Freedhoff. I move that the Board conduct
20 the post-election audit by voting location, and
21 that we use random.org to randomly select the
22 locations to be used in the hand count portion of
23 the audit.

24 DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: Fantastic.

1 And then we need a motion to approve the three
2 races.

3 MEMBER SEXTON: I'll start off,
4 second that motion.

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

8 (All members of the Board voted unanimously by
9 saying aye.)

10 DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: All opposed
11 same sign.

12 Motion carries.

13 Now we're looking for a motion.

14 MEMBER SEXTON: Mr. Chairman,
15 Michael Sexton. I move that the Board select the
16 following contests for the post-election audit,
17 Franklin County Prosecutor, Office of President and
18 Office of US Senate, and that the audit shall begin
19 December 4 at 10:00 a.m. until completed; and that
20 the audit shall be conducted as outlined in
21 Chapter 11, Section 11.03 of the Election Officials
22 Manual and be held at the Franklin County Board of
23 Elections, 1700 Morse Road.

24 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: Doug Preisse,

1 second the motion.

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

5 (All members of the Board voted unanimously by
6 saying aye.)

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

9 Now, Jeff, you can proceed with the
10 draw.

11 MR. MACKEY: We have our handy
12 spreadsheet that lists each voting location.
13 They're assigned a number. There are 302 voting
14 locations in Franklin County. So they're assigned
15 numbers 1 through 302 all the way to the last one.

16 So I'm going to ask random.org to
17 assign or randomly draw from that sequence, tell it
18 to create our sequence here.

19 DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: So, Jeff,
20 those numbers correspond with one of our 302
21 polling locations, and we're trying to reach 5
22 percent?

23 MR. MACKEY: Correct.

24 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: That's not as

1 much drama as we have at the Board of Elections.

2 MR. MACKEY: All right. So we
3 picked the following lids. Lid 2005, Lid 5025, Lid
4 2104, Lid 3021, Lid 3012, Lid 1273, Lid 2004, Lid
5 2051, Lid 3043, Lid 1171, Lid 2033, Lid 1112, Lid
6 3007, Lid 3028 and Lid 2010.

7 Go ahead and save this.

8 DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: Does that
9 conclude your portion, Jeff?

10 MR. MACKEY: I'm done except for
11 saving it.

12 DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: So we've
13 drawn for the audit, and we will begin our audit on
14 December 4 at 10:00 a.m., and I believe that's all
15 I have on the agenda for today.

16 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: What about that
17 pay raise for everybody you want to bring up?

18 Move to adjourn.

19 MEMBER MARINELLO: Second.

20 DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: Seeing no
21 objection, we're adjourned.

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23 (Thereupon the meeting was adjourned at 9:18 a.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, Jeanine Fansler, Professional Reporter and Notary Public in and for the State of Ohio, do 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.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and official seal of office at Columbus, Ohio, this 3rd day of January, 2024.

/s/Jeanine Fansler
Notary Public, State of Ohio

My Commission Expires: November 28, 2028.