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THE FRANKLIN COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS

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In Re: :

Regular Meeting :

- - -

January 12, 2026

Before Chairman Douglas J. Preisse,
Director Antone White, Deputy Director David Payne,
Board Members, Mike Sexton, and Meredith Freedhoff,
on January 12, 2026, commencing at approximately
3:11 p.m. and concluding at approximately 3:20 p.m.

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ALSO PRESENT:

Jeanine Hummer - 1st Assistant Prosecuting Attorney
Brian Zagrocki, Assistant Prosecuting Attorney

Audience

- - -

Higgins & Associates
Court Reporting - Legal Video - Videoconference
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I N D E X

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EXHIBITS	REFERRED
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Exhibit A - Document entitled, Board of Elections Full-Time Employees, Exhibit A, Retro to December 29, 2025	5
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P R O C E E D I N G S

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DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE:

Mr. Chairman, I'll go ahead and take the role.

Jamie Shumaker.

(No response.)

DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: Mike Sexton.

MEMBER SEXTON: Here.

DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: Doug

Preisse.

CHAIRMAN PREISSE: Here.

DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: Meredith

Freedhoff.

MEMBER FREEDHOFF: Here.

DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE:

Mr. Chairman, we have a quorum.

The first item on the agenda is the approval of minutes from the December 1st, 2025, meeting, and I think Erin sent those out to everybody for you to peruse.

CHAIRMAN PREISSE: Any questions or concerns about that?

(No response.)

CHAIRMAN PREISSE: Then I move that

1 the Board approve the minutes of the December 1st,
2 2025, meeting of the Franklin County Board of
3 Elections. Doug Preisse.

4 MEMBER SEXTON: Mr. Chairman,
5 Mike Sexton. I second it.

6 DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: It's been
7 moved and seconded.

8 All those in favor of the motion,
9 signify by saying "aye."

10 (Vote taken.)

11 DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: All opposed,
12 same sign.

13 (No response.)

14 DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: The motion
15 carries.

16 The next item on the agenda is a
17 promotion for Deborah Curry.

18 And I'll turn that over to our
19 Director Antone White for comment.

20 DIRECTOR WHITE: Thank you, sir.

21 We've got three internal -- internal
22 personnel actions this afternoon for your
23 consideration.

24 The first action is for a promotion

1 for Deborah Curry. Deborah Curry has been on the
2 Board since April of 2017. She currently works as
3 one of our lead clerks in the Voter Services.
4 Deborah's done a great job since she's been here.
5 She's a long-time employee.

6 We're looking to move her over to
7 our Petitions and Campaign Finance Department to
8 give that department some extra assistance
9 considering that what we anticipate it will be a
10 very busy 2026, not just with the normal petition
11 and filing activity, campaign finance reports, but
12 also what we anticipate is going to be a bunch of
13 actions around statewide petitions and validating
14 signatures. And so I believe now is a good time
15 to -- to add her to that department.

16 And so pending any questions, we ask
17 that you approve the promotion of Deborah Curry to
18 the Petitions and Campaign Finance Department at a
19 rate of \$28.44 per hour.

20 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: And what's the
21 relative comparison between 28.44 and having this
22 chart that we have before us here, Exhibit A?

23 DIRECTOR WHITE: That's for the --
24 Exhibit A is for personnel actions for annual

1 increases for later this year. So this is the --
2 28.44 will be her new starting pay
3 rate for that position, and we'll do -- later on
4 we'll do the annual increases, which all full-time
5 employees will get an annual 2026 increase.

6 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: Right. Okay. I
7 just -- Discrepancy is the numbers, but I get it.
8 Thank you.

9 Any other questions? Sounds good.
10 Is she here?

11 DIRECTOR WHITE: She's here.
12 Deborah's right here.

13 (Applause.)

14 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: That was a
15 premature applause.

16 Do we have a motion?

17 MEMBER SEXTON: Mr. Chairman,
18 Michael Sexton. I move the Board promote
19 Deborah Curry to the Petition and Filings
20 Department beginning January 12, 2000 -- 2026,
21 not 20,026 -- so amend that -- 2026 at the rate of
22 28.44 per hour.

23 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: Second the
24 motion.

1 DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: It's been
2 properly moved and seconded.

3 All those in favor of the motion,
4 signify by saying "aye."

5 (Vote taken.)

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

8 (No response.)

9 DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: The motion
10 carries.

11 MEMBER FREEDHOFF: Now clap.

12 (Applause.)

13 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: That's great.
14 Thank you.

15 DIRECTOR WHITE: Thank you.

16 DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: The next
17 item on the agenda is a department transfer for
18 Katrina McReynolds. And, again, I'll turn that
19 over to our director for explanation.

20 DIRECTOR WHITE: Thank you.

21 Katrina McReynolds currently serves
22 as our operations supervisor in the Election
23 Operations Department. She's been with us since
24 September of 2020.

1 Katrina is looking for a new
2 opportunity that's a little less physically
3 demanding. That department deals a lot with not
4 just programming equipment or -- or electronic
5 pollbooks, but there's a lot of physical demands in
6 that department.

7 So Katrina is a looking for an
8 opportunity where she can still provide value to --
9 to the Board but something that's a little less
10 physically demanding.

11 And so with the vacancy now in
12 Voter Services, I'm recommending that we transfer
13 Katrina McReynolds to that position that was just
14 vacated at a starting rate of \$30.70 per hour.

15 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: Okay. I'm okay.
16 You okay?

17 MEMBER SEXTON: Okay.

18 Seeing no questions, Michael Sexton,
19 I move the Board transfer Katrina McReynolds to the
20 Voter Services Department beginning January 12,
21 2026, at a rate of \$30.70 per hour.

22 MEMBER FREEDHOFF: I second.

23 DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: It's been
24 moved and seconded.

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

3 (Vote taken.)

4 DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: All opposed,
5 same sign.

6 (No response.)

7 DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: The motion
8 carries.

9 The next item on the agenda is the
10 promotion of Chad Fracker; and, again, I'll turn
11 that over to Director White.

12 DIRECTOR WHITE: Thank you, David.

13 We now have a vacancy in the
14 opera- -- the Election Operations Department for a
15 supervisor. And for that I would like to promote
16 Chad Fracker.

17 Chad's been with the Board since
18 May of 2023 and currently serves as an operations
19 specialist in that department.

20 Since he's been here, he's proved
21 himself invaluable. He has astutely learned all
22 the processes, and he's our lead tech on all of our
23 electronic pollbook programming.

24 And so with this opportunity, I

1 think he'll continue to grow and excel, and so I
2 would recommend that we promote Chad Fracker for
3 Operations Department supervisor at a rate \$28.18
4 per hour.

5 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: Okay.

6 MEMBER SEXTON: Okay.

7 Michael Sexton. I move the Board to promote
8 Chad Fracker to the Operations Department
9 supervisor beginning January 12th, 2026, at a
10 rate of \$28.18 per hour.

11 MEMBER FREEDHOFF: Second.

12 DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: It's been
13 moved and seconded.

14 All those in favor of the motion,
15 signify by saying "aye."

16 (Vote taken.)

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

19 (No response.)

20 DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: The motion
21 carries.

22 The next --

23 (Applause.)

24 DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: The next

1 item on the agenda is a full-time staff pay raise
2 for your consideration.

3 The county commissioners allocated a
4 three percent cost-of-living raise for agencies
5 across the county, and I believe there is a chart
6 in here that shows the 2025 hourly rate and then
7 the 2026 hourly -- hourly rate for full-time
8 employees of the Board of Elections.

9 I don't know, Antone. Do you want
10 to -- add anything to that?

11 DIRECTOR WHITE: No.

12 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: Okay.

13 Chad, are you ready for your 80-cent
14 cent promotion?

15 MR. FRACKER: Yes, sir.

16 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: Okay. Good.

17 Sounds good to me. We've reviewed this before.
18 Thank you.

19 MR. PRIESSE: Mr. Chairman,
20 Michael Sexton. I move the Board approve Exhibit
21 A, which outlines pay increases to all full-time
22 BOE staff for the 2026 election year, retroactive
23 to December 29th, 2025.

24 MEMBER FREEDHOFF: Second.

1 DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: It's been
2 moved and seconded.

3 All those in favor of the motion,
4 signify by saying "aye."

5 (Vote taken.)

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

8 (No response.)

9 DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: The motion
10 carries.

11 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: End of business.
12 Anybody want to adjourn?

13 DIRECTOR WHITE: Please.

14 MEMBER FREEDHOFF: Yes, please.

15 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: We're adjourned.

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17 Thereupon, the deposition concluded at
18 approximately 3:20 p.m.

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THE STATE OF OHIO:

SS:

COUNTY OF FRANKLIN:

I, Beth A. Higgins, 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 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 2nd of February, 2026.

/s/Beth A. Higgins _____
Notary Public, State of Ohio

My Commission Expires: July 16, 2030.

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