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

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February 17, 2026

Before Director Antone White, Deputy
Director David Payne, Board Members Jamie Shumaker,
Mike Sexton, and Meredith Freedhoff (acting
Chairman), on Tuesday, February 17, 2026,
commencing at approximately 3:10 p.m. and
concluding at approximately 3:45 p.m.

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ALSO PRESENT:

Erin Gibbons
Sara Ziemba
Jeff Mackey
Brian Zagrocki,
Assistant Prosecuting Attorney

Audience

- - -

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

2 - - -

3 DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: It looks
4 like we have a quorum. But I'm going to go ahead
5 and take the roll.

6 Jamie Shumaker.

7 MEMBER SHUMAKER: Present.

8 DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: Mike Sexton.

9 MEMBER SEXTON: Here.

10 DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: Doug
11 Preisse.

12 (No response.)

13 DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: Meredith
14 Freedhoff.

15 MEMBER FREEDHOFF: Here.

16 DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: Despite
17 Doug's vote, we still have a quorum but only three
18 members here.

19 First item on the agenda, without
20 our chairman here, would be to elect a temporary
21 chairman.

22 MEMBER SEXTON: Madam Chair, I move
23 Meredith Freedhoff temporary chairman.

24 MEMBER SHUMAKER: I second.

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

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

5 (Vote taken.)

6 DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: All opposed
7 same sign.

8 (No response.)

9 DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: Madam
10 Chairman.

11 The next item on the agenda is the
12 approval of minutes. I believe all of the board
13 members were given minutes from the January 12,
14 2026; and, hopefully, you had an opportunity to
15 look at those.

16 ACTING CHAIRPERSON FREEDHOFF:
17 Chairman Meredith Freedhoff, I move that we approve
18 the minutes of the January 12, 2026 meeting at the
19 Franklin County Board of Elections as submitted.

20 MEMBER SHUMAKER: Jamie Shumaker, I
21 second.

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

24 All of those in favor of the motion

1 signify by saying "aye."

2 (Vote taken.)

3 DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: All opposed
4 same sign.

5 (No response.)

6 DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: Motion
7 carries.

8 The next item on the agenda we have
9 a couple voter registration challenges, and I'm
10 going to turn that over to Sara Ziemba, supervisor
11 in the voter services department.

12 MS. ZIEMBA: Thank you, David. Good
13 afternoon, Board.

14 I'm here to present two voter
15 challenges to you today. I think we have both of
16 our participants here for us. So that's great.
17 Thank you both for attending.

18 Our first challenge is brought to us
19 from Thomas Jay Martin, Sr., of 859 East Starr
20 Avenue against Kenneth Rothgeb also of 859 East
21 Starr Avenue in Columbus.

22 And this one you've got a little
23 handout of the basic research overview that we
24 have. There's vote history for Mr. Rothgeb, the

1 individual who's being challenged, and just a brief
2 overview of what's going on in his voter record.
3 I'll give a quick overview for you here as well.

4 Mr. Kenneth Rothgeb most recently
5 registered to vote in Franklin County on 9-9-2021
6 on a paper form from the BMV. And then as part of
7 the 2022 National Change of Address or NCOA
8 program. The board automatically updated
9 Mr. Rothgeb's address to 845 East Starr Avenue.
10 That was, again, received once a year from the US
11 Postal Service, and that was updated back in 2022.

12 And then what brings us to the
13 address that he is being challenged at today the
14 84 -- or 859 East Starr Avenue was through a BMV
15 online registration update that was received on 6-2
16 of 2025, and that changed Mr. Rothgeb's address to
17 the one in question that's being challenged today.
18 That is 859 East Starr Avenue, Columbus, Ohio
19 43201.

20 And so since that time, where
21 Mr. Rothgeb's address was updated to the 859 East
22 Starr Avenue, he did vote last November from that
23 address at the polls. So presumably he would have
24 went in there and stated that is his address,

1 showed proper identification and voted at the
2 voting location last November 4 for the General.

3 Because this was a BMV situation, I
4 contacted our contact investigator over at the BMV,
5 Brandon Hammond. And he said that between
6 10-22-2025 -- or I'm sorry -- since May 9 of 2023,
7 to the 2025 online update, Mr. Rothgeb had changed
8 his address several times between 845 and 859 East
9 Starr. And once I heard that from our investigator
10 at the BMV, I sent a registration form with a
11 little note to 845 East Starr to try and get
12 Mr. Rothgeb to update his address on his own, and
13 we can clear up the miscommunication or whatever he
14 had going on with the BMV.

15 Did not a get a response back to
16 that registration form, and still -- so today, I
17 think that there's -- I don't know if there's
18 confusion at the BMV with the car titles or if
19 there's typos, but as far as our investigator could
20 tell us at the BMV, everything looked legit on
21 their side. That the gentleman had come in and
22 filed car titles with the BMV at both of those
23 addresses over the time period from 2023 to 2025.
24 Sort of back and forth between the two addresses.

1 On his challenge form, which you
2 also have, Mr. Martin has said that he lives at
3 this address, and that Kenneth Rothgeb does not.
4 Per the Franklin County Auditor's site, Mr. Thomas
5 Martin, Sr., is the only listed owner of that
6 property, and the other person registered at that
7 address is Thomas Martin, Jr.

8 And so, to me, as to all of the
9 information that we have on file, having spoken
10 with the BMV, I think that it's clear that
11 Mr. Martin owns the house, lives there, and his
12 testimony on his challenge sheet that the other
13 individual, Kenneth Rothgeb does not live there is
14 proof and evidence that we recommend that the board
15 would uphold the challenge. And I'm sure you'll
16 want to talk to Mr. Martin today.

17 ACTING CHAIRMAN FREEDHOFF: Thank
18 you, Sara. Yes, please, if Mr. Martin would like
19 to speak, that would be a good idea.

20 Mr. Martin would you like to come
21 up?

22 MR. MARTIN: Oh, okay.

23 ACTING CHAIRMAN FREEDHOFF: Thank
24 you for being here today.

1 MR. MARTIN: Thank you.

2 ACTING CHAIRMAN FREEDHOFF: Could
3 you please swear in with our...

4 THOMAS MARTIN

5 being first duly sworn, by me as herein
6 certified, testified as follows:

7 MR. MARTIN: I've been living at
8 that address -- house for -- ever since '76. I
9 moved in November the 1st, 1976. I've been there
10 ever since. And no one else lived there except for
11 me and my children and my wife, of course. She is
12 now deceased.

13 ACTING CHAIRMAN FREEDHOFF: Thank
14 you for coming here today. Do you have any
15 questions?

16 MEMBER SEXTON: I'm sorry. I
17 couldn't hear you, sir. How long did you say
18 you've been living at the address?

19 MR. MARTIN: Ever since '76, 1976.

20 MEMBER SEXTON: Okay. Thank you.

21 MR. MARTIN: Is that all?

22 DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: Unless you
23 have anything else.

24 ACTING CHAIRMAN FREEDHOFF: Thank

1 your for coming in today, sir.

2 MEMBER SEXTON: Questions?

3 MEMBER SHUMAKER: I don't have any
4 questions.

5 MEMBER SEXTON: Madam Chair, Michael
6 Sexton, I move that the Board approve the challenge
7 of the right to vote filed by Thomas Martin of 859
8 East Starr Avenue, Columbus, Ohio against Kenneth
9 Rothgeb of 859 East Starr, Columbus, Ohio and order
10 that Mr. Rothgeb's registration be removed from the
11 Franklin County voter file.

12 ACTING CHAIRMAN FREEDHOFF: I
13 second.

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

17 (Vote taken.)

18 DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: All opposed
19 same sign.

20 (No response.)

21 DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: Motion
22 carries.

23 Do we have one more voter challenge?

24 MS. ZIEMBA: We have one more. This

1 one, you have a research overview and the challenge
2 form from the homeowner. This challenge is brought
3 to us by Timothy Sheehan, and he is living and
4 registered at 6794 Bowerman Street West in
5 Worthington. The challenge is against Denise
6 Washington also of 6794 Bowerman Street West in
7 Worthington.

8 And this one is a little more
9 straight forward than the last one. Denise
10 Washington was registered in Franklin County on May
11 14, 2024 on a paper form from on a registration
12 that was collected by an advocacy group.

13 And since that time of May 14, 2024,
14 Denise Washington has had no other voter initiated
15 activity, has not voted. It is -- all we had on
16 file for Ms. Washington was the registration form
17 collected by the advocacy group in May of 2024.

18 Timothy Ryan Sheehan has been
19 registered to vote in Franklin County since 2015
20 and has been registered at this address in
21 question, 6794 Bowerman Street West in Worthington
22 since 2016.

23 Mr. Sheehan is listed on Franklin
24 County Auditor as the owner of the property, and

1 there are no other registered voters there at 6794
2 Bowerman Street West. Given all of the research
3 that we've done, voter services recommends to the
4 board that this challenge is also upheld and
5 Timothy is here, and I'm sure he would like to say
6 something as well if you have questions for him.

7 ACTING CHAIRMAN FREEDHOFF: Sara,
8 can I ask you a question?

9 MS. ZIEMBA: Oh, absolutely. Yes.

10 ACTING CHAIRMAN FREEDHOFF: What was
11 the advocacy group that collected that?

12 MS. ZIEMBA: It was Black Fork.
13 Black Fork Strategies.

14 ACTING CHAIRMAN FREEDHOFF: Our
15 guest is here to speak. Great come on up.

16 TIMOTHY SHEEHAN

17 being first duly sworn, by me as hereinafter
18 certified, testified as follows:

19 ACTING CHAIRMAN FREEDHOFF: Thank
20 you for being here today.

21 MR. SHEEHAN: Thank you for having
22 me. I think when it comes down to someone else
23 registering at your residence that you clearly know
24 does not reside there, a lot of fraud going on.

1 You get a lot of these data breaches coming in. I
2 just wanted to make sure that everything kind of
3 lines up. It's attached to my name in the house
4 and I don't know what this individual does, so I
5 just want to make sure it got cleared up rightfully
6 so.

7 ACTING CHAIRMAN FREEDHOFF: We
8 appreciate that. Thank you for being here.

9 MR. SHEEHAN: Thanks.

10 ACTING CHAIRMAN FREEDHOFF: Do you
11 have any questions?

12 MEMBER SEXTON: I do not.

13 MEMBER SHUMAKER: I do not.

14 ACTING CHAIRMAN FREEDHOFF: Thank
15 you.

16 MR. SHEEHAN: Thank you.

17 MEMBER SHUMAKER: Thank you.

18 Chairman, Jamie Shumaker, I move the
19 Board approve the Challenge of Right to Vote filed
20 by Timothy Sheehan of 6794 Bowerman Street West,
21 Worthington, Ohio against Denise Washington of 6794
22 Bowerman West, Worthington and order Denise
23 Washington's registration be removed from the
24 Franklin County voter file.

1 ACTING CHAIRMAN FREEDHOFF: Meredith
2 Freedhoff, I second that.

3 DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: Been
4 properly moved and seconded.

5 All of those in favor of the motion,
6 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 DIRECTOR WHITE: Thank you, sir.

14 DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: The next
15 item on the agenda is the Certification of
16 Candidates.

17 I'll call Jeff Mackey manager of
18 petitions and filings to walk us through the
19 Certification of Candidates.

20 MR. MACKEY: Hello.

21 DIRECTOR WHITE: Hello. Jeff has a
22 big yellow box.

23 MR. MACKEY: The better to carry my
24 voters with.

1 This filing period, Board of
2 Elections received 200 petitions. We also received
3 30 statewide candidate petitions from the Secretary
4 of State's Office, and we had one Columbus charter
5 amendment petition.

6 So staff examined 45,000 signatures.
7 We did that all in ten days and prepared here with
8 exhibits for you for candidates, questions and
9 issues, local options.

10 I think you have before you Exhibit
11 A, Petitions of the Candidates found on Exhibit A
12 were reviewed by staff. They are found to be
13 timely filed, valid and sufficient; and we
14 recommend them for certification to the May 5, 2026
15 Primary Election.

16 ACTING CHAIRMAN FREEDHOFF: Do we
17 have any questions for Jeff Mackey regarding
18 Exhibit A?

19 MEMBER SHUMAKER: I don't.

20 MEMBER SEXTON: I do not.

21 ACTING CHAIRMAN FREEDHOFF: Meredith
22 Freedhoff, I move that the Board declare each of
23 such persons as appears in Exhibit A to be
24 nominated, and that we certify their names to the

1 May 5, 2026 Primary Election on the ballot.

2 MR. MACKEY: We need to clear that
3 motion up a little bit. We're not nominating any
4 candidates at this time. We're just certifying
5 them to the Primary.

6 DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: I think the
7 nomination said "nominated." So that's my error.

8 ACTING CHAIRMAN FREEDHOFF: I move
9 the Board declare each of such persons in Exhibit A
10 and that we certify their names to the May 5, 2026
11 Primary Election ballot, and that these petitions
12 were filed timely and found to be valid and
13 sufficient.

14 MEMBER SHUMAKER: Jamie Shumaker, I
15 second.

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

19 (Vote taken.)

20 DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: All opposed,
21 same sign.

22 (No response.)

23 DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: Motion
24 carries.

1 I think past practice, if I'm
2 correct, we don't permit or it's not wise,
3 probably, to have candidates that are on the ballot
4 that are board members vote on their own petition.

5 So I think we segregated Meredith
6 Freedhoff's petition separate from the other ones.

7 So do you want to discuss that?

8 MR. MACKEY: I think you did a
9 wonderful job.

10 ACTING CHAIRMAN FREEDHOFF: Thank
11 you.

12 MEMBER SEXTON: Madam Chair, I move
13 that we certify Meredith Freedhoff to the May 5,
14 2026 Primary Election ballot for the office of
15 Republican State Central Committee District 16 to
16 be found that her petitions were filed timely and
17 found to be valid and sufficient.

18 MEMBER SHUMAKER: Jamie Shumaker,
19 and I second.

20 DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: It's been
21 properly moved and seconded. I'm going to take a
22 roll call vote.

23 Jamie Shumaker.

24 MEMBER SHUMAKER: Yes.

1 DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: Mike Sexton.

2 MEMBER SEXTON: Yes.

3 DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: Meredith

4 Freedhoff.

5 ACTING CHAIRMAN FREEDHOFF: Yes.

6 Abstain. Yes, I abstain.

7 How do you want me to say it?

8 DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: That's

9 perfect.

10 The next item on the agenda is our

11 uncertified candidates.

12 ACTING CHAIRMAN FREEDHOFF: Go

13 ahead.

14 MR. MACKEY: Petitions for the

15 candidates found on Exhibit B were reviewed by

16 staff as well, but they were found to be either not

17 timely filed, invalid or insufficient.

18 We do not recommend they be

19 certified. If you find any there that you would

20 like further information on, I have the ability to

21 answer any questions.

22 ACTING CHAIRMAN FREEDHOFF: Thank

23 you. We've been notified of a request to speak by

24 a speaker that's here today. Regarding candidate

1 for non-certification.

2 Would you like to come up.

3 Mr. Rankin?

4 TIM RANKIN

5 Being first duly sworn, by me as hereinafter
6 certified, testified as follows:

7 MR. RANKIN: Good evening, Members
8 of the Board, hopefully after I do my little
9 presentation Mr. Mackey will give me the sign of
10 approval he did with David here. So I'll do my
11 best.

12 I'm here to speak on one particular
13 petition that's recommended for non-certification.
14 That is Chris Junga who filed for the Franklin
15 County General Division Probate Court here in
16 Franklin County.

17 I believe that the recommendation
18 for non-certification is based upon the allegation
19 that the date listed on his petition was not the
20 date on which the term is supposed to commence.

21 I've looked at several cases on this
22 particular issue. I've looked at the statute which
23 is 3513.08, and before I go into that, let me just
24 make a few things that I think are fairly

1 undisputed about this.

2 We have one Franklin County Probate
3 Court seat. That's it. It's not like the General
4 Division of the Franklin County Common Pleas Court
5 that has multiple seats available at any given time
6 for election. I believe there's at least five on
7 the ballot this year. We have one probate court
8 seat, and that's it. Mr. Junga on his petition,
9 did indicate that he was running for the Franklin
10 County General Division Probate Court as a
11 candidate for the office.

12 Statute 3513.08 talks about the
13 requirements of those filing their petitions, and
14 it talks about in addition to designee in such
15 declaration the office for election to which he
16 seeks such nomination, shall, if two or more judges
17 of the same court are to be elected at any one
18 election, designate the term of commencement of the
19 office.

20 Chris Junga is filing for a single
21 office of the Common Pleas Court being the Probate
22 Court. I think by the plain language of the
23 statute that that certification should be gone
24 forward based upon the fact that he listed his

1 name. He listed the office that he was running
2 for, albeit the wrong commencement date.

3 There are cases that I've looked at
4 as well too. There's one that came out of Franklin
5 County Board of Elections back in 1987. That is
6 State ex rel. Maurer vs Franklin County Board of
7 Elections, 33 O St 3d 53. The Court looked at that
8 particular petition when the candidate did not even
9 list the office that he was running for, and the
10 Court found that he was still qualified because
11 there was enough information to understand that the
12 one office that he was running for was sufficient.

13 The statute's purpose -- its general
14 purpose in legislative intent is to make sure when
15 someone files a petition for office that anybody
16 looking at it knows what office they're running
17 for.

18 There's a case, that I've seen as
19 well, that came from the Supreme Court where they
20 invalidate a particular Court of Appeals candidate
21 in another county because they had a wrong date.
22 But what was a distinguishing factor in that case,
23 there were two candidates for two different seats
24 on that particular court of appeals at the time,

1 with two separate commencement dates. And based
2 upon that, when the Court looked at it, determined
3 that you cannot tell from that petition filed
4 whether he was running for General Division -- or
5 Common Pleas Court Seat 1 or Common Pleas Court
6 Seat 2 in the same election.

7 I think when the Board looks at
8 this, I think you should come to the determination
9 that Mr. Junga filed a proper petition; that they
10 know what office he's running for there, and there
11 is substantial compliance of the statute and its
12 true intent.

13 I believe this Board should remove
14 it from the current list of candidates to not be
15 certified and move to certify his candidate.

16 Is that okay, Jeff?

17 MR. MACKEY: I think you did a
18 wonderful job.

19 ACTING CHAIRMAN FREEDHOFF: Thank
20 you for presenting to us today.

21 MR. RANKIN: Thank you for having
22 me.

23 MEMBER SEXTON: I just had a
24 question of the prosecutor's office. I just wanted

1 to make sure that your office has, obviously,
2 reviewed this, and that it is your opinion that we
3 not certify this candidate to the ballot.

4 MR. ZAGROCKI: It is this office's
5 opinion to not certify the candidate. I do think
6 that there's an opportunity, if the candidate
7 wishes, to seek a reconsideration, in which case we
8 can always do an additional opinion. They can work
9 with our office as well to work on the statutory
10 interpretation issues that have been raised, and
11 then we can work with the Board as well on this
12 issue.

13 But currently it's the prosecutor's
14 opinion that the Board -- that the candidate should
15 not be certified.

16 MEMBER SEXTON: Thank you.

17 MEMBER SHUMAKER: Chairman, Jamie
18 Shumaker, I move that the Board declare each of
19 such persons as appears in Exhibit B to not be
20 nominated, and that we not certify their names to
21 the May 5, 2026 Primary Election ballot, and that
22 these petitions were found to be invalid and
23 insufficient.

24 MEMBER SEXTON: I'll second.

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

3 I'm going to go ahead and take a
4 role call vote.

5 Jamie Shumaker.

6 MEMBER SHUMAKER: Yes.

7 DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: Mike Sexton.

8 MEMBER SEXTON: Yes.

9 DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: Meredith
10 Freedhoff.

11 ACTING CHAIRMAN FREEDHOFF: Abstain.

12 DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: Motion
13 carries. 2 with one abstention.

14 Next item on the agenda is Local
15 Option Petitions Recommended for Certification.

16 MR. MACKEY: Local Option, we have a
17 number filed for this election. Petitions filed
18 for this you can find this on Exhibit C -- or the
19 ones that you find on Exhibit C were reviewed by
20 staff and counsel at the county prosecutor's
21 office. They were found to be timely filed, valid
22 and sufficient. We recommend them for
23 certification.

24 ACTING CHAIRMAN FREEDHOFF: Do we

1 have any questions for Mr. Mackey regarding --

2 MEMBER SEXTON: I do not.

3 ACTING CHAIRMAN FREEDHOFF: Exhibit
4 C?

5 MEMBER SHUMAKER: I do not.

6 ACTING CHAIRMAN FREEDHOFF: Meredith
7 Freedhoff, I move that the Board certify to the
8 May 5, 2026 Primary Election ballot the Local
9 Options listed on Exhibit C and that these
10 petitions were filed timely and found to be valid
11 and sufficient.

12 MEMBER SEXTON: Michael Sexton, I'll
13 second.

14 DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: Been
15 properly moved and seconded. All those in favor of
16 the motion, signify by saying "aye."

17 (Vote taken.)

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

20 (No response.)

21 DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: Motion
22 carries.

23 Next item on the agenda is Local
24 Option Petition Not Recommended For Certification.

1 MR. MACKEY: The Local Option
2 Petitions under Exhibit D were reviewed by staff
3 and our counselors at the county prosecutor's
4 office. They were found to be either not timely
5 filed, invalid or insufficient. So we do not
6 recommend they be certified to the election.

7 MEMBER SHUMAKER: Anybody have any
8 questions?

9 MEMBER SEXTON: I don't.

10 MEMBER SHUMAKER: Chairman, Jamie
11 Shumaker, I move the Board certify to the May 5,
12 2026 Primary Election ballot the Local Option
13 listed Exhibit D and that this petition was found
14 to be invalid and insufficient.

15 ACTING CHAIRMAN FREEDHOFF: Second.

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

19 (Vote taken.)

20 DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: All opposed,
21 same sign.

22 (No response.)

23 DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: The motion
24 carries.

1 The next item on the agenda is the
2 Certification of Questions and Issues.

3 MR. MACKEY: Questions and Issues on
4 Exhibit E were filed by various taxing authorities
5 and municipalities and subdivisions. They were
6 reviewed by staff and our counselors at the county
7 prosecutor's office and that they have qualified
8 and should be included on the 2025 [sic] Primary --
9 or Special Election ballot.

10 DIRECTOR WHITE: 2026.

11 MR. MACKEY: 2026 Special Election
12 ballot.

13 MEMBER SEXTON: Jeff, I do have one
14 question. If there are -- particularly, I know
15 there's a possible one that's at the city right
16 now, what's the process for when those -- I know
17 that the council usually pass them and then send
18 them to us. When will this Board, do you think,
19 will vote on those for the Primary?

20 MR. MACKEY: If the city wants it to
21 occur at the May 5, 2026 Special Election, then
22 they would need to get their resolution ordering
23 that on the ballot by the 60th day before the
24 election, which I don't know off the top of my head

1 when, 20-ish days from now. Hopefully, it comes
2 sooner than that so we can polish up the ballot
3 language.

4 MEMBER SEXTON: So they do their
5 work, send it to us, then it just goes on the
6 ballot. We don't have --

7 MR. MACKEY: You don't actually have
8 to do anything.

9 MEMBER SEXTON: Okay. Thank you.

10 MR. SEXTON: Unless we find some
11 strange issue with it. Then we'll alert Fairfield
12 and Delaware counties as well, being involved in
13 that.

14 MEMBER SEXTON: Any other questions?

15 Seeing none, I move the Board
16 certify to the May 5, 2026 Primary Election ballot
17 those questions and issues listed in Exhibit E and
18 that these ballot petitions were filed timely and
19 found to be valid.

20 ACTING CHAIRMAN FREEDHOFF: Meredith
21 Freedhoff, I second.

22 DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: It's been
23 properly moved and seconded. All of those in favor
24 of 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: The motion
6 carries.

7 The next item on the agenda --

8 MR. MACKEY: If I could just add a
9 couple side notes.

10 DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: What's that?

11 MR. MACKEY: I just have a couple of
12 side notes.

13 DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: Okay.
14 Sorry.

15 MR. MACKEY: One of those is a
16 Minerva Park Charter Commission, so their deadline
17 to file their candidate petition was today. So we
18 will handle any of those that we get at our next
19 meeting as well as any write-in candidate petitions
20 or declarations that we receive.

21 DIRECTOR WHITE: Thank you, Jeff.
22 And thank you to the staff for the job you all did
23 to quickly turn around 45,000 signatures. It's a
24 big, heavy lift, and your team did a great job. So

1 thank you.

2 MR. MACKEY: Appreciate that.

3 ACTING CHAIRMAN FREEDHOFF: Thank
4 you.

5 DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: Sorry I
6 stepped on your comments.

7 MR. MACKEY: That's okay.

8 DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: The next
9 item on the agenda is the hiring of Jada Campbell,
10 and I'm going to turn that over to Antone White.

11 DIRECTOR WHITE: Thank you, David.
12 We would like to fill our Community Affairs Manager
13 role, and that I present to the Board, Ms. Jada
14 Campbell who's with us today.

15 Jada is a long-time-local operative
16 and community organizer. She most recently comes
17 to us from the Hollywood Casino where she served as
18 a marketing coordinator.

19 She's done work as an outreach
20 director and coordinator for several different
21 campaigns, both nationally, presidential campaigns,
22 here in the state on state campaigns and just has a
23 variety of experience with organizing and doing
24 outreach.

1 And so, in her role as Community
2 Affairs Manager, she will represent the Board in
3 our voter education efforts, particularly, this
4 year as we have a new bill, Senate Bill 293, that
5 we have to implement and change into election law;
6 and she'll be managing all of our social media and
7 all of our outreach in that manner.

8 So pending any questions, I would
9 ask that the Board approve the hiring of Jada
10 Campbell.

11 ACTING CHAIRMAN FREEDHOFF: I have
12 to ask this. How is it working at the Hollywood
13 Casino?

14 MS. CAMPBELL: There's some
15 characters. But it gives you the experience of
16 working with every different type of person and
17 looking at their personalities, just knowing how
18 and what to say, what not to say, what not to do,
19 and just how to be professional no matter what the
20 scenery is. It was really fun, don't get me wrong.
21 There are a lot perks. They gave us a cutout --
22 human size cutout of ourselves that we had at the
23 casino.

24 DIRECTOR WHITE: She's always here.

1 MS. CAMPBELL: I am here even when
2 I'm not.

3 DIRECTOR WHITE: The entire fashion
4 in the office has increased since she got here.

5 ACTING CHAIRMAN FREEDHOFF: I'm all
6 in for that.

7 DIRECTOR WHITE: She's a welcomed
8 addition.

9 ACTING CHAIRMAN FREEDHOFF:
10 Everybody that we worked with there was lovely, and
11 they were very professional, and so you did a good
12 job in marketing.

13 MS. CAMPBELL: Thank you.

14 ACTING CHAIRMAN FREEDHOFF: Because
15 they did very well. So, thank you.

16 MEMBER SEXTON: Madam Chair, Michael
17 Sexton, I move the Board hire Jada Campbell as the
18 Community Affairs Manager beginning February 2,
19 2026, at a rate of \$37 per hour.

20 ACTING CHAIRMAN FREEDHOFF: Meredith
21 Freedhoff, I second.

22 DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: All of those
23 in favor of the motion, signify by saying "aye."

24 (Vote taken.)

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

3 (No response.)

4 DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: Motion
5 carries.

6 DIRECTOR WHITE: Congratulations.

7 DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: Madam
8 Chairman, I see nothing else on the agenda.

9 ACTING CHAIRMAN FREEDHOFF: Then I
10 would like to make the motion to adjourn.

11 MEMBER SEXTON: Second.

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

14 Thereupon, the meeting concluded at
15 approximately 3:45 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, Jeanine Fansler, 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 the parties hereto party and have no interest whatsoever in the event of this matter.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and official seal of office at Columbus, Ohio, this 24th of March, 2026.

/s/Jeanine Fansler
Notary Public, State of Ohio

My Commission Expires: November 28, 2028.

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EXHIBIT A

Candidates Recommended for
Certification for the
May 5, 2026 Primary Election



Exhibit A: Candidates Recommended for Certification to the May 5, 2026 Primary Election

BEATTY, JOYCE REPRESENTATIVE TO CONGRESS - 03RD DISTRICT Full Term	Ballot Name: Joyce Beatty	Party: Democratic Write-In: No
Gerard, Joseph REPRESENTATIVE TO CONGRESS - 03RD DISTRICT Full Term	Ballot Name: Joe Gerard	Party: Democratic Write-In: No
Leonard, Don REPRESENTATIVE TO CONGRESS - 15TH DISTRICT Full Term	Ballot Name: Don Leonard	Party: Democratic Write-In: No
MILLER, ADAM REPRESENTATIVE TO CONGRESS - 15TH DISTRICT Full Term	Ballot Name: Adam C. Miller	Party: Democratic Write-In: No
MENTEL, MICHAEL JUDGE OF COURT OF APPEALS Full Term Commencing 02/09/2027	Ballot Name: Michael C. Mentel	Party: Democratic Write-In: No
JAMISON, TERRI JUDGE OF COURT OF APPEALS Full Term Commencing 07/01/2027	Ballot Name: Terri Jamison	Party: Democratic Write-In: No
Wightman, Alec STATE CENTRAL COMMITTEE - MAN - 03rd District Full Term	Ballot Name: Alec Wightman	Party: Democratic Write-In: No
JARRELLS, DONTAVIUS STATE CENTRAL COMMITTEE - MAN - 15th District Full Term	Ballot Name: Dontavius Jarrells	Party: Democratic Write-In: No
Justus, Dylan STATE CENTRAL COMMITTEE - MAN - 15th District Full Term	Ballot Name: Dylan Justus	Party: Democratic Write-In: No
O'Grady, John STATE CENTRAL COMMITTEE - MAN - 16th District Full Term	Ballot Name: John O'Grady	Party: Democratic Write-In: No

Exhibit A: Candidates Recommended for Certification to the May 5, 2026 Primary Election

DEMORA, WILLIAM STATE CENTRAL COMMITTEE - MAN - 25TH District Full Term	Ballot Name: Bill DeMora	Party: Democratic Write-In: No
Rotter, Andrej STATE CENTRAL COMMITTEE - MAN - 25TH District Full Term	Ballot Name: Andrej Rotter	Party: Democratic Write-In: No
Lawson-Rowe, Meredith STATE CENTRAL COMMITTEE - WOMAN - 03rd District Full Term	Ballot Name: Meredith R. Lawson-Rowe	Party: Democratic Write-In: No
BEATTY, JOYCE STATE CENTRAL COMMITTEE - WOMAN - 15th District Full Term	Ballot Name: Joyce Beatty	Party: Democratic Write-In: No
Brown Piccolantonio, Beryl STATE CENTRAL COMMITTEE - WOMAN - 16th District Full Term	Ballot Name: Beryl Brown Piccolantonio	Party: Democratic Write-In: No
CHERRY, SARAH STATE CENTRAL COMMITTEE - WOMAN - 25TH District Full Term	Ballot Name: Sarah Cherry	Party: Democratic Write-In: No
RUSSO, CATHERINE STATE CENTRAL COMMITTEE - WOMAN - 25TH District Full Term	Ballot Name: Allison Russo	Party: Democratic Write-In: No
YOUNG, MARLISA STATE CENTRAL COMMITTEE - WOMAN - 25TH District Full Term	Ballot Name: Marlisa M. Young	Party: Democratic Write-In: No
AVENI, CARL JUDGE OF THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS (General Division) Full Term Commencing 01/01/2027	Ballot Name: Carl Aveni	Party: Democratic Write-In: No
MILLER, ANDREW JUDGE OF THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS (General Division) Full Term Commencing 02/09/2027	Ballot Name: Andy Miller	Party: Democratic Write-In: No

Exhibit A: Candidates Recommended for Certification to the May 5, 2026 Primary Election

BAKER, JESSE STATE SENATOR - OHIO SENATE DISTRICT 25 Full Term	Ballot Name: Jesse Baker	Party: Democratic Write-In: No
DEMORA, WILLIAM STATE SENATOR - OHIO SENATE DISTRICT 25 Full Term	Ballot Name: Bill DeMora	Party: Democratic Write-In: No
JARRELLS, DONTAVIUS STATE REPRESENTATIVE - OHIO HOUSE DISTRICT 01 Full Term	Ballot Name: Dontavius Jarrells	Party: Democratic Write-In: No
ROBBINS, CHRISTOPHER STATE REPRESENTATIVE - OHIO HOUSE DISTRICT 01 Full Term	Ballot Name: Christopher Robbins	Party: Democratic Write-In: No
COLE, MICHAEL STATE REPRESENTATIVE - OHIO HOUSE DISTRICT 02 Full Term	Ballot Name: Michael D. Cole	Party: Democratic Write-In: No
Martin King, Charity STATE REPRESENTATIVE - OHIO HOUSE DISTRICT 02 Full Term	Ballot Name: Charity Martin King	Party: Democratic Write-In: No
RICHARDS, ELIZABETH STATE REPRESENTATIVE - OHIO HOUSE DISTRICT 02 Full Term	Ballot Name: Elizabeth G. Richards	Party: Democratic Write-In: No
MOHAMED, ISMAIL STATE REPRESENTATIVE - OHIO HOUSE DISTRICT 03 Full Term	Ballot Name: Ismail Mohamed	Party: Democratic Write-In: No
BROWN PICCOLANTONIO, BERYL STATE REPRESENTATIVE - OHIO HOUSE DISTRICT 04 Full Term	Ballot Name: Beryl Brown Piccolantonio	Party: Democratic Write-In: No
LAWSON ROWE, MEREDITH STATE REPRESENTATIVE - OHIO HOUSE DISTRICT 05 Full Term	Ballot Name: Meredith R. Lawson-Rowe	Party: Democratic Write-In: No

Exhibit A: Candidates Recommended for Certification to the May 5, 2026 Primary Election

COCKLEY, CHRISTINE STATE REPRESENTATIVE - OHIO HOUSE DISTRICT 06 Full Term	Ballot Name: Christine Cockley	Party: Democratic Write-In: No
AWAKESSIEN JETER, UKEME STATE REPRESENTATIVE - OHIO HOUSE DISTRICT 07 Full Term	Ballot Name: Ukeme Awakessien Jeter	Party: Democratic Write-In: No
Burriss, Michaela STATE REPRESENTATIVE - OHIO HOUSE DISTRICT 07 Full Term	Ballot Name: Michaela Burriss	Party: Democratic Write-In: No
Rossfeld, Zachary STATE REPRESENTATIVE - OHIO HOUSE DISTRICT 07 Full Term	Ballot Name: Zach Rossfeld	Party: Democratic Write-In: No
SOMANI, ANITA STATE REPRESENTATIVE - OHIO HOUSE DISTRICT 08 Full Term	Ballot Name: Anita Somani	Party: Democratic Write-In: No
ABDULLAHI, MUNIRA STATE REPRESENTATIVE - OHIO HOUSE DISTRICT 09 Full Term	Ballot Name: Munira Yasin Abdullahi	Party: Democratic Write-In: No
SIGRIST, MARK STATE REPRESENTATIVE - OHIO HOUSE DISTRICT 10 Full Term	Ballot Name: Mark Sigrist	Party: Democratic Write-In: No
LETT, CRYSTAL STATE REPRESENTATIVE - OHIO HOUSE DISTRICT 11 Full Term	Ballot Name: Crystal Lett	Party: Democratic Write-In: No
STINZIANO, MICHAEL COUNTY AUDITOR Full Term	Ballot Name: Michael Stinziano Write-In: No	Party: Democratic
Crawley, Erica COUNTY COMMISSIONER Full Term Commencing 01/01/2027	Ballot Name: Erica C. Crawley	Party: Democratic Write-In: No

Exhibit A: Candidates Recommended for Certification to the May 5, 2026 Primary Election

BARRINGTON, BRENNAN **Ballot Name:** Brennan Barrington **Party:** Libertarian
COUNTY CENTRAL COMMITTEE - COLUMBUS PRECINT 8-A Full Term **Write-In:** No

SWEENEY, MICHAEL **Ballot Name:** Michael Sweeney **Party:** Libertarian
COUNTY CENTRAL COMMITTEE - GAHANNA PRECINCT 3-E Full Term **Write-In:** No

STEWART, JOHN **Ballot Name:** John S. Stewart **Party:** Libertarian
COUNTY CENTRAL COMMITTEE - GAHANNA PRECINCT 4-D Full Term **Write-In:** No

Terford, Eric **Ballot Name:** Eric Terford **Party:** Libertarian
COUNTY CENTRAL COMMITTEE - WHITEHALL PRECINT 3-C Full Term **Write-In:** No

NADOLNY, DAVID **Ballot Name:** David Nadolny **Party:** Libertarian
COUNTY CENTRAL COMMITTEE - WORTHINGTON PRECINCT 2-A Full Term **Write-In:** No

BARRINGTON, BRENNAN **Ballot Name:** Brennan Barrington **Party:** Libertarian
REPRESENTATIVE TO CONGRESS - 15TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT Full Term **Write-In:** No

Sprankle, Tricia **Ballot Name:** Tricia Sprankle **Party:** Libertarian
STATE CENTRAL COMMITTEE - 03rd District Full Term **Write-In:** No

Terford, Eric **Ballot Name:** Eric Terford **Party:** Libertarian
STATE CENTRAL COMMITTEE - 03rd District Full Term **Write-In:** No

DULANEY, CLEOPHUS **Ballot Name:** Cleophus Dulaney **Party:** Republican
REPRESENTATIVE TO CONGRESS - 03RD CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT Full Term **Write-In:** No

CAREY, MICHAEL **Ballot Name:** Mike Carey **Party:** Republican
REPRESENTATIVE TO CONGRESS - 15TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT Full Term **Write-In:** No

Exhibit A: Candidates Recommended for Certification to the May 5, 2026 Primary Election

Ronan, Samuel REPRESENTATIVE TO CONGRESS - 15TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT Full Term	Ballot Name: Samuel Ronan	Party: Republican Write-In: No
ANDERSON, MICHELLE STATE CENTRAL COMMITTEE - WOMAN - 03rd District Full Term	Ballot Name: Michelle Anderson	Party: Republican Write-In: No
GILLEN, BRIAN STATE CENTRAL COMMITTEE - MAN - 03rd District Full Term	Ballot Name: Brian Gillen	Party: Republican Write-In: No
Hamilton, Patricia STATE CENTRAL COMMITTEE - WOMAN - 03rd District Full Term	Ballot Name: Patty Hamilton	Party: Republican Write-In: No
Henson, Clayton STATE CENTRAL COMMITTEE - MAN - 03rd District Full Term	Ballot Name: Clayton Henson	Party: Republican Write-In: No
Healy, Alicia STATE CENTRAL COMMITTEE - WOMAN - 15th District Full Term	Ballot Name: Alicia Healy	Party: Republican Write-In: No
HEALY, JOSEPH STATE CENTRAL COMMITTEE - MAN - 15th District Full Term	Ballot Name: Joseph Healy	Party: Republican Write-In: No
O'BRIEN, RONALD STATE CENTRAL COMMITTEE - MAN - 15th District Full Term	Ballot Name: Ron O'Brien	Party: Republican Write-In: No
Reed, Frances STATE CENTRAL COMMITTEE - WOMAN - 15th District Full Term	Ballot Name: Frances M. Reed	Party: Republican Write-In: No
BROWN, JOSHUA STATE CENTRAL COMMITTEE - MAN - 16th District Full Term	Ballot Name: Josh Brown	Party: Republican Write-In: No

Exhibit A: Candidates Recommended for Certification to the May 5, 2026 Primary Election

CARRIER, FRANK **Ballot Name:** Les Carrier **Party:** Republican
STATE CENTRAL COMMITTEE - MAN - 16th District Full Term **Write-In:** No

BURGESS, JAMES **Ballot Name:** Jim Burgess **Party:** Republican
STATE CENTRAL COMMITTEE - MAN - 25TH District Full Term **Write-In:** No

ETHERIDGE, LIONEL **Ballot Name:** Jack Etheridge **Party:** Republican
STATE CENTRAL COMMITTEE - MAN - 25TH District Full Term **Write-In:** No

O'BRIEN, SUSIE **Ballot Name:** Susie O'Brien **Party:** Republican
STATE CENTRAL COMMITTEE - WOMAN - 25TH District Full Term **Write-In:** No

RANKIN, TIMOTHY **Ballot Name:** Tim Rankin **Party:** Republican
STATE CENTRAL COMMITTEE - MAN - 25TH District Full Term **Write-In:** No

REYNOLDS, MICHELE **Ballot Name:** Michele Reynolds **Party:** Republican
STATE SENATOR - OHIO SENATE DISTRICT 03 Full Term **Write-In:** No

Healy, Joseph **Ballot Name:** Joseph Healy **Party:** Republican
STATE SENATOR - OHIO SENATE DISTRICT 15 Full Term **Write-In:** No

ROBERTS, DONALD **Ballot Name:** Don Roberts **Party:** Republican
STATE SENATOR - OHIO SENATE DISTRICT 25 Full Term **Write-In:** No

Greff, Joel **Ballot Name:** Joel A. Greff **Party:** Republican
STATE REPRESENTATIVE - OHIO HOUSE DISTRICT 01 Full Term **Write-In:** No

JACKSON, MATTHEW STATE REPRESENTATIVE - OHIO HOUSE DISTRICT 06 Full Term	Ballot Name: Matthew Jackson	Party: Republican Write-In: No
Mercier, William STATE REPRESENTATIVE - OHIO HOUSE DISTRICT 07 Full Term	Ballot Name: William Mercier	Party: Republican Write-In: No
EUANS, BRUCE STATE REPRESENTATIVE - OHIO HOUSE DISTRICT 09 Full Term	Ballot Name: Bruce Euans	Party: Republican Write-In: No
D'Angelo Steele, Denise STATE REPRESENTATIVE - OHIO HOUSE DISTRICT 10 Full Term	Ballot Name: Denise D'Angelo	Party: Republican Write-In: No
KAESER, SHAWN STATE REPRESENTATIVE - OHIO HOUSE DISTRICT 11 Full Term	Ballot Name: Shawn Kaeser	Party: Republican Write-In: No
CUGINI, DAVIDE COUNTY COMMISSIONER Full Term Commencing 01/01/2026	Ballot Name: Davide Cugini	Party: Republican Write-In: No
APPELBAUM, TODD COUNTY CENTRAL COMMITTEE - BEXLEY WARD 1 Full Term	Ballot Name: Todd J. Appelbaum	Party: Republican Write-In: No
HAPNER, PRISCILLA COUNTY CENTRAL COMMITTEE - BEXLEY WARD 3 Full Term	Ballot Name: Priscilla Hapner	Party: Republican Write-In: No
REED, FRANK COUNTY CENTRAL COMMITTEE - BEXLEY WARD 4 Full Term	Ballot Name: Frank J. Reed, Jr.	Party: Republican Write-In: No
SHARP, GREGORY COUNTY CENTRAL COMMITTEE - BROWN TOWNSHIP Full Term	Ballot Name: Greg Sharp	Party: Republican Write-In: No

Exhibit A: Candidates Recommended for Certification to the May 5, 2026 Primary Election

COLDIRON, MICHELE COUNTY CENTRAL COMMITTEE - COLUMBUS WARD 20 Full Term	Ballot Name: Michele A Coldiron	Party: Republican Write-In: No
ETHERIDGE, LIONEL COUNTY CENTRAL COMMITTEE - COLUMBUS WARD 20 Full Term	Ballot Name: Jack Etheridge	Party: Republican Write-In: No
ROBLEE, COREY COUNTY CENTRAL COMMITTEE - COLUMBUS WARD 22 Full Term	Ballot Name: Corey M. Roblee	Party: Republican Write-In: No
TRUEMPER, ZULAY COUNTY CENTRAL COMMITTEE - COLUMBUS WARD 22 Full Term	Ballot Name: Zully Truemper	Party: Republican Write-In: No
SCARBERRY, CLIFFORD COUNTY CENTRAL COMMITTEE - COLUMBUS WARD 23 Full Term	Ballot Name: Clifford R. Scarberry	Party: Republican Write-In: No
GOLDING, JEFFREY COUNTY CENTRAL COMMITTEE - COLUMBUS WARD 24 Full Term	Ballot Name: Jeffrey Golding	Party: Republican Write-In: No
SAMUEL, JAMES COUNTY CENTRAL COMMITTEE - COLUMBUS WARD 27 Full Term	Ballot Name: Jim Samuel	Party: Republican Write-In: No
MOODY, C. COUNTY CENTRAL COMMITTEE - COLUMBUS WARD 30 Full Term	Ballot Name: Doug Moody	Party: Republican Write-In: No
BELL, JACOB COUNTY CENTRAL COMMITTEE - COLUMBUS WARD 32 Full Term	Ballot Name: Jacob K. Bell	Party: Republican Write-In: No
HATCH, COLIN COUNTY CENTRAL COMMITTEE - COLUMBUS WARD 34 Full Term	Ballot Name: Colin Hatch	Party: Republican Write-In: No

Exhibit A: Candidates Recommended for Certification to the May 5, 2026 Primary Election

GIL, LUIS	Ballot Name: Luis Gil	Party: Republican
COUNTY CENTRAL COMMITTEE - COLUMBUS WARD 60 Full Term		Write-In: No
BURGESS, JAMES	Ballot Name: Jim Burgess	Party: Republican
COUNTY CENTRAL COMMITTEE - COLUMBUS WARD 62 Full Term		Write-In: No
SCHUCK, WILLIAM	Ballot Name: William Schuck	Party: Republican
COUNTY CENTRAL COMMITTEE - COLUMBUS WARD 63 Full Term		Write-In: No
DAMON, DENNIS	Ballot Name: Dennis Damon	Party: Republican
COUNTY CENTRAL COMMITTEE - COLUMBUS WARD 64 Full Term		Write-In: No
SCHARE, MARC	Ballot Name: Marc A. Schare	Party: Republican
COUNTY CENTRAL COMMITTEE - COLUMBUS WARD 65 Full Term		Write-In: No
RANKIN, KAREN	Ballot Name: Karen M. Rankin	Party: Republican
COUNTY CENTRAL COMMITTEE - COLUMBUS WARD 66 Full Term		Write-In: No
KLINE, DONALD	Ballot Name: Donald Kline	Party: Republican
COUNTY CENTRAL COMMITTEE - COLUMBUS WARD 69 Full Term		Write-In: No
SHIFFLETTE, ANDREW	Ballot Name: Andy Shifflette	Party: Republican
COUNTY CENTRAL COMMITTEE - COLUMBUS WARD 71 Full Term		Write-In: No
STONE, MARK	Ballot Name: Mark F. Stone	Party: Republican
COUNTY CENTRAL COMMITTEE - COLUMBUS WARD 72 Full Term		Write-In: No
PAYNE, DAVID	Ballot Name: David R. Payne	Party: Republican
COUNTY CENTRAL COMMITTEE - COLUMBUS WARD 73 Full Term		Write-In: No

Exhibit A: Candidates Recommended for Certification to the May 5, 2026 Primary Election

CARNAHAN, BRIAN **Ballot Name:** Brian Carnahan
COUNTY CENTRAL COMMITTEE - COLUMBUS WARD 76 Full Term

Party: Republican
Write-In: No

JACKSON, MATTHEW **Ballot Name:** Matthew Jackson
COUNTY CENTRAL COMMITTEE - COLUMBUS WARD 78 Full Term

Party: Republican
Write-In: No

TEETS, WILLIAM **Ballot Name:** William R. Teets
COUNTY CENTRAL COMMITTEE - COLUMBUS WARD 80 Full Term

Party: Republican
Write-In: No

PHAM, THANH **Ballot Name:** Thanh Pham
COUNTY CENTRAL COMMITTEE - COLUMBUS WARD 81 Full Term

Party: Republican
Write-In: No

CLERMONT, GLEN **Ballot Name:** Glen Clermont
COUNTY CENTRAL COMMITTEE - COLUMBUS WARD 82 Full Term

Party: Republican
Write-In: No

WHITAKER, JAMES **Ballot Name:** James A. Whitaker, Jr.
COUNTY CENTRAL COMMITTEE - COLUMBUS WARD 83 Full Term

Party: Republican
Write-In: No

LARGER, LINDA **Ballot Name:** Linda A. Larger
COUNTY CENTRAL COMMITTEE - COLUMBUS WARD 84 Full Term

Party: Republican
Write-In: No

SCHACHT, LISA **Ballot Name:** Lisa Schacht
COUNTY CENTRAL COMMITTEE - COLUMBUS WARD 86 Full Term

Party: Republican
Write-In: No

SLANE, ADAM **Ballot Name:** Adam C. Slane
COUNTY CENTRAL COMMITTEE - COLUMBUS WARD 87 Full Term

Party: Republican
Write-In: No

Exhibit A: Candidates Recommended for Certification to the May 5, 2026 Primary Election

HARRIS, STUART	Ballot Name: Stu Harris	Party: Republican
COUNTY CENTRAL COMMITTEE - DUBLIN WARD 1 Full Term		Write-In: No
HERTEL, KARI	Ballot Name: Kari B. Hertel	Party: Republican
COUNTY CENTRAL COMMITTEE - DUBLIN WARD 2 Full Term		Write-In: No
McCLENAGHAN, CHARLES	Ballot Name: Charles H. McClenaghan	Party: Republican
COUNTY CENTRAL COMMITTEE - DUBLIN WARD 3 Full Term		Write-In: No
KAPLAN, JEFFREY	Ballot Name: JD Kaplan	Party: Republican
COUNTY CENTRAL COMMITTEE - DUBLIN WARD 4 Full Term		Write-In: No
LEEZER, JAMES	Ballot Name: Jim Leezer	Party: Republican
COUNTY CENTRAL COMMITTEE - FRANKLIN TOWNSHIP Full Term		Write-In: No
MERCHANT, PAMELA	Ballot Name: Pamela S. Merchant	Party: Republican
COUNTY CENTRAL COMMITTEE - GAHANNA WARD 1 Full Term		Write-In: No
METZBOWER, BRIAN	Ballot Name: Brian Metzbower	Party: Republican
COUNTY CENTRAL COMMITTEE - GAHANNA WARD 2 Full Term		Write-In: No
LARICK, BRIAN	Ballot Name: Brian Larick	Party: Republican
COUNTY CENTRAL COMMITTEE - GAHANNA WARD 3 Full Term		Write-In: No
MCGREGOR, JAMES	Ballot Name: Jim McGregor	Party: Republican
COUNTY CENTRAL COMMITTEE - GAHANNA WARD 4 Full Term		Write-In: No
ADAMS, TIMOTHY	Ballot Name: Tim Adams	Party: Republican
COUNTY CENTRAL COMMITTEE - GRANDVIEW HEIGHTS Full Term		Write-In: No

Exhibit A: Candidates Recommended for Certification to the May 5, 2026 Primary Election

BERRY, TED COUNTY CENTRAL COMMITTEE - GROVE CITY WARD 1 Full Term	Ballot Name: Ted A. Berry	Party: Republican Write-In: No
STAGE, RICHARD COUNTY CENTRAL COMMITTEE - GROVE CITY WARD 2 Full Term	Ballot Name: Richard L. Stage	Party: Republican Write-In: No
Sturm, Alan COUNTY CENTRAL COMMITTEE - GROVE CITY WARD 3 Full Term	Ballot Name: Alan Sturm	Party: Republican Write-In: No
Holinga, George COUNTY CENTRAL COMMITTEE - GROVE CITY WARD 4 Full Term	Ballot Name: George Holinga	Party: Republican Write-In: No
RITCHIE, JEFFREY COUNTY CENTRAL COMMITTEE - GROVE CITY WARD 5 Full Term	Ballot Name: Jeff Ritchie	Party: Republican Write-In: No
ANSAR, ABDULLAH COUNTY CENTRAL COMMITTEE - GROVEPORT Full Term	Ballot Name: Abdullah Ansar-Barsa	Party: Republican Write-In: No
WARD, CHRISTIE COUNTY CENTRAL COMMITTEE - HAMILTON TOWNSHIP Full Term	Ballot Name: Christie Ward	Party: Republican Write-In: No
LATHY, NATHANIEL COUNTY CENTRAL COMMITTEE - HILLIARD WARD 5 Full Term	Ballot Name: Nathaniel Lathy	Party: Republican Write-In: No
LUPIBA, JENNIFER COUNTY CENTRAL COMMITTEE - HILLIARD WARD 5 Full Term	Ballot Name: JENNIFER LUPIBA	Party: Republican Write-In: No
Ruzicka, Julie COUNTY CENTRAL COMMITTEE - JACKSON TOWNSHIP Full Term	Ballot Name: Julie Ruzicka	Party: Republican Write-In: No

Exhibit A: Candidates Recommended for Certification to the May 5, 2026 Primary Election

Sokol, Carla COUNTY CENTRAL COMMITTEE - UPPER ARLINGTON WARD 1 Full Term	Ballot Name: Carla Sokol	Party: Republican Write-In: No
ZOGBAUM, JULIE COUNTY CENTRAL COMMITTEE - UPPER ARLINGTON WARD 1 Full Term	Ballot Name: Julie Bruce Zogbaum	Party: Republican Write-In: No
HELFRICH, ANDREA COUNTY CENTRAL COMMITTEE - UPPER ARLINGTON WARD 2 Full Term	Ballot Name: Andrea Helfrich	Party: Republican Write-In: No
CRAINE, KEVIN COUNTY CENTRAL COMMITTEE - UPPER ARLINGTON WARD 3 Full Term	Ballot Name: Kevin Craine	Party: Republican Write-In: No
POPA, JANET COUNTY CENTRAL COMMITTEE - UPPER ARLINGTON WARD 4 Full Term	Ballot Name: Janet Popa	Party: Republican Write-In: No
HUGHES, SUSAN COUNTY CENTRAL COMMITTEE - UPPER ARLINGTON WARD 5 Full Term	Ballot Name: Susan Hughes	Party: Republican Write-In: No
DAVIS, JANET COUNTY CENTRAL COMMITTEE - WESTERVILLE WARD 1 Full Term	Ballot Name: Janet T. Davis	Party: Republican Write-In: No
LAWSON, GREG COUNTY CENTRAL COMMITTEE - WESTERVILLE WARD 2 Full Term	Ballot Name: Greg R. Lawson	Party: Republican Write-In: No
HAHN, META COUNTY CENTRAL COMMITTEE - WESTERVILLE WARD 3 Full Term	Ballot Name: Meta R. Hahn	Party: Republican Write-In: No
BECKETT, TRAVIS COUNTY CENTRAL COMMITTEE - WESTERVILLE WARD 4 Full Term	Ballot Name: Travis Beckett	Party: Republican Write-In: No

Exhibit A: Candidates Recommended for Certification to the May 5, 2026 Primary Election

MCCUTCHEN, DEBORAH COUNTY CENTRAL COMMITTEE - WESTERVILLE WARD 5 Full Term	Ballot Name: Deborah McCutchen	Party: Republican Write-In: No
Allen, James COUNTY CENTRAL COMMITTEE - WHITEHALL WARD 3 Full Term	Ballot Name: Jim Allen	Party: Republican Write-In: No
VOGEL, ROBERT COUNTY CENTRAL COMMITTEE - WHITEHALL WARD 4 Full Term	Ballot Name: Robert Vogel	Party: Republican Write-In: No
VALLEY, SKYE COUNTY CENTRAL COMMITTEE - WORTHINGTON WARD 1 Full Term	Ballot Name: Skye Alexander Valley	Party: Republican Write-In: No
FUNK, SUSAN COUNTY CENTRAL COMMITTEE - WORTHINGTON WARD 3 Full Term	Ballot Name: Susan A. Funk	Party: Republican Write-In: No
KETTER, STEPHEN COUNTY CENTRAL COMMITTEE - WORTHINGTON WARD 4 Full Term	Ballot Name: Stephen Ketter	Party: Republican Write-In: No

EXHIBIT B

Candidates Not Recommended for Certification

Incomplete/Invalid Circulator Statement

R.C. 3501.38(E)(1) On each petition paper, the circulator shall indicate the number of signatures contained on it, and shall sign a statement made under penalty of election falsification that the circulator witnessed the affixing of every signature, that all signers were to the best of the circulator's knowledge and belief qualified to sign, and that every signature is to the best of the circulator's knowledge and belief the signature of the person whose signature it purports to be or of an attorney in fact acting pursuant to section 3501.382 of the Revised Code.

Designation of Term

R.C. 3513.08 Each person filing a declaration of candidacy for nomination at a primary election as a candidate for election to the office of judge of the supreme court, court of appeals, court of common pleas, probate court, and such other courts as are established by law, in addition to designating in such declaration the office for election to which he seeks such nomination, shall, if two or more judges of the same court are to be elected at any one election, designate the term of the office for election to which he seeks such nomination by stating therein, if a full term, the date of the commencement of such term as follows:

"Full term commencing _____ (date) _____," or
by stating therein, if an unexpired term, the date on which such unexpired term will end as follows: "unexpired term ending _____
(Date) _____"

See, e.g., *State ex rel. Renner v. Athens Cnty. Bd. of Elections*, 2024-Ohio-356 (interpreting R.C. 3513.08 and stating that a candidate has "a mandatory duty to accurately state in her first petition the commencement date of the term of the office she sought").

Office

The declaration or statement of candidacy signed by the prospective candidate must identify the office sought so that both the electors signing the petition and the board of elections are able to ascertain from the petition which office the candidate seeks.

Candidate Petitions

The statutes prescribing the form of candidate petitions generally require substantial compliance. When there is an error or omission on a petition form, the board of elections must determine whether the prospective candidate substantially complied with the form of the petition. In determining whether a prospective candidate substantially complied with the form of the petition, the inquiry is typically fact-specific. The board should consult with its legal counsel, the county prosecutor, when reviewing petitions.

EXHIBIT C

Local Options Recommended for
Certification for the
May 5, 2026 Special Election



**EXHIBIT C – LOCAL OPTIONS RECOMMENDED FOR CERTIFICATION
MAY 5, 2026 PRIMARY ELECTION**

Revised 2/10/2026

#	Subdivision	Purpose	Rate
	Canal Winchester-C Local Option Particular Location	Sunday Sales (wine and mixed beverages and spirituous liquor) Sweet Harmony 1 st Floor Only 30 Liberty St. Canal Winchester OH 43110	
	Columbus 03-D Local Option Particular Location	Sunday Sales (beer, wine and mixed beverages and spirituous liquor) El Girasol Mexican Grocery 1569 Lockbourne Road, Columbus, OH 43207	
	Columbus 08-D Local Option Particular Location	Sunday Sales (wine and mixed beverages and spirituous liquor) Sycamore Dining, L.L.C. 262 E. Sycamore Street, Columbus, Ohio 43206	
	Columbus 09-B Local Option Particular Location	Sunday Sales (wine and mixed beverages) Shell 1000 W. Broad Street, Columbus, Ohio 43222	
	Columbus 18-F Local Option Particular Location	Sunday Sales (wine and mixed beverages) 24 E Hudson St., Inc. 24 E. Hudson St., Columbus, OH 43202	
	Columbus 26-B Local Option Particular Location	Sunday Sales (wine and mixed beverages) Airport Duchess 4455 E. 5 th Avenue, Columbus, Ohio 43219	
	Columbus 43-C Local Option Particular Location	Sunday Sales (wine and mixed beverages) Marathon Oakland Park 1326 Oakland Park Avenue, Columbus, Ohio 43224	
	Columbus 69-I Local Option Particular Location	Sunday Sales (wine and mixed beverages and spirituous liquor) Herencia Jalisco Mexican Restaurant 6542 Hayden Run Rd., Unit 2, Columbus, OH 43016	
	Grove City 3-E Local Option Particular Location	Sunday Sales (wine and mixed beverages and spirituous liquor) El Canon Restaurant 2714 London Groveport Road & Patio, Grove City, Ohio 43123	
	Obetz-B Local Option Particular Location	Sunday Sales (wine and mixed beverages) Alum Creek Duchess 3911 Alum Creek Drive, Obetz, Ohio 43207	
	Westerville 1-A Local Option Particular Location	Weekday Sales (beer, wine and mixed beverages and spirituous liquor) Begin Café 8 E. Main St., Westerville, OH 43081	
	Westerville 1-A Local Option Particular Location	Sunday Sales (wine and mixed beverages and spirituous liquor) Begin Café 8 E. Main St., Westerville, OH 43081	



EXHIBIT D

Local Options Not Recommended
for Certification



**EXHIBIT D – LOCAL OPTIONS NOT RECOMMENDED FOR CERTIFICATION
MAY 5, 2026 PRIMARY ELECTION**

Revised 2/10/2026

#	Subdivision	Purpose	Rate
	Columbus 01-B Local Option Particular Location	Sunday Sales (wine and mixed beverages and spirituous liquor) Good Times Lounge 1816 Parsons Ave Columbus OH 43207 Insufficient Valid Signatures: The petition contained 38 valid signatures out of 86 filed. 50 required.	
	Westerville 1-A Local Option Particular Location	Weekday Sales (beer, wine and mixed beverages and spirituous liquor) Uptown Westerville, Inc. 22 East Main Street, Westerville, OH 43081 The filer indicated the petitioner is a non-profit and exempt from the normal license requirement and signature requirement associated with a liquor option for a particular location. The petitioner filed 30 signatures of which 20 were found to be valid. The requirement for a site specific question in this precinct is 171 valid signatures.	



EXHIBIT E

Questions and Issues Recommended for
Inclusion in the
May 5, 2026 Special Election



**EXHIBIT E - QUESTIONS AND ISSUES RECOMMENDED
MAY 5, 2026 SPECIAL ELECTION**

Revised 2/10/2026

#	Subdivision	Purpose	Rate
	Southwest Public Library – Proposed Tax Levy (Additional)	Current Expenses	1 mill, \$35 for each \$100,00 of the county auditor’s market value, 10 years, commencing in 2026
	Minerva Park – Proposed Tax Levy (Renewal)	Current Expenses	3.2 mills, \$59 for each \$100,000 of the county auditor’s market value, 5 years, commencing in 2026
	Minerva Park – Proposed Ordinance	Charter Commission	
	Clinton Township (unincorporated area) – Proposed Resolution	Electric Aggregation	
	Clinton Township (unincorporated area) – Proposed Resolution	Natural Gas Aggregation	
	Franklin Township – Proposed Tax Levy (Additional)	Fire Protection	15.9 mills, \$557 for each \$100,000 of the county auditor’s market value, continuing period of time, commencing in 2026
	Jefferson Township (unincorporated area) – Proposed Tax Levy (Additional)	Police Protection	1.9 mills, \$67 for each \$100,000 of the county auditor’s market value, continuing period of time, commencing in 2026
	Prairie Township – Proposed Tax Levy (Additional)	Fire Protection	5.38 mills, \$188 for each \$100,000 of the county auditor’s market value, continuing period of time, commencing in 2026
	Sharon Township Fire District – Proposed Tax Levy (Additional)	Fire Protection	2.34 mills, \$82 for each \$100,000 of the county auditor’s market value, continuing period of time, commencing in 2026

