



COLUMBIANA COUNTY

BOARD OF ELECTIONS

Kim Fusco, Director
Bryce A. Miner, Deputy Director

Board Members:
David W. Johnson, Chair
Patricia Colian, Vice Chair
Larry Bowersock
Victor W. Maroscher

Board Meeting Minutes – August 23, 2023, 1:30 p.m.

I. ROUTINE ITEMS:

1. Approve Agenda
2. Acceptance of Minutes

II. ACTION ITEMS:

3. Reconsider Provisional Ballots
4. Reconsider Local Option Petitions
5. Certify Official Results of Columbiana County
6. Absentee Vote by Mail Outsourcing

III. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

1. Determine Post Election Audit Procedures
2. Polling Place Evaluations
3. Holiday Office Hours

The Columbiana County Board of Elections met in special session at the Board Office located at 7989 Dickey Dr., Suite 3, Lisbon, Ohio on August 23, 2023 at 1:30 p.m.

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Johnson at 1:30 p.m.

Members present as shown by roll call:

Mr. Bowersock	<u>Yes</u>
Ms. Colian	<u>Yes</u>
Mr. Johnson	<u>Yes</u>
Mr. Maroscher	<u>Yes</u>

Pledge of Allegiance

Moment of Reflection

1. Approve Agenda

Moved by Mr. Maroscher and seconded by Ms. Colian to approve the agenda as submitted.

Roll Call:

Mr. Bowersock,	<u>yes;</u>	Ms. Colian,	<u>yes;</u>
Mr. Johnson,	<u>yes;</u>	Mr. Maroscher,	<u>yes;</u>

Motion carried.

NOTES:

2. Acceptance of Minutes

Moved by Ms. Colian and seconded by Mr. Bowersock to accept the minutes of the special meeting which was held August 16, 2023, as submitted.

Roll Call:

Mr. Bowersock,	<u>yes;</u>	Ms. Colian,	<u>yes;</u>
Mr. Johnson,	<u>abstain;</u>	Mr. Maroscher,	<u>yes;</u>

Motion carried.

NOTES: Mr. Johnson was not in attendance last meeting so he abstained from the vote.

3. Reconsider Provisional Ballots

Moved by Ms. Colian and seconded by Mr. Maroscher to accept 169 eligible provisional ballots to be included in the official canvass as presented and recommended by board staff and reject 37 ineligible provisional ballot applications for the reasons submitted.

- 3: Registration Cancelled/Not Eligible
- 20: Not Registered
- 1: No Signature
- 1: Invalid ID
- 10: Wrong Precinct/Wrong Poll
- 2: Previously Cast Ballots

Roll Call:

Mr. Bowersock,	<u>yes;</u>	Mr. Johnson,	<u>yes;</u>
Ms. Colian,	<u>yes;</u>	Mr. Maroscher	<u>yes;</u>

Motion carried.

NOTES: Director Fusco explained to the Board Members that during the official canvass, it was discovered that 3 provisional ballots were incorrectly coded and have been changed as eligible to be counted. Previously the board accepted 166 ballots and rejected 40, the numbers must be amended to accepting 169 and rejecting 37 provisional ballots.

4. Reconsider Local Option Petitions

Moved by Mr. Maroscher and seconded by Mr. Bowersock to invalidate Nikki's Market LLC local option petitions as presented for placement on the ballot of various precincts around the county, and as presented by board staff.

Roll Call:

Mr. Bowersock,	<u>yes;</u>	Ms. Colian,	<u>yes;</u>
Mr. Johnson,	<u>yes;</u>	Mr. Maroscher,	<u>yes;</u>

Moved by Mr. Maroscher and seconded by Ms. Colian to invalidate March Two Ltd. local option petitions as presented for placement on the ballot of various precincts around the county, and as presented by board staff.

Roll Call:

Mr. Bowersock,	<u>yes;</u>	Ms. Colian,	<u>yes;</u>
Mr. Johnson,	<u>yes;</u>	Mr. Maroscher,	<u>yes;</u>

Motion carried.

NOTES: Director Fusco noted in the previous meeting the local options were passed on their face and needed to be reconsidered after speaking to the Prosecutor's Office. Director Fusco noted

Nikki's Market did not have a valid liquor license with the Division of Liquor Control and March Two Ltd. did not have the correct address on their application for their liquor license. Mr. Johnson requested the items be considered separately so the board can act on advice of legal counsel. Mr. Johnson noted when dealing with legal matters for questions on the ballot it is best office practice to have the information in writing and that the board should act in accordance with advice from legal counsel.

5. Certify Official Results of Columbiana County

Moved by Ms. Colian and seconded by Mr. Bowersock to certify the official counts of the August 8, 2023 Special Election as submitted.

Roll Call:

Mr. Bowersock,	<u>yes;</u>	Ms. Colian,	<u>yes;</u>
Mr. Johnson,	<u>yes;</u>	Mr. Maroscher,	<u>yes;</u>

Motion carried.

NOTES: Director Fusco discussed the official results with the board and noted a 37.88% turnout countywide which was in line with the Directors' predictions. Mr. Johnson asked if our turnout was similar to that of the entire state, and it is. Directors noted the in office early vote totals were higher than vote by mail totals for the first time in office history. Mr. Johnson requested a breakdown of votes by party for the in office and vote by mail totals.

6. Absentee Vote by Mail Outsourcing

Moved by Mr. Maroscher and seconded by Mr. Bowersock to use Graphic Village as the vendor for vote by mail in the November 7, 2023 General Election.

Roll Call:

Mr. Bowersock,	<u>yes;</u>	Ms. Colian,	<u>yes;</u>
Mr. Johnson,	<u>yes;</u>	Mr. Maroscher,	<u>yes;</u>

Motion carried.

NOTES: Director Fusco noted the board must act to outsource absentee mailing using Graphic Village as previously done. Mr. Johnson asked if the company completes the entire process for the board. Director Fusco noted they complete the entire process and many counties use this service, additionally the higher demand of in person voting and running multiple elections makes it difficult to handle the absentee by mail process in house. Deputy Director Miner explained Graphic Village was used in November 2020, November 2022 and August 2023, and that the office typically contracts this service out in higher turnout elections which November 2023 is projected over a 50%

turnout. Miner noted Graphic Village has been great to work with, they have additional ballot mail tracking services that the office does not have, the process is secure and accurate, and they service several other counties with success. Mr. Johnson asked how quick is the turnaround time for ballots and Miner noted in November 2020 ballots were in voter's mailboxes on the first legal day allowed. Mr. Johnson asked how many absentee ballots were not returned this past election and it was noted the number was minimal. Director Fusco noted the cost is \$1.95 per ballot plus postage, but all the necessary materials included. Board Members noted the cost is inexpensive.

Director's Report:

The Board Members and Directors discussed dates for the post-election audit and decided the audit would be conducted on August 29th and the board would meet on August 30th at 1:30 PM to certify the audit. Deputy Director Miner discussed polling location changes potentially in Hanover Township by creating a multi-polling location at the United Local Brautingham Center due to lack of poll workers and outdated facilities, and the Hope Christian Fellowship in Yellow Creek Township no longer wishes to serve as a polling location so options will be explored to find a new location. The board decided to close the office on September 1 with personal time used.

Items From The Board:

Ms. Colian showed a picture of a broken voter sign at the Memorial Building in Salem and asked for it to be replaced. Mr. Bowersock brought up posting signs at polling locations saying political attire is not allowed inside the polling location. Director Fusco noted there are policies in place to notify voters that political attire is not permitted and poll workers will be reminded of the policy and to post the signs. All Board Members agreed that the law should be followed and no voter will be denied the right to vote for wearing political attire. The board showed appreciation for another successful election. Mr. Bowersock asked when staff pay would be evaluated and it was noted typically at the end or beginning of the calendar year.

Next Meeting: August 30, 2023 at 1:30 PM

Moved by Ms. Colian and seconded by Mr. Maroscher to adjourn the meeting.

Roll Call:

Mr. Bowersock,	<u>yes;</u>	Ms. Colian,	<u>yes;</u>
Mr. Johnson,	<u>yes;</u>	Mr. Maroscher,	<u>yes;</u>

Motion carried.