

May 27, 2020 Minutes of the Electoral Board Meeting

Minutes of May 27, 2020 Electoral Board Meeting

Wednesday, May 27th Electoral Board Meeting called to order at 12:05 PM in the Gorsuch Building Third Floor Conference Room. In attendance Elizabeth Bouldin-Clopton, Chair; Frank Lucente, Vice Chair, Robert Horowitz, Secretary and Lisa Jeffers, Director of Elections/Registrar.

The earlier consideration to make the June 23rd Republican Primary a Vote By Mail Only Absentee Voting due to the timing was not to be proposed. Instead the Board will request that the City strongly support the Absentee Vote By Mail initiative introduced for the May Local Elections. As of this meeting there were over 100 absentee ballot requests for the June Primary, as compared to 35 absentee ballots for the 2016 Primary election.

This June Primary, only, will as per a court ruling not require a signed witness to have ballots counted. Whether this ruling will affect future elections is yet to be determined. Similar laws may be proposed in the Commonwealth legislature.

The Board discussed the concern about the number of Officers of Election who will be available for the June Primary. As of this meeting, with a volunteer from the May Election applying and at least 2 Officers of Election who would not work in May due to health risks said they would reconsider and may work in June, there may be 12 officers of Election and as many as 14 if all who said they work show up. Ms. Bouldin-Clopton, Mr. Lucente and Ms. Jeffers believe having 3 per ward would be OK. Mr. Horowitz disagreed. The need for hand washing breaks, eating and bathroom breaks, curbside voting and a Chief to manage voter issues (absentee voting questions, ID issues and other possible provisional voting situations that may arise requires that the minimum number of Officers of Election per Ward should be 4, and that will present a challenge.

Ms. Jeffers will contact all the Officers of Election who have signed up this year and see if they will work. She will include information on the safety precautions that have been taken including PPE to be provided, social distancing markers and Plexiglas partitions that have been set up.

Ms. Bouldin-Clopton said she would seek out additional candidates for Officer Election, as well. Mr. Lucente also indicated he would also seek new members.

The Officer of Election training will be at 10 AM on Wednesday, June 17th at Kate Collins Middle School. Mr. Horowitz will verify the KCMS availability with Mr. Herndon and Dr. Cassell. Special training would be given on rehearsing witness attendance, curbside voting and review of pandemic sanitizing and Personal Protection Equipment material and procedures during the Primary. It was agreed that the written information on witness behavior and rules that were provided to Chiefs and Assistant Chiefs in the past if necessary, would now be given to any witness when they submit their letter of permission. Also, a reminder that any ballot handed out can be voted on, as per listed limitations (vote for one or vote for two, etc.) by any voter who receives ballots. The Board and all election officials strive to ensure that all registered voters can vote. Obviously if a position is not on ballot, it cannot be voted on. Any ballot provided to voters at the Wards can be voted on and the only those positions or issues on that ballot can legally be voted on for the election in progress.

Once again, the Board must wait for Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) for the June Primary. Elect has again promised to send PPE. This time they should be using the information Lisa Jeffers and Mr. Horowitz presented to them in a survey ELECT sent asking for June and November (assuming no change or a new

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threat from the virus at that time) PPE requirements. In addition to PPE for election officials, the request also included PPE masks and gloves for voters as well.

- a. Inventory as of May 26
 - i. No masks
 - ii. Of the 800 pairs of gloves we received earlier over 350 pairs were used leaving 400 pairs in stock
 1. We should have at least another 300 or 400 more depending on the number of election officers and Page volunteers we garner
 - iii. Privacy Sleeve/folders over 6,000 in stock
 - iv. Throwaway Pens over 6,000 in stock
 - v. Face shields at least 39 in stock
 - vi. Stanchions 20, 15 in use the others in reserve
 - vii. Plexiglass Partitions all twelve setup

On May 20th ELECT said PPE would be sent within the week. So far, no new material has arrived. Mr. Horowitz has agreed to keep the City, especially, Mr. Critzer apprised of what ELECT will send and what the City must backup.

Since the City Council has voted to approve having all the Wards use Kate Collins Middle School for the June Republican Primary, the Board discussed the need to act quickly on having the notice of the moved be prepared and sent out. This will alert potential voters to the availability of absentee voting in a timely manner. Ms. Jeffers wanted some changes to the methods available to voters to request absentee ballots. They will be limited to the online Elections. Gov WEB site, the Registrar's email, and phone number only. Also specifying deadlines more clearly in order to avoid as much confusion as possible. Mailing in request for ballots and the ballots themselves always present timing issues when using the USPS. Mr. Horowitz moved that Mr. Hamp and the City Council be requested to send the Ward move notice ASAP. Mr. Lucente seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously.

Mr. Horowitz will revise the notice as suggested and send it out to Mr. Hamp, et. al today.

Thank you notices to City Council, The City Manager and staff, Officers of Election and the Volunteer/Pages suggested by Mr. Horowitz were approved. The Volunteer/Page thank yous and the letters to John Martin, Custodian of KCMA and Mr. Herndon, Principal of KCMS were to be sent as letters. All other as emails.

Though the Board did not discuss the November Elections, the concerns due to the virus and no excuse 45-day absentee voting will be discussed in a timely manner once ELECT communicates its requirements or guidelines.

After a discussion on storing PPE and supplies, Mr. Horowitz moved that the Board appeal to the City Manager and City Council that the third floor conference room in the Gorsuch Building be used to store all PPE and supplies, as well as sensitive voting equipment at least between now and the end of November. Elizabeth Bouldin-Clopton seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.

The Electoral Board briefly reviewed the Minutes from April 1, April 29th, May 1st, May 5th, May 11th, May 19th, and May 20th Electoral Board meetings. Frank Lucente Moved and Elizabeth Bouldin-Clopton seconded that the minute be approved. It passed unanimously. All were signed.

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Ms. Bouldin-Clopton moved, and Mr. Lucente seconded that the meeting be adjourned. The meeting was adjourned at 1:35 PM.

Elizabeth Bouldin-Clopton, Chair _____ Date _____

Frank Lucente, Vice Chair _____ Date _____

Robert Horowitz, Secretary _____ Date _____