

MINUTES

Erie County Council

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ELECTION BOARD MINUTES 5-25-22

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 11:00am.

Roll Call

Members present: Chair Rennie, Vice-Chair Scutella, Charlie Bayle, Ellen Schauerman, and Jim Winarski

Others present: Julie Slomski, Tonia Fernandez, and Megan Moore

Hearing of the Public

Freda Tepfer, Erie: Ms. Tepfer stated, as a Judge of Election, there were many reasons that there could be something wrong with a provisional ballot; the fault lies with both the worker and the voter.

Cecily Gingrich, Provisional Ballot Challenge: Ms. Gringrich stated her reason for voting via provisional ballot was because, although the USPS says she received a ballot, she did not receive a mail-in-ballot. She feels the poll workers were not properly trained, as they instructed her where to sign, and she followed their directions.

Kathy Hertzog for David Berchtold and herself, Provisional Ballot Challenge: Ms. Hertzog stated that she and David had not left the house since Covid started, but took the risk of leaving their house to be able to vote. She stated the poll worker assisting them was confused about the process and they followed the poll worker's instructions. She stated they were both unable to get close enough to see the envelope due to their disabilities, and had to rely on the staff.

Action for Consideration by the Board

Reconciliation of 14 Challenged Provisional Ballots of the 2022 General Primary Election

Provisional Ballot of Brian Oberlander II has an incorrect municipality/county. Mr. Oberlander stated to the Elections Office he simply made a mistake and switched the two. The Election Board voted 5-0 to accept the ballot. Chairwoman Rennie stated Solicitor Talarico concurred.

Provisional Ballot of Cecily A. Gingrich has a missing signature. The Election Board voted 5-0 to accept the ballot. Chairwoman Rennie stated Solicitor Talarico concurred.

Provisional Ballot of Mary Jo Jarvie has a missing signature. The Election Board

voted 5-0 to accept the ballot. Chairwoman Rennie stated Solicitor Talarico concurred.

Attorney Caroline McGee (via Zoom) introduced herself as the attorney for the McCormick campaign.

Provisional Ballot of Kathy Hertzog has a missing signature. The Election Board voted 5-0 to accept the ballot. Chairwoman Rennie stated Solicitor Talarico concurred.

Attorney McGee wanted to ask questions, Chairwoman Rennie declined to have them speak during the inspection of the ballots, so as not to influence the board members and the hearing of the public was over.

Provisional Ballot of David Berchtold has a missing signature. The Election Board voted 5-0 to accept the ballot. Chairwoman Rennie stated Solicitor Talarico concurred.

Provisional Ballot of Wanda Vegas has a missing last name on the print section. The Election Board voted 5-0 to accept the ballot. Chairwoman Rennie stated Solicitor Talarico concurred.

Provisional Ballot of Nancy Dombrowski has missing affidavit details, put in the wrong section. The Election Board voted 5-0 to accept the ballot. Chairwoman Rennie stated Solicitor Talarico concurred.

Provisional Ballot of Helen M. Wood is missing the municipality and county. The Election Board voted 5-0 to accept the ballot. Chairwoman Rennie stated Solicitor Talarico concurred.

Provisional Ballot of Katelyn Pamula-Cornwell is missing the municipality and county. The Election Board voted 5-0 to accept the ballot. Chairwoman Rennie stated Solicitor Talarico concurred.

Provisional Ballot of Vickie N. Donahue is missing the municipality, and completed wrong section. The Election Board voted 5-0 to accept the ballot. Chairwoman Rennie stated Solicitor Talarico concurred.

Provisional Ballot of Jeanne Downey is missing a signature. The Election Board voted 5-0 to accept the ballot. Chairwoman Rennie stated Solicitor Talarico concurred.

Provisional Ballot of David L. King is missing a signature. The Election Board voted 5-0 to accept the ballot. Chairwoman Rennie stated Solicitor Talarico concurred.

Provisional Ballot of Carole L. Constantino is missing the municipality. Ms. Constantino wanted it known that the Judge of Elections instructed her on what to do. The Election Board voted 5-0 to accept the ballot. Chairwoman Rennie stated Solicitor Talarico concurred.

Provisional Ballot of Susan Sieber is missing the municipality. Ms. Sieber wanted it known she was advised by the Judge of Elections on what to do. The Election Board voted 5-0 to accept the ballot. Chairwoman Rennie stated Solicitor Talarico concurred.

**Questions and Comments
from the Board**

Mrs. Schauerman stated she was a judge of election for twenty years. It takes time to learn everything. There were many new workers this year, and it was easy to see how mistakes could have been made.

Chairwoman Rennie stated she agreed. She stated it was a lot of work in a day for them.

Mr. Bayle wanted to thank the Elections staff. He stated these were simple mistakes, and easy to see how they happened.

All members of the Board stated their thanks for all those that worked to make the Elections possible.

Attorney McGee for McCormick noted for the record, they were maintaining their objections, and asked that their objections be set aside for the appeal. Attorney Jeffrey Veitch for Oz asked if these 14 votes, even if added to the totals, would be sequestered. Ms. Slomski stated yes.

Chairwoman Rennie questioned if everyone understood. The Board approved the ballots, but they would be sequestered. There were no questions or comments.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:39am.