

*Commissioners*

**MARISEL A. HERNANDEZ**, *Chair*  
**WILLIAM J. KRESSE**, *Commissioner/Secretary*  
**JONATHAN T. SWAIN**, *Commissioner*  
**CHARLES HOLIDAY, JR.**, *Executive Director*



**Board of Election Commissioners for the City of Chicago**

**Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting**

**June 8, 2021, 10:00 a.m.**

**69 West Washington Street, 8th Floor Conference Room, Chicago, Illinois 60602  
and via WebEx video conference**

**Board Members:**

Marisel A. Hernandez, Chair  
William J. Kresse, Commissioner/Secretary  
Jonathan T. Swain, Commissioner

**Staff:**

Charles Holiday, Executive Director  
Sandra Aspera, Assistant Executive Director  
Adam Lasker, General Counsel  
Opal Walls, Purchasing Agent  
Kimberly Carrillo-Walker, Finance Manager  
Dean Ftikas, Consultant  
Trish Sheehy

**Guests:**

Helene Gabelnick, League of Women Voters of Chicago (LWV Chicago)  
C. Betty Magness, Rainbow P.U.S.H.  
Danielle Matzdorf, Arrow Messenger Service  
Bebe Novich, Equip for Equality  
Brian Whiteley, ES&S

- I. Call to Order: The Chair called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m.
- II. Roll Call: All members were present via teleconference. The Executive Director was present in the Board's 8<sup>th</sup> Floor Conference Room.
- III. Consideration of Agenda: The agenda was accepted as presented.
- IV. Approval of Minutes:
  - A. Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of May 27, 2021: Commissioner Swain moved to approve the Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of May 27, 2021. Commissioner Kresse seconded the motion. The motion was approved by unanimous vote of the Board.
- V. Executive Director's Report  
Executive Director Charles Holiday reported:

As mentioned at the last Board meeting, repairs are needed at the warehouse. On Wednesday, June 2<sup>nd</sup> the Board's Facilities Coordinator Dean Ftikas, along with representatives from the City's Department of Assets, Information and Services (AIS) and the Public Building Commission (PBC) performed a walkthrough at the warehouse for the purpose of developing a scope of work. AIS and PBC wanted to prioritize the top three or four repairs, but we stated that all thirteen items need to be addressed. On Thursday, June 10<sup>th</sup> there will be another walkthrough of the Board-

occupied floors with Mr. Ftikas, the AIS Coordinating Engineer and the PBC. We have been asked to explain the activities conducted in the building and explain how, why and where the items are staged.

As the news has reported, legislation is on the Governor's desk to move the Primary Election from March of 2022 to June 28, 2022. Mr. Holiday will be meeting with staff tomorrow to go over details on how we will proceed if the legislation is signed. The Board's Redistricting Department is ready, when the data is provided, to begin the re-drawing of maps. The Board's General Counsel will speak more on this in his report about legislation.

The Board's ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) Compliance Team met with the DoJ (U.S. Department of Justice) and Equip for Equality to continue work on bringing the polling places into compliance. The DoJ's office is pleased with the progress we are making.

Mr. Holiday attended the MS-ISAC (Multi-State Information Sharing and Analysis Center) Election Infrastructure Information Sharing meeting on How to Improve Your Cybersecurity Program. They talked about the different ransomware and viruses that were infecting systems during the last month.

The Chair confirmed that Mr. Ftikas would be at the warehouse walkthrough on Thursday. Mr. Ftikas said that afterward he would submit a complete report to Director Holiday, who will update the Board on this matter. The Chair thanked Mr. Ftikas for his assistance and stated the Board will be waiting to hear what happens.

Commissioner Kresse asked Messrs. Holiday and Lasker, regarding the DoJ and the accessibility project with regards to discussions in Springfield regarding legislation to increase the number of voters per precinct. Mr. Lasker confirmed that the bill changing the number of voters per precinct did not pass. Commissioner Kresse added that had it been passed, the Board would be reducing the number of precincts and that would affect the accessibility project. Mr. Lasker responded that we are moving ahead as usual with the accessibility program.

A. Assistant Executive Director's Report

Assistant Executive Director Sandra Aspera stated that she had nothing new to report since the last Board meeting.

VI. Old Business

A. Infrastructure Projects and Changes in Election Administration: Nothing new to report.

B. Electronic Poll Books: Mr. Holiday said that the Warehouse is doing maintenance that needs to be done.

C. Voting Equipment: Nothing new to report.

D. Legislation

General Counsel Adam Lasker reported:

Last week the Governor signed into law 3 new districting maps; the Illinois General Assembly, the Illinois Supreme Court, and the Cook County Board of Review. It should be noted that these maps were drawn based on data from the U. S. Census American Community Review Survey, not the standard census data. Mr. Lasker is not sure if that will be challenged legally, but for now these are some districts that we have. They do not include any federal districts which must be drawn under federal law which does not allow the use of the American Community Review Survey but only U. S. Census data.

The Board has received a report on an omnibus election bill that has passed both the Illinois House and Senate. Mr. Lasker has not heard any word that the Governor planning to veto any part of that legislation. The bill includes the delay in 2022 Primary from March until the end of June. Mr. Lasker said that he will continue to monitor this bill to see that it goes into effect, but having not heard any reason to expect a veto, we are going to start making plans to operate an election in late June rather than March and just keep track of this legislation. There are a lot of other matters included in that bill.

One thing Mr. Lasker included in the omnibus bill is security measures. One of provisions require election authorities to have a website domain and email addresses with a “.gov”. The Chicago Board of Election Commissioners made that change a year or so ago. Mr. Lasker has spoken with the Board’s IT Department on some of the other security matters, and we are going to make sure that we are up-to-snuff with the new statutory requirements.

Mr. Lasker also pointed out some other parts of this legislation, if it should go into law:

- Make the 2022 General Election Day a state holiday;
- Change some office titles, including Chicago Aldermen to Alderpersons;
- Allow for Universal Vote Centers on election day for the 2022 election cycle;
- Allow for an optional curbside voting program that would not be restricted to people with disabilities; and,
- Create a permanent roster for Vote-by-Mail voters. The way this would work is that the Chicago Board will have to come up with an application form that would allow voters to opt-in to be placed on a permanent roster of Vote-by-Mail voters. These voters would then automatically receive Vote-By-Mail ballots for all future elections. For primary election purposes, the voter can also designate a political party affiliation. A voter would remain on the permanent VBM list until either the voter requests to be removed from the list or the voter provides, the Board receives, confirmation that the voter is registered to vote in a different jurisdiction.

Mr. Lasker stated that we continue to track the elected Chicago school board bill that is still pending in Springfield. As drafted, it would create, over a two-election cycle, a 21-member elected board with 20 members elected from 20 separate districts along with one member elected city-wide who will serve as president. If this bill is enacted, the Chicago Board would start conducting School Board elections with the 2024 General Election. Additionally, we will need to work with the General Assembly, which has the statutory responsibility for drawing the twenty districts.

As to the omnibus election bill, Commissioner Kresse believes the number of signatures on petitions were reduced. Mr. Lasker confirmed that those signature requirements will eventually affect offices that we oversee.

Commissioner Kresse noticed that Mr. Lasker, when mentioning reasons to be removing someone from the permanent Vote-by-Mail list, that did not include our receipt of evidence that the voter has died. General Counsel Lasker stated that the express language of the statute only mentions voters moving to another jurisdiction. However, currently both state and federal law require us to canvass our complete voter registration rolls and remove any voters who were improperly registered, moved away or died.

Colloquy ensued on this topic between Commissioner Kresse, General Counsel Lasker, Assistant Executive Director Aspera and Commissioner Swain.

The Chair asked how Mr. Lasker how long he expects it would take to get the permanent VBM list up and running. Mr. Lasker stated that he would have to speak with the Board's contractors who develop and maintain the registration system, but he doesn't think it would take long considering how quickly they made changes for Vote-by-Mail for the last election.

VII. New Business

A. Professional Services Agreement between Board of Election Commissioners for the City of Chicago and:

1. Guillermo "Bill" Perez

Mr. Perez has been the Board's Spanish language and community liaison for the Spanish speaking community.

This agreement would be for \$60.00 per hour capped at \$60,000 for the term July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022. Commissioner Kresse moved to approve a Professional Services Agreement with Guillermo "Bill" Perez for July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022 at a rate of \$60 per hour capped at \$60,000 for the term. Commissioner Swain seconded the motion. The motion was approved by unanimous vote of the Board.

2. Shobhana Johri Verma

Ms. Verma is the Board's Asian-Indian language interpreter and community liaison.

Commissioner Swain moved to approve a Professional Services Agreement with Shobhana Johri Verma for the term of July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022 at a rate of \$60.00 per hour capped at \$60,000 over the term of the agreement. Commissioner Kresse seconded the motion. The motion passed by 3:0 vote of the Board.

3. Sarita Villarreal

Ms. Villarreal is the Board's second Spanish language interpreter and community liaison.

Commissioner Swain moved to approve a Professional Services Agreement with Sarita Villarreal for the term of July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022 at a rate of \$45.00 per hour capped at \$48,000 over the term of the agreement. Commissioner Kresse seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous vote of the Board.

B. Approval of first contract renewal option from a prior bid award between the Board of Election Commissioners for the City of Chicago and Cardinal Printing for the printing and mailing of full voter canvass.

Executive Director Holiday confirmed that this is for the canvass mailing that will go out around August of this year.

This action would be to approve our exercising the first option to renew for the next full voter canvass.

Commissioner Swain moved to approve the renewal option for the period of July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022 for the amount of \$87,750. Commissioner Kresse seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous vote of the Board.

- C. Approval of first contract renewal options (extending the underlying contracts through March 13, 2022) from prior bid awards for printing services between the Chicago Board of Election Commissioners and:
1. JJ Collins (Dated Forms, Envelopes and Form/Envelope 276P)  
Commissioner Kresse moved to approve the renewal option with JJ Collins for dated forms, envelopes and form/envelope 276P in the amount of \$321,104. Commissioner Swain seconded the motion. The motion passed by 3:0 vote of the Board.
  2. Cardinal Color (Generic Forms and Generic Signs)  
Commissioner Swain moved to approve the renewal option with Cardinal Color for generic forms and generic signs. The contract value for the term is \$23,135. Commissioner Kresse seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous vote of the Board.
  3. Schiele Group (Dated Signs)  
Commissioner Kresse moved to approve the contract extension with Schiele Group for dated signs with a contract value off \$12,450. Commissioner Swain seconded the motion. The motion passed by 3:0 vote of the Board.
  4. Lake County Press, Inc. (Election Judge Handbook)  
Commissioner Kresse moved to approve the renewal option for Election Judge handbooks with Lake County Press, Inc. in the amount of \$147,336. Commissioner Swain seconded the motion. The motion passed by 3:0 vote of the Board.
  5. Grace Printing (Banners)  
Commissioner Swain moved to approve the contract extension for banners with Grace Printing for a contract amount of \$2,150. Commissioner Kresse seconded the motion. The Board voted 3:0 to pass the motion.
  6. Elk Grove, Inc. (Wristbands)  
Before Commissioner Kresse moved to approve the extension with Elk Grove, Inc for wristbands in the amount of \$35,428.25, Executive Director explained that the contracted product would now be "I Voted" stickers, not wristbands as was the product originally under this contract. Commissioner Kresse moved to approve the extension. Commissioner Swain seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous vote of the Board.
- D. Renewal of two Lease Agreements with Pitney Bowes for Mailing Systems:
1. System 1 – SendPro 3000 with DF900 Tabletop Folder;  
Commissioner Swain moved to renew the lease agreement with Pitney Bowes for mailing system SendPro 3000 with a DF900 tabletop folder at a rate of \$1,529.44 per month (\$18,353.28 per year) for 48 months. Commissioner Kresse seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous vote of the Board.

2. System 2 – SendPro 3000 (no Tabletop Folder).

Commissioner Kresse moved to approve the lease agreement renewal with Pitney Bowes for mailing system SendPro 3000 with no tabletop folder. The lease amount is \$1,397.71 per month (\$16,772.52 per year) for 48 months.

Commissioner Swain seconded the motion. The motion passed by 3:0 vote of the Board.

VIII. Legal Report:

General Counsel Adam Lasker reported:

There is an interesting case decision, although it's only on a Motion to Dismiss. The Illinois Conservative Union and some of its members sued the State of Illinois and the Illinois State Board of Elections. The Plaintiffs were seeking access to copies of voter registration records. The State filed a Motion to Dismiss, and on June 1<sup>st</sup> that motion was denied. Mr. Lasker thanked our Board's Hearing Officer Joseph Morris for providing Mr. Lasker a copy of the Order. What is at issue in the case is whether Section 8 of the National Voting Rights Act requires States to make voter registration lists more generally available. In denying the State's Motion to Dismiss, US District Court Judge Sarah Ellis of the Northern District of Illinois issued a very well drafted, detailed opinion. The impact to this Board would essentially be the same as to the State Board of Elections if the state law is declared to violate the federal law. It would change the manner and the scope of individuals and organizations who might be eligible to receive data from the State Board of Elections and from this Board. Mr. Lasker will continue to monitor this case and work with Joan Agnew, the Chicago Board's FOIA Officer, to make sure that this Board remains compliant with whatever the court might order.

IX. Financial Report: None

X. Public Comment: None

XI. Executive Session: None

XII. Adjournment: Commissioner Kresse moved to adjourn until the next scheduled Board meeting. Commissioner Swain seconded the motion. The motion was passed by unanimous vote of the Board. The meeting was adjourned at 10:42 a.m.

**Submitted,**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "William J. Kresse". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

**Commissioner William J. Kresse  
Secretary**