

Commissioners

**MARISEL A. HERNANDEZ**, Chair  
**WILLIAM J. KRESSE**, Commissioner/Secretary

**CHARLES HOLIDAY, JR.**, Executive Director



Board of Election Commissioners for the City of Chicago  
Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting  
November 23, 2021, 10:00 a.m.

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

**Board Members:**

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

**Staff:**

Charles Holiday, Executive Director  
Sandra Aspera, Assistant Executive Director  
Adam Lasker, General Counsel  
Max Bever, Director of Public Information  
Clinton Hurde, Manager - Pre-Election Voting and Logistics  
Al Chase, IT  
Lance Gough, 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

- I. Call to Order: The Chair called the meeting to order at 10:01.
- II. Roll Call: Both members of the Board were present via WebEx video conference.
- III. Consideration of Agenda: The agenda was accepted as presented.
- IV. Approval of Minutes:
  - A. Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of October 26, 2021: Commissioner Hernandez moved to approve the Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of October 26, 2021. Commissioner Kresse seconded the motion. The motion passed and the Minutes were approved by 2:0 vote of the Board.
- V. Executive Director's Report  
Executive Director Charles Holiday reported:  
  
Last week he participated in the Fall Conference of the Illinois Association of County Officials (IACO) in Bloomington, Illinois. There was a session where the American Relief Plan Act Fund was discussed. Discussions included: how funds would help to remedy the mismatch between rising costs and falling revenue. The American Relief Plan Act Funds will assist us and counties needing new computers and other necessary elections needs. This is part of the bill that the President signed. These funds could also assist us in the preservation of our large ledgers from the 1800s.

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Another session Mr. Holiday attended at the IACO was given by the Illinois State Board of Elections on increased trust and information; and on Election Security – physical security of polling locations, election facilities and election officials. At the end of the session, Mr. Holiday participated in a cyber exercise – tabletop “Vote 21.”

Mr. Holiday provided a brief status on redistricting. The Board’s team has validated State, Congressional and Representative District map boundaries; created citywide Congressional District maps; and started mapping out individual Congressional maps. The team completed mapping out and printing Cook County Board maps.

Mr. Holiday, Assistant Executive Sandra Aspera, Finance Manager Kimberly Carrillo-Walker and Procurement Coordinator Opal Walls met with Roth & Co, where they introduced us to a new member of their audit team who will be helping with our internal audit.

Mr. Holiday attended the quarterly meeting of the Multi-State Information Sharing & Analysis Center (MS-ISAC). The meeting brought the members up to date on malicious domain threats and cyber security updates. Mr. Holiday reminded the Board that, as noted in the past, the Board’s security expert believes that we are in good shape, and that nothing or no one has tried to penetrate our system.

Mr. Holiday along with Ms. Aspera and Legal Counsel Joan Agnew have completed interviews for the open Human Resources (HR) position. At next month’s meeting Mr. Holiday, Ms. Aspera and Ms. Agnew will introduce or have that candidate information for the Chair.

### A. Assistant Executive Director’s Report

Assistant Executive Director Sandra Aspera reported:

The online filming for the Election Judges and Coordinators training has been completed. The Early Voting filming was also completed. Both of the online trainings were completed the first week in November.

Ms. Aspera reported the status of the projects at the warehouse:

- The second recharging of the ballot scanners was completed yesterday, November 22<sup>nd</sup>.
- The e-poll books are currently being recharged for the second time.
- Ms. Aspera is having ongoing meetings with both Dominion and ES&S (Election Systems & Software, LLC) representatives.

Discussions with Commissioner Kresse and Mr. Holiday regarding the new federal Infrastructure Bill ensued.

### B. Public Information Director’s Report:

Public Information Director Max Bever provided the following update:

We celebrated Election Hero Day on November 1<sup>st</sup> by highlighting six different Election Judges, both through their stories and their words. It was a fun experience for social media.

Mr. Bever is working with Executive Staff about a communications plan around new precincts and polling information. Once the City’s ward remap process is complete and our website and registrations are up to date we will get that information out to news media and social media.

The second podcast episode on the history of the Board was released since the last Board meeting. Mr. Bever thanked the Chair and Commissioner Kresse for being his interview subjects, and looks like the podcasts are starting to develop a fan base.

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### VI. Old Business

- A. Infrastructure Projects and Changes in Election Administration: Mr. Holiday stated that there's nothing additional to report, beyond what has already been reported today.
- B. Electronic Poll Books: The Chair stated that we have already heard from Mrs. Aspera on the e-poll books.
- C. Voting Equipment: This had also been covered earlier in the meeting.
- D. Legislation

General Counsel Adam Lasker reported:

This is our first meeting since the "Senate Election Omnibus bill" passed. Mr. Lasker provided highlights from the bill:

- It creates a new statewide task force called the Access to Voting for Persons with Disabilities Advisory Task Force (AVPDATF). It's going to be a 15-member panel, 3 members appointed each by the Governor, President of the Senate, the Senate Minority Leader, the Speaker of the House and the House Minority Leader. It's going to take an in-depth look at how to increase accessibility for persons with disabilities and the elderly in polling places. Of course, that's something this Board has been working on for a while in the ongoing project with the DoJ (U.S. Department of Justice). Mr. Lasker pointed out that service on the AVPDATF is an unpaid.
- No later than 90 days after the 2022 General Election the State Board will be required on its applications for voter registration to include the categories for male, female, and non-binary.
- The big corrective measure went through and successfully created just one filing period for the candidates for the November General Election. This is a matter that Trish Sheehy identified in the statute and we communicated with the State Board that the legislation had erroneously created two separate filing periods: one for State and Judicial candidates, and a separate filing period for County Officers. We are glad they cleaned that up. All candidates for the November election will now file from July 5 through July 11.
- Charles and the rest of the staff have been working towards reducing precincts but we've been restricted in the ability to do so by the current legislation which had a maximum of 800 actual voters / 600 registered voters per precinct. That number has now gone up to 1,800 registered voters for precincts in a county with 3,000,000 or more inhabitants. Because of Early Voting and no excuse mail-in voting we don't anticipate that our reduction of precincts will cause longer lines, but should help us save money with equipment, cartage, Election Judges and training.
- Wheelchair accessible voting booths will now be required statewide. It's no change for Chicago, as has led the way on this for many years.
- As we know we used Vote Centers in 2020, and it was a tremendous safety net during the pandemic. The I General Assembly passed legislation last Summer to allow Vote Centers for the 2022 Primary. This latest legislation expanded Vote Center use to include the 2022 General Election, also.
- There are other matters covered in this legislation that does not directly affect the Chicago Board. Mr. Lasker did not speak to these.
- Regarding the redistricting of the Judicial Subcircuits, the Statute had said that the Judicial Subcircuits shall be redistricted in 2021; it now says 2022.

That is the substantive change in the legislation.

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Discussion ensued between Commissioner Kresse and Mr. Lasker.

### VII. New Business

- A. Approval of Professional Services Agreement between the Board of Election Commissioners for the City of Chicago and Lance Gough.

Commissioner Hernandez moved to approve a Professional Services Agreement between the Board of Election Commissioners for the City of Chicago and Lance Gough with the term of the agreement being from December 1, 2021 through November 30, 2022 at the rate of \$80/hour with a cap of \$100,000 over the term of the contract. Commissioner Kresse seconded the motion. The motion passed by 2:0 vote of the Board.

The Chair thanked Mr. Gough for his services, stating that they are very valuable and we appreciate everything you do and your experience. Mr. Gough thanked the Board and Executive Director Holiday. Commissioner Kresse stated that the Board was lucky to have Mr. Gough.

- B. Disposition of Human Resources time records from 1992-2010, including: Early Voting timesheets, punch details, daily absentee, per diem absentee and stand-by judge payroll.

Commissioner Kresse moved to dispose of time records from 1992-2010, including: Early Voting timesheets, punch details, daily absentee reports, per diem absentee and stand-by judge payroll records. Commissioner Hernandez seconded the motion. The motion passed by 2:0 vote of the Board.

### VIII. Legal Report

General Counsel Adam Lasker reported:

The Board's Procurement Officer, Opal Walls, has been very busy preparing many different bid requests which will be going out soon. Most substantially is the invitation for bids on ballot printing. For several years this has been a sole-source contract because there was only one printer in Illinois certified to print our ballots. There are now three certified printers. So, we're sending out an invitation for bids (IFB). Ms. Walls has worked with several different staff members for input on this, including, of course Attorney Joan Agnew who contributed substantially to the effort.

Mr. Lasker provided a brief update on our 175 Washington litigation. The plaintiff recently was granted leave to amend the complaint again. This will be the third amended complaint. As such, things have been delayed again. The next status date is not until February.

### IX. Financial Report

- A. Balance Sheet and Voucher Listings for the City of Chicago – 2021 Appropriation – 21-08 dated November 23, 2021 in the amount of \$1,683,854.80

Commissioner Kresse moved to approve the Balance Sheet and Voucher Listings for the City of Chicago – 2021 Appropriation – 21-08 dated November 23, 2021 in the amount of \$1,683,854.80. Commissioner Hernandez seconded that motion. The motion passed by 2:0 vote of the Board.

- B. Balance Sheet and Voucher Listings for the County of Cook – 2021 Appropriation – 21-08 dated November 23, 2021 in the amount of \$577,295.00

Commissioner Hernandez moved to approve the Balance Sheet and Voucher Listings for the County of Cook – 2021 Appropriation – 21-08 dated November 23, 2021 in the amount of \$577,295.00. Commissioner Kresse seconded the motion. The motion passed by 2:0 vote of the Board.

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X. Public Comment: There was no request for Public Comment.

XI. Executive Session: None

The Chair wished everyone a wonderful Thanksgiving.

XII. Adjournment: Commissioner Hernandez moved to adjourn until the next regularly scheduled Board meeting. Commissioner Kresse wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving and seconded the motion. The motion passed by 2:0 vote of the Board. The meeting was adjourned at 10:29 a.m.

Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "William J. Kresse". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Commissioner William J. Kresse  
Secretary