

Commissioners

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

CHARLES HOLIDAY, JR., *Executive Director*



Board of Election Commissioners for the City of Chicago

**Minutes of the
Regular Board Meeting
September 12, 2023, 10:00 a.m.
69 West Washington Street, 8th Floor, Chicago, Illinois 60602**

Board Members:

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

Staff:

Charles Holiday, Jr., Executive Director
Sandra Aspera, Assistant Executive Director
Adam Lasker, General Counsel
Max Bever, Director of Public Information
Kimberly Carrillo Walker, Finance Director
Amanda Robledo, Acting Purchasing Agent
Al Chase, IT Department
Greg Fedak, ADA Compliance Officer
Derrick Hurde, Assistant Manager -Warehouse
Lance Gough, Consultant
Trish Sheehy

Guests:

Helene Gabelnick, League of Women Voters Chicago
C. Betty Magness, Rainbow PUSH Coalition
Clare Tobin, Illinois Ballot Integrity Organization
Alex Soto Vasquez, Dominion Voting Systems
Bethany Ao, Chicago Lawyers' Committee
Glenn Sroka, Illinois Appellate Court
Maya Spector, Illinois Appellate Court
Mathias Delort, Illinois Appellate Court (retired)
Michael Dorf, Attorney
Francis Dermody, Illinois Appellate Court
Dario Dzananovic, Illinois Appellate Court
Edmund Michalowski, Cook County Clerk's Office
James Nally, Cook County Clerk's Office
Judith E. Hamill
Thomas A. Jaconetty, Attorney
Jerrod L. Williams, Illinois Appellate Court
Agnes Gray, Common Cause Illinois
Mike Kreloff, Attorney
Tiffany Nelson-Jaworski, Attorney
Donald Olson

- I. Call to Order: The Chair called the meeting to order at 10:01 a.m.
- II. Roll Call: All Board members were present.
- III. Consideration of Agenda: The Chair asked to move sections VIII and IX of the agenda, the Legal and Financial reports, ahead of section VII, New Business. Without objections, these changes were accepted by the other Board members.
- IV. Approval of Minutes:
 - A. Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of July 11, 2023: Commissioner Brown moved to approve the Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of July 11, 2023. Commissioner Kresse seconded the motion. The motion passed by 3:0 vote of the Board.

V. Executive Director's Report

Executive Director Charles Holiday reported:

Mr. Holiday introduced the Board's new ADA Compliance Officer, Greg Fedak. Mr. Fedak started at the Board last Tuesday.

Mr. Holiday reported that from August 26th through the 30th he attended the 38th Annual National Conference of the Election Center. At the conference Mr. Holiday attended a number of seminars, including ones dealing with cybersecurity infrastructure; new shared, no-cost programs that provide election protection; communications around election administration; and resources available to Election Officials for election threats.

On September 7th, Mr. Holiday chaired the Fall Meeting of the Association of Election Commission Officials of Illinois (AECOI). Mr. Holiday was pleased to report that the Vote Center legislation passed as part of the Omnibus Bill in May and is now in effect. We can plan to have our Vote Centers open on Election Days 2024 as well as proceed with plans for curbside voting at these Vote Centers. The Board's General Counsel, Adam Lasker will give an expanded report on this matter.

Yesterday, we had our pre-budget hearing with the City Office of Budget Management. We're waiting for our date before the Budget Committee.

Next Tuesday we will be observing National Voter Registration Day. We will have a table set up on Daley Plaza.

The Chair asked about an estimated date for the City Budget Committee hearing. Mr. Holiday said that at his meeting yesterday he was told that the City plans to start those on the 16th. So, we will probably have our hearings sometime after September 23rd.

Commissioner Kresse asked Mr. Holiday that with the Election Center session regarding resources available to Election Officials for election threats, was he satisfied that – at least for our purposes - that there are adequate resources being provided? Mr. Holiday said that he was satisfied and that he would forward information on those resources of which they spoke to the Commissioners.

A. Assistant Executive Director's Report

Assistant Executive Director Sandra Aspera reported:

As Executive Director Holiday mentioned, Greg Fedak is on board and he will be assisting all of our departments with ADA compliance and issues.

Ms. Aspera met with Warehouse management regarding completed and ongoing projects. They provided a current inventory and indicated what items need to be ordered for 2024.

Ms. Aspera will be meeting with Dominion to review and confirm the consumable products needed for the upgrade and preventive maintenance for both elections in 2024. The upgrade and preventive maintenance is schedule to start in November.

The Request for Proposal (RFP) for Vote-by-Mail fulfilment was due last Friday, September 8th. Three proposals were received and are being reviewed by our evaluation committee.

The Canvass Mailing is currently in progress. Mr. Max Bever will provide the timings in his report.

Ms. Aspera pointed out that Mr. Bever will also be able to fill the Board in on the upcoming visit from two officials from the office of State Representative Lilian Jiménez.

Ms. Aspera pointed out that the number of COVID cases in Chicago is rising. The Board's HR Manager is researching and reviewing current State, Federal and local COVID policies; we are planning on having a meeting soon to discuss this. The Chair directed Ms. Aspera to have adequate supplies. Ms. Aspera said she would.

B. Public Information Director's Report

Public Information Director Max Bever reported:

With regards to the Canvass Mailing, after some final proofing and going through all of our wards and precincts to make sure that everything was correct, we are on track, ahead of schedule and under budget for the project. The mailers will start hitting the voters of the City of Chicago approximately the 20th and immediately thereafter. This is the 2023 Canvass Mailing to all 1.6 million Registered Voters. From the mailers that we get back because someone has moved or changed address, we will start the process for our second notice. That will take place in October when we start getting the mailers back, which will be ahead of schedule.

We are preparing for our job fair on Friday. It will be at the Supersite from 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. with all departments. We are also putting out a big push for Election Judges and Coordinators. We have our new flyers out for that. We are making a big push with the media and social media. Mr. Bever hopes some television cameras and reporters will stop by and help us promote through this week.

As the Executive Director mentioned, we are preparing for National Voter Registration Day which is next Tuesday.

Our Community Services Team has several events celebrating both Constitution Day and National Voter Registration Day next Tuesday at Daley Plaza, and welcoming new citizens who will be sworn in that day at Daley Plaza.

They have several other events going on through the weeks. The Community Services Team was at the Taste of Chicago this last weekend where they were registering new voters and signing up new Election Judges. So long as it's warm outside, they have events planned through November. Mr. Bever will continue to keep the Commissioners updated.

As for the website, all work continues and we're full steam ahead. We're still looking for an early December launch of our new website.

We are hard at work with our Vote-by-Mail team. Mr. Lasker reported that we have some new shortened language for Vote-by-Mail forms due to state legislation. This should help us shorten the forms for the online Vote-by-Mail process. We are looking forward to that later this year.

Commissioner Brown asked how many people are anticipated to come to the job fair. Mr. Bever said that he hopes to see a few dozen. He thinks the Supersite is a good central location that everyone can reach, and easier than our last job fair that we held at the

Board’s warehouse. Every department is looking for part-time help. So, we want to get this done early and start staffing-up before 2024. Mr. Bever said that he’s sure he will work with HR and other departments on another job fair as needed, but we’re hitting the ground running this week and we’ve started our big Judges of Election recruitment press over the next few months.

VI. Old Business

- A. Infrastructure Projects and Changes in Election Administration: Mr. Holiday said there is nothing to report at this time.
- B. Electronic Poll Books: Chair said that we have the bid award and asked if there was anything else to report on E-poll books. Mr. Holiday said not at this time.
- C. Voting Equipment: Mr. Holiday said that as of right now, all procedures for getting the equipment ready for the next election will start very soon.
- D. Legislation: General Counsel Adam Lasker reported that, as Mr. Holiday told the Board, we had a meeting with AECOI last week and they referenced that the Illinois State Board of Elections reversed its original position on the Vote Centers legislation. Mr. Lasker had previously reported to the Board that the State Board of Elections were of the legal opinion that the bill failed to be enacted because the Governor had not signed the Omnibus Bill until after the prior “sunset clause” date had passed, but they are now citing to a different, newer section of the Statute on Statutes which is right on point. This section explicitly states that that failure to sign the bill before the prior sunset clause date did not eliminate the bill. So, we are in good shape and the Election Day Vote Centers will proceed.

Mr. Lasker wanted to say that a new amendment to the Omnibus Bill does require curbside voting at a minimum of one of the Vote Centers on Election Day. As the Election Code does not define curbside voting, Mr. Lasker has been giving his legal opinion to our staff as to how to proceed in that manner. Representatives from the State Board of Elections were asked that question at the AECOI meeting, and they answered it the same way as Mr. Lasker’s legal opinion. Mr. Lasker is pleased that his interpretation is in line with the State Board of Elections, and we should be able to proceed accordingly.

The Board is now working with Legislative Liaison Derek Blaida. He’s just getting started, but has already had one meeting with Mr. Bever, Mr. Holiday and some Representatives to discuss the Automatic Voter Registration bill handed over from the last session.

The State Legislature’s veto session will begin at the end of October. Mr. Lasker doesn’t expect anything further regarding legislation before then.

VII. Legal Report:

General Counsel Adam Lasker reported:

We are beginning to prepare for the Electoral Board hearings.

We just received, on Friday, the various proposals from vendors in response to the Vote-by-Mail RFP that we were working so hard on, and are reviewing all of those. We will see what the Evaluation Committee recommends.

VIII. Financial Report

- A. Balance Sheet and Voucher Listings for the City of Chicago – 2023 Appropriation – 23-05 dated September 12, 2023 in the amount of \$988,264.78: Commissioner Kresse moved to approve the Balance Sheet and Voucher Listings for the City of Chicago – 2023 Appropriation – 23-05 dated September 12, 2023 in the amount of \$988,264.78. Commissioner Brown seconded the motion. The motion passed by 3:0 vote of the Board.

IX. New Business

- A. Approval of an RFP bid award to Tenex Software Solutions Inc. for procurement and implementation of new electronic pollbooks.

Amanda Robledo, from the Board’s Procurement Office presented this item to the Board, stating:

The Procurement Office is requesting approval of a bid award to Tenex Software Solutions, Inc. as a result of the recently issued Request for Proposal (RFP): Electronic Pollbook Replacement. On June 1, 2023 the Procurement Office issued a request for Proposal for the Electronic Pollbook Replacement for the upcoming 2024 election. We conducted a pre-proposal conference with potential bidders on June 8th. We responded to bidders’ inquiries on or before June 12th. Proposals from the vendors were due on or before June 27th

In response to the RFP the Procurement Office received a total of three (3) proposals from the following vendors: Tenex Software Solutions, Inc., KnowInk LLC and Election Systems and Software, LLC (ES&S). These vendors provided pricing ranging from the lowest price of \$3,688,025.00 to the highest of \$4,640,750.00. Ms. Robledo provided copies of the proposals for the Board members review.

An evaluation committee comprised of Board personnel, with hands-on poll book experience and knowledge in other relevant matters related to the procurement, reviewed all three proposals and completed written evaluations. After analyzing the written responses to the RFP and vendor demonstrations, the evaluation committee has recommended Tenex Software Solutions as the most responsive and responsible vendor. Tenex has demonstrated the potential to provide the Board with: secure casings for the e-poll books, instruction video for card activation for poll workers, ballot verification to ensure that each voter has the correct ballot, 27 manageable language translations for voters, text-to-speech capabilities for voters with visual impairment, options for curbside voting, and pre-screening to ensure that the voter is in their correct polling site. The evaluation committee scores each bidder’s proposal and demonstrations in several specific categories. Total evaluation scores for each proposal were as follows: Tenex Software Solutions 1,054. KnowInk 1,022.5 and ES&S 856. Ms. Robledo submitted the evaluation scores for each vendor submitted by the evaluation committee to the Commissioners for their review. These support the recommendation to award the contract to Tenex Software Solutions.

The Board members had no questions, but Commissioner Kresse thanked Ms. Robledo for everything she submitted, and the review of proposals and evaluations. He said he is very satisfied with the work that has been performed on this.

Commissioner Brown made a motion to approve a bid award in relation to the Request for Proposals for Electronic Pollbooks that was issued on June 1, 2023, and to authorize the execution of a contract with Tenex Software Solutions Inc. for those related goods and services, with a durational term of September 12, 2023, through September 11, 2025, and with total compensation not to exceed \$3,761,200 for the initial term of the Agreement. Commissioner Kresse seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous vote of the Board.

- B. Approval of a Memorandum of Understanding with the Chicago Public Library for the transfer and archival of the Board’s historic ledgers, maps, and other public records.

Mr. Bever presented:

Mr. Bever stated that while he will be brief, as he's been discussing this for the better part of 2 years, this is a project close to his heart.

We finally have a plan and a scheduled delivery for the end of this month for our historic records. That's the nearly 500 books dating back to 1880s, all hand written, all pre-1976. This agreement will retain ownership with the Board of Elections for all of these records, but they will be stored and continually upgraded and kept in a much better climate-controlled environment at the Harold Washington Library. This has been a great working partnership with the Chicago Public Library. They have been excited about taking in these ledgers and making them available to the public, especially at a downtown accessible location. We look forward to working with the Chicago Public Library on a media plan to call attention to it. They are great books from the 1880s that show what Chicago was like, with the old-fashioned handwriting with election milestones throughout the years. So, we look forward to continued media partnership with them, as well as welcoming the public back to check out these records and to do their own historical research. This will be a continuing MOU (Memorandum of Understanding) until we rewrite it in any particular way, but Mr. Bever doesn't foresee any action needed to be taken in the next decade. The MOU that is before the Board is for the Commissioners' approval for housing the records at the Harold Washington Library.

Commissioner Kresse moved to approve a Memorandum of Understanding with the Chicago Public Library for the proper preservation and public archival of historic Board records including election result ledgers from the years 1886 through 1974, and several historical election district maps. Commissioner Brown seconded the motion. The motion passed by 3:0 vote of the Board.

- C. Approval of a settlement in the matter of *175 Washington LLC v. CBEC, et al.*, (Cook Cty. Cir. Ct. No. 2021 L 000891) in an amount not to exceed \$36,000.

General Counsel Lasker told the Board that we had a settlement conference with the plaintiff and the Judge. It has been a very painstakingly negotiated agreement and we do request your approval, as a nuisance payment settlement to dispose of the matter before going to trial.

The Chair and Commissioner Kresse thanked Mr. Lasker for his work on this matter.

Commissioner Kresse moved to approve a Settlement Agreement with 175 Washington LLC relating to number 2021 L 891 in the amount of \$36,000. Commissioner Brown seconded the motion. The motion passed by 3:0 vote of the Board.

- D. Approval of revisions to the Board's 2024 Election Calendar (adding signature requirements for county offices, etc.).

Mr. Lasker thanked Jim Nally and Ed Michalowski of the Cook County Clerk's Office for publishing the County's signature requirement numbers. We took that data from the County Clerk's Office and put it into our previously adopted calendar; those are the revisions.

Commissioner Brown made a motion to approve revisions to the Board's 2024 Election Calendar so as to include signature requirements for county and MWRD offices. Commissioner Kresse seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous vote of the Board.

- E. Adoption of a Resolution commending the Hon. Mathias W. Delort on his recent retirement as a justice of the Illinois Appellate Court.

The Chair said that there are many guests present at this Board meeting and that they, like us, are here to honor Mathias “Mat” Delort.

She continued by stating that:

Although Justice Mathias “Mat” Delort recently retired from the Illinois Appellate Court, he has made major contributions to the field of election law all throughout his legal career and we at the Board are not expecting that to end anytime soon. He earned a bachelor’s degree from DePaul University in 1981 and then a JD degree in 1985 from the John Marshall Law School. Soon thereafter, Justice Delort began representing governmental clients and established himself as a skilled local government attorney. He also began representing candidates seeking election to those local government offices, and thus began a long and storied career in the practice of election law in Chicago, throughout Cook County, and all around the State of Illinois.

Among many other accomplishments in that area of law, and among that relatively small bar of attorneys, Justice Delort is a past Chair of the Chicago Bar Association’s Election Law Committee, and he has served for many years as an author and editor of the “Election Law Handbook” published by the Illinois Institute of Continuing Legal Education (IICLE). We believe that nobody knows precisely how many electoral boards he appeared before while representing candidates and objectors. We also can only speculate as to how many younger attorneys he mentored in election law, but we do know that list includes the Board’s own General Counsel, Adam Lasker. Justice Delort eventually left the private practice of law in 2007 to become an associate judge of the Cook County Circuit Court, but he also remained active with Bar Associations and as a champion of free and equal elections.

In 2012, Justice Delort was elected to the bench of the First District Illinois Appellate Court here in Chicago. As with all appellate judges, he heard all kinds of cases on appeal. Of course, with all of his experience representing voters, candidates, campaigns and objectors, he always shined when drafting opinions in cases involving election laws.

As an example, Justice Delort took the time to highlight certain due process issues in a recent appellate opinion involving a suburban mayor’s legal challenge against some local term-limit referenda. In the 2022 case of Heynard v. Village of Dolton, Justice Delort was concerned that some important rights were at risk for the parties, even though the issues were not raised in the trial court. These kinds of issues may have gone unnoticed by any other judge with less prior experience handling expedited election-related litigation. On behalf of his fellow judges on that appellate panel, Justice Delort wrote as follows: “We have grave concerns about leapfrogging from considering a temporary restraining order to entering a final judgment in favor of a plaintiff without first providing the parties the opportunity to proceed along the normal route of filing a responsive pleading and then resolving the case without a trial or a dispositional motion. ...No matter how great the need for quick resolution of an election case, expediting does not excuse applying the Illinois Supreme Court rules and Code of Civil Procedure that always govern in civil litigation. We have even graver concerns that no party ... brought this problem to the attention of the circuit court by speaking up during the court’s oral ruling or by filing a motion to reconsider raising that issue.” Heynard v. Village of Dolton, et al., [2022 IL App (1st) 220898, ¶ 24.]

In other words, this Justice believes that you may not shortcut justice, no matter how expeditiously an election matter must be handled in the court system. With that and so much more in mind, the Chicago Board of Election Commissioners would like to adopt a Resolution in recognition of everything that Justice Delort has contributed to elections

throughout his legal career, and with congratulations for his recent retirement from the bench. Thank you Justice Delort.

Before moving to approve the Resolution, the Chair wanted to call upon Mr. Lasker and anyone else who would like to have a few words to say regarding the Justice.

Mr. Lasker commented that he has nothing better to say than to just read the Resolution that has been proposed and that will be up for a motion to adopt by the Commissioners today. Mr. Lasker thanked Ms. Maya Spector who is present at the meeting and Ms. Barb Goodman, who is unable to attend today, for their assistance in doing a bit of the nitty-gritty background research. Mr. Lasker read the Resolution as follows:

“WHEREAS, on the 11th day of August in the year 1961, a bright legal mind in the making by the name of Mathias William Delort was born;

WHEREAS, following his admission to the Illinois Bar on the 7th day of November 1985, Mr. Delort tirelessly and zealously represented numerous individuals and governmental clients, including school districts, municipalities, townships, community colleges and, of course, candidates running for elected offices;

WHEREAS, election law was one of the many areas in which Mr. Delort developed astounding proficiency, as evidenced by his numerous successful election law cases and publications, including his service as chair, author and editor of the “Election Law Handbook” published by the Illinois Institute for Continuing Legal Education;

WHEREAS, Mr. Delort’s expertise and commitment as an election law attorney was further exemplified by his teaching and mentoring of students as an adjunct professor at The John Marshall Law School, where he taught voting rights and ballot access laws, in addition to his service as a past chair of the Chicago Bar Association’s Election Law Committee;

WHEREAS, on the 11th day of April 2007, Professor Delort became an associate judge of the Circuit Court of Cook County, where he served honorably in the Chancery Division with a docket of more than 8,000 mortgage foreclosure cases and quickly earned a reputation for handling proceedings with the utmost care, patience and respect for the litigants who appeared before him;

WHEREAS, with an ongoing commitment to justice under law, Judge Delort served on the Illinois Supreme Court Mortgage Foreclosure Committee and authored the “Mortgage Foreclosure Bench Book” as a guide for fellow jurists through the complexities of those legal matters;

WHEREAS, on the 6th day of November 2012, Judge Delort was elected to serve as a justice of the Illinois Appellate Court, First District, having received 1,381,611 votes as an unopposed candidate in the 2012 general election; and

WHEREAS, Justice Delort published more than 2,550 dispositions in over a decade of service on the appellate bench, including several election law opinions that shall remain binding precedent for generations to come, and through which Justice Delort consistently demonstrated keen legal intellect, the highest of ethical standards, and a commitment to the humane, efficient, and effective administration of justice;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Election Commissioners for the City of Chicago expresses its deep gratitude, admiration and appreciation to Justice Delort for his exemplary public service and numerous contributions to the

legal profession, to the judiciary, and, most particularly, in furtherance of free and equal elections in the City of Chicago and throughout the State of Illinois.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Elections extends its warmest congratulations to Justice Delort on his well-deserved retirement from the bench and wishes him a future filled with happiness and many new adventures.”

The Chair welcomed others who wished to make comment to step up and identify themselves.

Maya Spector was the first speaker. She stated that she is speaking on behalf of the 11 people who have had the great honor of serving as Law Clerks for the newly retired Mathias Delort during his nearly 11-year tenure as an Appellate Court Justice.

Ms. Spector stated that while we are here to honor his significant contributions to Illinois Election Law, that as his former Law Clerk, she would like to very briefly recount his distinguished Public Service in the Appellate Court’s 1st District.

She stated that Justice Delort really cared about his job as an Appellate Court Judge; a brilliant jurist, he also truly understood that his dispositions affected everyday people. He was passionately dedicated to getting it right. His door was always open to his Law Clerks and he always welcomed our questions.

Speaking on behalf of her fellow Law Clerks, Ms. Spector said that they were honored to serve Justice Delort. Ms. Spector thanked Justice Delort for his public service and wished him good luck in his retirement.

The next speaker was attorney Michael Kreloff.

Mr. Kreloff recounted various interactions with Justice Delort and congratulated Justice Delort.

Attorney Tom Jaconetty said he has known Mr. Delort for a long time.

Mr. Jaconetty told Mr. Delort that he had won cases before him and he had lost cases before him; he had litigated with him and he litigated against him. There is no finer gentleman. There is no finer scholar. There is no greater thinker than Mat Delort. He has been a credit to the Bar, a credit to the Election Bar, a credit to the profession of. Mr. Jaconetty congratulated Mr. Delort on his career and that it was an honor, a privilege and a pleasure to be involved with Mr. Delort over all these years.

Ms. Tiffany Nelson-Jaworski spoke next. She thanked Justice Delort for all these years of friendship, mentorship and shared times. Ms. Nelson-Jaworski told Justice Delort that he is an amazing person, an amazing friend, an amazing mentor. She congratulated him on his retirement and wished him the best of luck.

Attorney Michael Dorf spoke next and said that, like Mr. Kreloff, had the pleasure of being an editor for the IICLE Manual. Mr. Dorf said that the Justice is one of the greatest legal minds that Mr. Dorf has ever met, certainly the dean of all of the lawyers in the election area. Mr. Dorf said that he knows Mr. Delort has a book in him, that Mr. Dorf hopes Mr. Delort will publish. Mr. Dorf wished him all the best with his next chapter.

Mr. Jim Nally introduced himself as an Election Attorney who currently serves as Legal Counsel to the Honorable Karen Yarbrough. Along with Mr. Nally was Mr. Edmund Michalowski the Cook County Clerk’s Deputy Clerk of Election.

Mr. Nally stated that like many of the attorneys at this meeting, including Messrs. Dorf and Kreloff, Mr. Nally was invited by Justice Delort to edit a chapter of the IICLE book on Electoral Boards, which is probably the most interesting chapter in their opinion. The Chair said she would think so too.

Mr. Nally said that the Justice was a shining light as a friend, as a colleague, as a legal mind, as a judge. Mr. Nally said that he and Mr. Michalowski join their colleagues at the Board, and friends here today and would like to honor Justice with a resolution on behalf of Karen A. Yarbrough the Cook County Clerk who administers elections in suburban Cook County. And they wish the Justice the best in his retirement and his travels. Messrs. Nally and Michalowski presented Justice Delort with a plaque containing the Cook County Clerk's Resolution [see attached].

Justice Delort spoke next. He mentioned that he had served as legal counsel for a lot of governmental bodies and sat in the General Counsel's chair for about 1,500 meetings for cities and villages, townships, school boards and he heard many resolutions and most like this usually started out, "Whereas Almighty God in his Wisdom has called from our midst...". Mr. Delort was very glad that the Board's resolution did not start out that way.

The Justice wanted to reminisce for a minute. His first involvement with the Chicago Board of Elections was when he was a freshman at DePaul in 1978. Back then the whole idea of remote voter registration sites was very novel and very controversial. He met with Connie Kaplan, who worked at the Board then, and they together set up one of the first remote registrations and registered a ton of students at DePaul University through that program. A couple of years later Mr. Delort is working for an elected official who came and dumped a set of petitions at him, which at the time he didn't know what they were. The elected official said, "We're going to knock this guy off the ballot. Start looking at the signatures." That was in 1979 and that was the beginning of a very interesting career, of which you heard Mr. Lasker summarize.

Justice Delort said that he had to mention that over the course of his practice he appeared before this Board many times. He thought that the first Chicago Board he appeared before was comprised of Mike Lavelle, Corneal Davis and Marie Suthers, many, many years ago. Sometimes he represented candidates who were very powerful, incumbent Chicago political figures. He thinks he represented 2 or 3 Governors along the way. Sometimes he represented people who were on the margins of Chicago politics, who just said "I don't know what's going on. I don't know what this thing is, they're calling it an objection. Can you help me?" Regardless, if he was representing candidates in Group A or candidates in Group B, under all of the Commissioners on all the Boards and all the Hearing Officers he ever appeared before, this Board always gave them a fair shake and he thinks reached a fair and just result. He thinks that is to the Board's credit. He knows that that is continuing today with the current administration.

Justice Delort said that he is just overwhelmed by what's going on this morning here and he appreciates the kind words and said he will continue flit around here and there and see where that goes in the future. He thanked the Board again.

Commissioner Kresse proudly moved to adopt a Resolution in recognition of Justice Mathias "Mat" Delort for his decades of contributions to free and equal elections in Illinois as an election law attorney, judge and justice, and with congratulations upon his retirement from the appellate court after several years of commendable public service. Commissioner Brown seconded the motion. The motion passed and the resolution was adopted by unanimous vote of the Board.

[At this time Justice Delort was presented with a plaque containing the Board's resolution, and photos were taken of the Justice with the Board, members of the Election Bar and some of his Law Clerks who were present]

- X. Public Comment:
Ms. Clare Tobin, Illinois Ballot Integrity Organization

Ms. Tobin congratulated Justice Delort on his amazing career and said it was wonderful to hear the whole history like that.

Ms. Tobin came to today's meeting to inform the Board that her organization, Illinois Ballot Integrity Project, was having difficulty receiving from the Board certain requested documents relating to the Municipal Election on February 28th and the April 4th Runoff Election. Ms. Tobin would like a response as to the document request. Ms. Tobin offered copies of her emails. The Chair said that she's sure we have record of them.

XI. Executive Session: none

XII. Adjournment: Commissioner Brown moved to adjourn. Commissioner Kresse seconded the motion. The motion passed by 3:0 vote of the Board. The meeting was adjourned at 10:55 a.m.

Submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "William J. Kresse". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Commissioner William J. Kresse
Secretary