

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
November 28, 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
Clinton Hurde, Manager – Pre-Election Voting and Logistics
Amanda Robledo, Acting Purchasing Agent
Trish Sheehy

Guests:

Helene Gabelnick, League of Women Voters Chicago
C. Betty Magness, Rainbow PUSH Coalition
Jeannee Turner, League of Women Voters Chicago
Don Olson

- I. Call to Order: The Chair called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m.
- II. Roll Call: All Board members were present.
- III. Consideration of Agenda: The agenda was accepted as presented.
- IV. Approval of Minutes:
 - A. Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of September 26, 2023
Commissioner Brown moved to approve the Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of September 26, 2023. Commissioner Kresse seconded the motion. The Minutes were approved by a 3:0 vote of the Board.
- V. Executive Director's Report
Executive Director Charles Holiday reported:
E-Poll book training starts today. Our vendor, Tenex will be training our staff over the next 3 days at our Supersite. This training and demonstration include all aspects of the new equipment and technology.
Petition filing began yesterday for non-Presidential candidates at both the Illinois State Board of Elections and Cook County Clerk's offices. Filing ends next Monday, December 5th. Lists of candidates that have filed so far are available on those agencies' websites.

Once they've been scanned, copies of the nomination petitions submitted by Chicago candidates are shared with us. We will post them on our website.

The deadline to file objections to these nomination petitions, with either the State or the Clerk's office is Monday, December 11th. We are readying ourselves for those who may want to come in and work with their objections to the petitions. Hours will be posted for viewing.

Our staff has started taking the new security awareness lesson, a lesson we get from the Security Monitor. Some of the subjects include phishing and other matters like malicious websites.

On December 9th, Mr. Holiday will be participating as a panelist during the regular meeting of COAL (Coalition of African-American Leaders). The subject of the panel discussion is "How to Complete a Mail-In and an In-Person Ballot" and how the Board works and processes votes, and polling place employees. Mr. Holiday is looking forward to being on the panel. Mr. Lance Gough is a part of COAL so, he and Mr. Holiday will be working on this together.

The Public Information Director, Max Bever and Mr. Holiday recently met with Carolina Lopez, Executive Director of Partnership for Large Election Jurisdiction (PLEJ), to discuss numerous topics including staff security ahead of the Presidential Election, as well as having the CBEC attend and present at the next PLEG Annual Meeting in Minneapolis in July of 2024.

Commissioner Kresse said that the lessons on computer security are excellent. Mr. Holiday mentioned that the Board's IT Manager, Matt Lin, set up these lessons and that they are helpful. Mr. Holiday takes them as well.

A. Assistant Executive Director's Report

Assistant Executive Director Sandra Aspera reported:

The Warehouse has completed 30% of the upgrade and maintenance of the ICX Touchscreens and 20% of the ICP2 Scanners.

The Warehouse has demagnetized all of the old e-poll books and continues to remove labels and tags from equipment and cases.

A mock election will be conducted using the new e-pollbook. Ms. Aspera is working with staff and our current equipment vendors to finalize the mock election timeline.

As of Monday, November 20th, 2,913 election judges and 595 election coordinators have confirmed that they will be returning.

The official Nursing Home list has been received from the State Board of Elections and staff is finalizing the list of nursing homes that will be participating in the Primary Election.

Commissioner Kresse asked, just on the election judges, how are we looking in those numbers. Ms. Aspera said that it looks like we're halfway. She hopes that by the next Board meeting she'll have better numbers.

B. Public Information Director's Report

Director of Public Information Max Bever reported:

Testing and rewriting of our webpages is taking place to get us ready. We are looking and hoping for a December 13th launch. That is a flexible deadline.

Mr. Bever is planning to reach out and schedule virtual meetings with community groups to demonstrate the new website before the 13th.

The second notice of the 2023 canvass will soon be reaching voters' mailboxes. The second notice is sent to people where their first notice bounced back to us from that address. Per law, we send a second notice as a final attempt to reach that voter before putting that voter into inactive status and removing them from the rolls ahead of the Presidential Elections next year. That will complete our 2023 canvass of the registration rolls ahead of deadline.

Our next citywide mailing will take place in February of next year. That's our regular "household mailer" where we will mail to all registered voters in the City their election information for Election Day voting, Early Voting options and Vote-by-Mail options.

An update from our Community Services team: they continue to attend events, voter registration drives, as well as election judge recruitment events throughout the end of the year.

Some highlights from the Community Services staff: They are recruiting bilingual election judges – a great need ahead of the Presidential Elections - including events with our Hindi speaking team at the Ganesh Temple of Chicago, as well as Diwali celebrations; a meeting with the Polish Consulate General, as well as a table at the Taste of Poland; and a table at the 88 Marketplace in Chinatown. The staff will continue with an eye to recruiting additional bilingual judges in six languages: Spanish, Chinese, Hindi, Polish, Korean and Tagalog ahead of the 2024 elections.

The Chair asked, if a voter is placed on "inactive" status because of the failure to respond or the fact that we're getting the mail back, what does the voter have to do? Mr. Bever explained that if the voter doesn't vote in the next 2 elections and doesn't update their registration information, their registration will be canceled and be removed from the rolls per the Illinois Election Code. They can change status from inactive to active by either voting in one of the 2024 elections or updating their registration information. As to those people on the Permanent Vote-by-Mail Roster List ("Permanent Roster"), Mr. Bever said that we are preparing to do some special communications to those as soon as our new Vote-by-Mail applications are open, December 20th. We are planning email communications to all of those voters asking them to confirm their Permanent Roster information ahead of the Primary Election. This would be specifically for the voters who've chosen "all elections. We'll be asking them to confirm their information as well as their preferred Party. They will be able to use our new online Vote-by-Mail application on our website starting on December 20th, including a specific Permanent Roster online application where they can update that information, change their address, or they can opt-out of the next election or choose "all elections" or "primary elections" status. Right now, we have over 120,000 people signed up for the Permanent Roster. Mr. Bever expects possibly seeing 150,000 -160,000 next year.

Commissioner Brown asked Mr. Bever if he could tell her the percentage of all voters who need the bilingual services. He mentioned that we have a certain amount of what's called Limited English Proficiency (LEP) precincts within the City and they include those six languages that he had just listed. He doesn't have the exact number of those precincts, but will be happy to get the Commissioners that information along with a map. He said that we did expand and add some additional precincts for Korean and Tagalog for the Municipal Elections, we'll see if we'll be adding any additional precincts. We are restarting meetings with our community organizations with language access

organizations starting this Friday and will continue to hold bi-weekly meetings heading into the next election. These are very helpful meetings for us to get additional feedback as well as learn of ways that we can work together to ensure that people have all the access that they need at the polls for March.

Commissioner Brown asked, about bilingual access with our touchscreens. Mr. Bever stated that the touchscreens - for which there are touchscreens located at every precinct polling place on election day as well as our Early Voting sites - include additional languages including Arabic, Russian, Ukrainian, Gujarati, and Urdu. Those are all available on the touchscreen including an audio ballot. But, paper ballots on Election Day at LEP precincts include those six languages that Mr. Bever mentioned.

We are also looking to create new signage for the outside of the building that alerts people that a bilingual judge is present at that site. So, if there are bilingual judges of multiple languages, there will be multiple signage.

Commissioner Brown asked about how Community Services work on this project. Mr. Bever said that we have full-time Community Services Representatives in Hindi, Polish, Chinese and Spanish. They attend events within the community like the ones that Mr. Bever has just listed specifically looking for bilingual judges in those languages so that they can speak directly with community members and answer any of their questions.

Commissioner Kresse pointed out that the Electoral Board hearings will be coming up next month and asked if all that information will also be on our website. Mr. Bever said yes, as the Executive Director mentioned, the State Board of Elections and Cook County Clerk's Office are receiving all the nomination petitions. They are putting those candidate lists online on their websites. As soon as we do receive the scanned copies of the nominating petitions for Chicago candidates, we will make them available on our website. We will also make the objections available on our website once they come in as scanned PDFs.

Commissioner Kresse added for the record that by law we have to do canvass mailings every two years, but this Board does it every year so as to maintain the integrity of our voting rolls. The first mailer went out to every one of our nearly 1.7 million registered voters and is marked "return to sender" if it's undeliverable, but the second mailer only goes to those from whom we have received that first mailer back. The second mailer requests that it be forwarded to their new address if the USPS has it. Those folks are asked to get in touch with us and let us know what's happened to them. If we don't hear back then they go on the "inactive" roster. Mr. Bever confirmed that and said that it looks like we had just over 131,000 of those second notices this year. That is pretty on par with previous years.

VI. Old Business: The Chair confirmed that items A, B and C had already been discussed in this meeting and asked if there was anything additional as to those items? Mr. Holiday said no.

- A. Infrastructure Projects and Changes in Election Administration
- B. Electronic Poll Books
- C. Voting Equipment
- D. Legislation

General Counsel Adam Lasker reported that the General Assembly is out of session until approximately the middle of January.

VII. New Business

- A. Approval of a contract extension with Larry Hanson for redistricting services in relation to the 2024 Chicago school board elections, and other projects.

Mr. Holiday explained that Mr. Larry Hanson works alongside our Districts and Boundaries Department and they are waiting on maps and other materials for the school board elections. Mr. Hanson is teaching the staff on the transitioning process. Once this is all done, our staff will have the knowledge on how to do it, without us having to contract with someone. He has been a great help to the staff and to the office. We are looking forward to continuing this contract throughout next year. The Chair asked Mr. Holiday, exactly what is Mr. Hanson doing with the School Board districts? Mr. Holiday stated that once we get the maps, it's the Geocoding using the census blocks that will be provided so that they can determine what district goes in what ward, and how many wards to a School Board District. That's what he is working on with the staff and Districts and Boundaries: teaching them to use the new software to accomplish this.

Commissioner Kresse clarified by stating, that once we have the maps determined in Springfield of the districts, we then do the work of determining essentially which voters fall into which district so that we can have the ballot designs appropriate come the November Election. Mr. Holiday said that this is correct, that's where the geocoding of the (census) blocks and houses comes in. Commissioner Kresse pointed out that once the legislature enacts the maps, it's not the end of it for us; we have to do the mapping, determine which voters are in which district, and figure out how this affects our ballot forms.

Mr. Lasker pointed out that one of the big projects Mr. Hanson is also working on is our whole entire voter registration database is being upgraded with the GIS (Geographic Information System). With this, for example, if someone submits a voter registration at an address that's not a residential address, the system will know that ahead of time. When all is complete the new maps will be added to the Board's website.

The Chair asked about the role Mr. Hansen plays in the Primary Election. Mr. Lasker said that in the Primary, Mr. Hanson is working with the Districts and Boundaries Department to make sure that voters are in the proper place and provided the proper ballot.

The Chair said that Mr. Hanson has had a contract with the Board for a while. Mr. Lasker thinks it was 2020 when it started because the redistricting started after the 2020 census.

Commissioner Kresse moved to authorize the Executive Director to execute a one-year contract extension with Larry Hanson LLC for redistricting services with an extended term that shall begin on January 1, 2024 and continue through December 31, 2024 for the amount of \$25,000 per month not to exceed \$300,000 in the 12-month period.

Commissioner Brown seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous vote of the Board.

- B. Ratification of a correction to the durational term in the Board's contract with SKU Corporation for new developments.

At the last Board meeting the Board approved a New Developments contract with SKU Corporation. It was to be a two-year term. The contract itself was written with the correct two-year term with the end date of October 31st, however the Board's motion stated the end of the contract was "September 31st". So, the Board is now being asked to just ratify that the full 2-year term would end on October 31, 2025

Commissioner Brown moved to ratify and approve the durational term of November 14, 2023 through October 31, 2025 for the Board's current New Development contract with

SKU Corporation. Commissioner Kresse seconded the motion. The motion passed by 3:0 vote of the Board.

C. Approval of bid award and contract with Know Ink LLC as a result of the RFP for Vote by Mail Ballot Fulfillment for the 2024 Elections.

Mr. Lasker presented this item.

We issued an RFP for Vote-by-Mail ballots. We had 3 printing companies that submitted bids. One is the vendor that we've been using for a few years. That vendor came in the top of the scoring. However, that vendor is not capable of producing a 22-inch ballot. For a Presidential Primary Election, it's quite important to have the longest possible ballot. The reason is primarily because the presidential Delegates and Alternate Delegates are on that ballot in each Congressional District. There have historically been very long lists of candidates for Delegates and Alternate Delegates. So, the decision that we need to move forward with a 22-inch ballot for the Primary disqualified the top vendor. So, today we are asking for consideration of a bid award and contract with the middle vendor, the second-place scoring vendor, which is the top scoring for a bidder who can print a 22-inch ballot. (A third vendor did submit a bid; a printing company that's new to the Board, and which has, to Mr. Lasker's knowledge, not done any prior work with the Board. Mr. Lasker noted that as this third firm is local and minority-owned, the Board looks forward to working with them on future printing jobs and even offering some guidance as to getting some experience in smaller election jurisdictions. Their bid proposal shows they'd never produced any ballots or done any Vote-by-Mail services before.) The company that we're asking for the contract has done many election cycles with medium-large sized jurisdictions. They've done St. Louis County with over 900,000 registered voters. They have 5 different printing facilities, each of which can handle up to 85,000 Vote-by-Mail ballots per day. They have their own proprietary ballot tracking system. (The third-place vendor didn't bid any sort of ballot tracking system.) The company that we're asking for the contract has a lot of experience with Vote-by-Mail. We are confident that although they're a new vendor to us, they can get the job done and do it well. So, we are moving ahead with the recommendation of a bid award and contract.

Commissioner Kresse said that, for the record, he wanted to ask Mr. Lasker about the process that we follow in one of these bid awards. Regarding the scoring process, about how many people are involved in the evaluation of the bids for the scores? Mr. Lasker said that the Procurement Office will impanel an evaluation committee based on what the bid is and which different departments and divisions have, what we call sort of "subject matter experts". This was a pretty broad evaluation committee. Mr. Lasker doesn't remember the exact number but thought it was about 8 to 10 people.

Commissioner Kresse asked whether each of the 8 or 10 people independently score each bid. Mr. Lasker said yes, and that the document that's published and solicits the bids specifically sets forth the different scoring categories. Commissioner Kresse asked about the number of criteria that was used. Mr. Lasker said a dozen to fifteen. Ms. Aspera had one of the score sheets, which Commissioner Kresse said had been shared with the Board members. Mr. Lasker counted from the sheet and said that there are 13 different scores. Commissioner Kresse added that they are objective criteria such as; experience in this particular printing, ability to meet the specifications in the RFP, years of experience in this work and things like that; these are objective, not subjective criteria. Mr. Lasker said that that is correct. Additionally, whether a firm qualifies as a Minority-Owned and Women-Owned Business Enterprise is taken into consideration. The Chair said that she is not the expert here on reviewing this RFP, and that's why she and the Board rely on the expert

knowledge of our staff to objectively review these bids and tell the Board why they believe that a certain firm should receive the award. But she is always very concerned about minority participation by vendors in all aspects. But she also realizes that the minority vendor here has never done any mail ballots before. Mr. Lasker said that that is correct according to their proposal. Mr. Lasker said we ask for business references, and they did not provide any election authority as a business reference. There's no indication in their proposal whatsoever that they've done a Vote-by-Mail fulfillment.

Commissioner Kresse pointed out that the highest score could not provide us with the 22-inch ballots that we require. Commissioner Kresse thanked Mr. Lasker, the Executive Director and Assistant Executive Director for shepherding this process for all of the Board's RFPs. Mr. Lasker said he would like to thank Amanda Robledo and our Procurement Office because this is a very important bid.

Commissioner Kresse said he recalls Mr. Lasker stating that we need a provider who can print the quantity and the number of different versions of the ballots that is required by this jurisdiction, about how many different ballot forms/styles do they have to print? Mr. Lasker said that there are 4-5 things that are put into the envelope that's mailed in what we call a ballot packet, that may or may not include the "I-voted" sticker. There're instructions in multiple languages, the ballot itself, and the return envelope.

Commissioner Kresse asked, the ballot itself has to be specific to that voter and where they live, so in Chicago we have about 400 different versions of ballots? Mr. Lasker said, at least 400 ballot styles per political party. Commissioner Kresse added that the proposal will give the contract to a printing company that's got five different printing plants that can respond to our needs. Mr. Lasker said we have to remember that we have approximately 130,000 people on the Permanent Roster and those ballots have to get out on day one and then we have a very high capacity, and there's a statutory obligation for us to get the ballots out into the mail within 24 or 48 hours after the application comes in. So, there's a mandatory, very fast turnaround. There's no room for error or failure. Mr. Bever stated that in 2020, which was our highest, we had nearly half a million (500,000) ballots. That number has stayed close to about 215,000 Vote-by-Mail ballots for the last 4 elections.

Mr. Lasker said that we intend to follow up with all the bidders, and any other printing companies on the possibility of having a printer symposium here, because we have a lot of different printing needs.

The compensation is priced at a per ballot packet rate, so we don't put any real cap on it because we don't know how many we might get. Sometimes it's like 200,000-something like last year or we might get closer to 500,000 because it's a presidential. Up to 300,000 packets would be at a rate of \$2.45 per packet, then \$2.40 per packet if we exceed the 300,000 and that includes their proprietary tracking system. Mr. Bever said that mail tracking is extraordinarily worth that value, especially for voter's peace of mind.

Commissioner Kresse moved to approve a bid award and contract with Know Ink LLC for Vote-by-Mail fulfillment services for the 2024 elections at cost of, \$2.45 per ballot packet up to 300,000 or \$2.40 per ballot packet if we exceed 300,000 ballots and with a durational term beginning November 28, 2023 and continuing through December 31, 2024. Commissioner Brown seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous vote of the Board.

D. Approval of small bid awards.

Acting Purchasing Agent Amanda Robledo presented.

1. To Cardinal Color Group for the production of ballot privacy sleeves.
The Procurement Office has reviewed, evaluated and recommends the award of a Small Bid for ballot privacy sleeves for the 2024 elections to Cardinal Color Group.
The Small Bid was competitively bid. The award selection was based on comparative total cost meeting the lowest bidder's requirements. In response to the Small Bid, the Board received a total of 6 responses. Those vendors are: Cardinal Color Group, Lake County Press, The Schiele Group, The Envelope Connection, Grace Printing and Mailing, and Liberty Creative Solutions.
Cardinal Color Group was the lowest bidder, and the vendor has proven itself to be reliable and responsible with prior printing projects for the Board. In 2023 Cardinal Color Group performed the 2023 household mailer and the Board recently extended Cardinal Color's existing printing contracts for the 2024 election. The Board has been very satisfied with their products and services. Ms. Robledo had provided the Board with the tabulation sheets and recommendation to award the contract to Cardinal Color Group which appears to meet all the requirements for the small bid for ballot privacy sleeves.
Commissioner Brown moved to authorize the Executive Director to execute a contract with Cardinal Color Group for the printing of ballot privacy sleeves for the 2024 elections at a cost not to exceed \$21,890. Commissioner Kresse seconded the motion. The motion passed by 3:0 vote of the Board.
2. To JJ Collins & Sons for the printing of Registration form 276; and
3. To Cardinal Color Group for the printing of Registration form 276A
The Procurement Office has reviewed, evaluated and recommends the award of a Small Bid for Registration Form 276 and 276A to vendors: JJ Collins & Sons for the printing of Registration Form 276 and Cardinal Color Group for the printing of Registration Form 276A
The Small Bid was competitively bid, the award selection was based on comparative total cost meeting the lowest bidder's requirements. In response to the Small Bid, the Board received a total of two responses; JJ Collins & Sons, and Cardinal Color Group.
JJ Collins is the apparent lowest bidder for the Registration Form 276. JJ Collins has recently performed the Voter Canvass Mailing and Second Notice and the Board recently extended JJ Collins existing printing contracts for the 2024 elections.
Cardinal Color Group is the apparent lowest bidder for Registration Form 276A. In early 2023 Cardinal Color Group performed the 2023 Household Mailer and the board recently extended their existing printing contracts for 2024 elections.
Both vendors have proven to be reliable and responsible with prior printing projects for the Board and the Board has been very satisfied with their service and products.
Ms. Robledo provided the Board members with bid tabulation documentation supporting these recommendations of contract awards.
Commissioner Kresse thanked Ms. Robledo and the committee on the thorough job they do on these bids.

Commissioner Brown moved to authorize the Executive Director to execute a contract with JJ Collins & Sons for the printing of Registration Form 276 for the 2024 elections at a cost not to exceed \$15,600, and to execute a contract with Cardinal Color Group for the printing of Registration Form 276A for the 2024 elections at a cost not to exceed \$1,995. Commissioner Kresse seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous vote of the Board.

- E. Approval of a professional services agreement with Susan Casey for e-pollbook implementation and training services.

Mr. Holiday presented.

Susan Casey works with the Board's staff at the warehouse, our IT Department and Community Services with the e-pollbooks.

We have a new pollbook and pollbook vendor. The staff feels that to get us through the March election we should have a contract with Ms. Casey. The departments that she works with feel that she will be a big help to them and the Warehouse. They believe that she can get us through.

Mr. Lasker added that even with the old pollbook vendor, Ms. Casey was still contracted to bring coordination services that are not needed year-round. Part of her contract now is to continue training the staff.

Commissioner Kresse moved to approve a professional services agreement with Susan Casey for electronic-pollbook implementation and training services at the rate of \$100 per hour, not to exceed \$100,000 over the term of the agreement, which shall begin on November 28, 2023, and continue through November 27, 2024. Commissioner Brown seconded the motion. The motion passed by 3:0 vote of the Board.

VIII. Legal Report

General Counsel Adam Lasker reported:

Since the last meeting we were provided by the City with official transmission of the certification of the citywide binding referendum. So that is official, and it will be on the ballot in March, on every ballot in the City. It is relatively long. Mr. Lasker thanked Pawel Faryjewicz of the Board's staff who has really stepped up as a quite good ballot designer; Mr. Lasker is sure Mr. Faryjewicz will get it done.

We have 23 Electoral Board Hearing Officers who have responded as being available for this upcoming cycle. Mr. Lasker thinks we're in good shape. We'll be renewing those contracts with the Board at the next Board meeting. We have our training set for this week Thursday to get ready for those December 18th hearings.

IX. Financial Report

- A. Balance Sheet and Voucher Listings for the City of Chicago – 2023 Appropriation – No. 23-07 dated November 28, 2023, in the amount of \$3,068,377.45.

Commissioner Brown moved to approve the Balance Sheet and Voucher Listings for the City of Chicago – 2023 Appropriation – No. 23-07 dated November 28, 2023, in the amount of \$3,068,377.45. Commissioner Kresse seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous vote of the Board.

- B. Balance Sheet and Voucher Listings for the County of Cook – 2023 Appropriation – No. 23-03 dated November 28, 2023, in the amount of \$1,246,476.53.

Commissioner Kresse moved to approve the Balance Sheet and Voucher Listings for the County of Cook – 2023 Appropriation – No. 23-03 dated November 28, 2023, in the amount of \$1,246,476.53. Commissioner Brown seconded the motion. The motion passed by 3:0 vote of the Board.

X. Public Comment

Mr. Don Olson made public comment.

Mr. Olsen wanted to say a few words about his friend and colleague Clare Tobin, who died on November 17th following a short illness.

Ms. Tobin was an active member of the community who was well known to the Board and to staff.

Mr. Olsen noted that Ms. Tobin was 79 years old. , was born in Ireland, and came to the United States with her husband when she was 26 years old.

Mr. Olsen noted that Ms. Tobin became a very good citizen, in his mind, the ideal citizen. She was involved in all sorts of Civic and political activities on every level of government. She was very active.

Mr. Olson said that probably Ms. Tobin's main field of endeavor was election integrity. Clare started coming to the Board in 2004. The focus of her concerns was transparency, meaning election observability. Ms. Tobin was the poll watcher supreme and trained many people in how to be a poll watcher.

Mr. Olson then spoke about three issues that Ms. Tobin was particularly concerned about.

The 5% audit, The identification of voter signatures on Vote-by-Mail ballot envelopes, and the numbers in the polls on election day.

Mr. Olson closed by letting the Board know that the last real conversation Mr. Olson and Ms. Tobin had was about a week before she passed away. They had a private little conversation. It was just the two of them and they shared memories, laughed a little, but then at a certain point in their conversation Ms. Tobin looked at Mr. Olson very seriously and she wanted to talk about her unfinished election integrity agenda. She had some general and some very specific instructions for Mr. Olson as well. He almost starting laughing when she did it, because it was so like her. Right up to the very end, she was talking about our election integrity fervently and passionately. That was Ms. Tobin, Mr. Olson's friend, colleague, and in his opinion, a really good citizen.

Board members thanked Mr. Olson for his comments and told him it was beautiful. The Chair said that she's known Ms. Tobin here for a long time. Ms. Tobin was here regularly for many years and she was dogged. She was consistent in her approach, always, always emphasizing, election transparency as Mr. Olson says, in various ways. But during all those time that she came up here and spoke, or came to the Chair personally Ms. Tobin always did so respectfully; and she did it in a way that you knew that she was listening to what you had to say and we listened to what she had to say. For that the Chair will always appreciate Ms.

Tobin and her objectives and her approach. On behalf of the Board the Chair sent out their deep condolences to Ms. Tobin’s family, friends, Mr. Olson and those that Ms. Tobin regularly dealt with. The Chair knows that Ms. Tobin is at peace now.

Mr. Lasker echoes the Chair’s sentiments about her respectfulness. She always kept us pointed in the right direction. She brought things to our attention that needed to be brought to our attention but, she did it respectfully. Mr. Lasker said that he had shared this news with his predecessor, the former General Counsel, Jim Scanlon. Mr. Lasker said he can not say anything better than what Mr. Scanlon said. Mr. Scanlon said, “Clare was always dedicated to the goal of clean, honest and accurate elections. She was knowledgeable, articulate and respectful. Her passing is a big loss to the election community”.

XI. Executive Session

The Chair said that the board will not be voting on any matters within Executive Session or thereafter. She thinks they will simply adjourn after returning to Open Session.

Commissioner Brown moved to enter into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing the performance of specific employees, as authorized by Section 2(c)(1) of the Open Meetings Act. Commissioner Kresse seconded the motion. The motion passed by 3:0 vote of the Board. The Board entered into Executive Session at 11:20

The Board returned to Open Session at 12:25 p.m. The Chair announced that no official action was taken during Executive Session.

XII. Adjournment: Commissioner Kresse moved to adjourn. Commissioner Brown seconded the motion. The motion passed by 3:0 vote of the Board. The meeting was adjourned at 12:26 p.m.

Submitted,



William J. Kresse, Secretary