

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
Special Board Meeting
Tuesday, March 19, 2024
7:00 a.m.
Room 800, Office of the Chair
69 West Washington Street
Chicago, Illinois 60602

- I. Call to Order: The Chair called the meeting to order at 7:02 a.m.

Present during this session were:

Board Members:

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

Staff:

Charles Holiday, Jr., Executive Director
Adam Lasker, General Counsel
Max Bever, Director of Public Information
Lance Gough, Consultant
Trish Sheehy

Guests: [none]

- I. Roll Call: All Board members were present in the Office of the Chair, 69 West Washington, 8th floor, Chicago, Illinois 60602
- II. Consideration of Agenda: there were no proposed changes to the agenda
- III. Election Day
The Chair asked General Counsel Adam Lasker and Executive Director Charles Holiday if there was any action needed by the Board at this time. Mr. Lasker said that there is no need for any action by the Board at this time.
 - A. Possible removal of judges of election: Not needed at this time.

- B. Possible court action to address late polling place openings and other potential contingencies: Not needed at this time.
- IV. Public Comment: There were no requests for public comment.
- V. Recess or Adjourn: Commissioner Brown moved to recess until the call of the Chair. Commissioner Kresse seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous vote of the Board. The meeting was recessed at 7:03 a.m.

VI. Call to Order: The Board returned to session at 2:30 p.m.

Present during this session were:

Board Members:

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

Staff:

Charles Holiday, Jr., Executive Director
Adam Lasker, General Counsel
Lance Gough, Consultant
Trish Sheehy

Guests: [none]

VII. Roll Call: All Board members were present in the Office of the Chair, 69 West Washington, 8th floor, Chicago, Illinois 60602

VIII. Consideration of Agenda: No changes to the agenda were presented.

IX. Election Day

A. Possible removal of judges of election:

The Chair asked General Counsel Adam Lasker and Executive Director Charles Holiday if there was any action needed by the Board at this time. Messrs. Lasker and Holiday agreed that there was no Board action needed at this time, but that they and Deputy Counsel Joan Agnew were tracking a few items that may or may not need action later in the day.

General Counsel Adam Lasker reminded the Board that this is the end of the Judges of Election's confirmation period, so removal orders won't be as critical to keeping the judge from serving next election. If we get a report related to a judge needing removal, we will send an Investigator (as is our practice). Upon receiving the Investigator's report, we will determine whether a removal order will be necessary.

B. Possible court action to address late polling place openings and other potential contingencies. Executive Director Charles Holiday and General Counsel Lasker reported that it does not appear that we will have any need to keep any polling

place open for voting after 7:00 p.m. However, there were about 11 precincts for which Mr. Lasker is waiting for additional information before making the final call.

Because of a fire in the Nicholson School building, two precincts' polling places had to be relocated. A new location for these polling places was located. The Chicago Fire Department moved the ESCs (Equipment Supply Carriers) outside, but we still had to replace all the equipment which required programming. This was done before the polls were scheduled to open. Voters were notified and additional notices were posted.

This morning another precinct, 13th precinct of the 37th ward, had reported the sight and smell of smoke at the polling place. The Chicago Fire Department went to the sight to investigate. We also had our Investigators on sight. Until the polling place was given the all clear by the CFD, the Board's Investigator was directed to suggest to any potential voter arriving at the location to go to one of the 51 Vote Centers that were open. The Investigator was also directed to take the names and numbers of anyone who said that they would neither be able to return to vote nor be able to get to one of the Vote Centers, before the polls close at 7:00 p.m. The initial call came in around 6:30 this morning. The Board's Investigator called with a status around 7:15; by that time the polling place was back up and running, and no voter was turned away.

The Chair said that having the Vote Centers open on Election Day is such a good thing, particularly with issues like these. Mr. Lasker reminded everyone that Section 11-8 of the Election Code (which allows us to have Vote Centers) has a "sunset clause" that is triggered in 2029. Mr. Lasker hopes the Sunset clause will be removed by then.

- X. Public Comment: There was no request for public comment.
- XI. Recess or Adjourn: Commissioner Kresse moved to recess the meeting. Commissioner Brown seconded the motion. The motion passed and the meeting was recessed at 2:38 p.m.

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- XII. Call to Order: The Board returned to session at 6:55 p.m.

Present during this session were:

Board Members:

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

Staff:

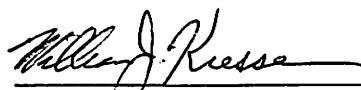
Charles Holiday, Jr., Executive Director
Adam Lasker, General Counsel
Lance Gough, Consultant
Trish Sheehy

Guests: [none]

- XIII. Roll Call: All Board members were present in the Office of the Chair, 69 West Washington, 8th floor, Chicago, Illinois 60602
- XIV. Election Day
- A. Possible removal of judges of election: General Counsel Adam Lasker confirmed that there were no Orders of Removal necessary at this time.
- B. Possible court action to address late polling place openings and other potential contingencies: Mr. Lasker said that he or the staff had contacted people who were listed as having arrived after 6:00 a.m., but prior to the polling place being ready for voting, to determine whether they were able to vote. Based on those contacts, there is no need to hold any of the precinct polling places open after 7:00 p.m. There was again a discussion of how the Vote Centers have helped voters cast their ballots without having to keep precinct polling places open late.
- XV. Public Comment: There was no request for public comment.
- XVI. Recess or Adjourn: The Chair suggested that the meeting be recessed, not adjourned, in case anything arises later.

Commissioner Brown moved to recess the meeting until the call of the Chair.
Commissioner Kresse seconded the motion. The motion passed and the meeting was recessed at 6:58 p.m.

Submitted,



William J. Kresse, Secretary