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Marion County Election Board Meeting

February 23, 2022 | 10:00 AM

Election Service Center, 3737 E Washington St., 46201

Board Members and Officials Present: Peter Luster, proxy for Nolita Stewart, Chair of the Election Board; Jennifer Ping, Vice-Chair; Myla Eldridge, Secretary; Brienne Delaney, Director of Elections; Tenley Drescher-Rhoades, Election Board Counsel; Vaneeta Kumar, Office of Corporation Counsel (OCC)

Others Present: Tony Alexander; Patrick Becker, Marion County Election Board (MCEB) deputy director; Michele Cash; Colin Claycomb; Doris Coleman; Thomas Cook,; Kacey Crane; Camille Drake; Alexi Eastes; LaDonna Freeman; David W. Greene, Sr.; Thomas Griffin; Gretchen Gutman; Vincent Hatch, Sr.; Dorothy Herron; Ashley Hogue; Bobby Kern; Antonio Lipscomb; Shauna Lipscomb; Lisa S. Maxey-Smith; Brent Stinson, MCEB deputy director; Ramona McCauley; Michele Miller; Wayne Modke; Derek Morris; Kevin Murray; William Oliver; Carmen Overton; Amelia Pak-Harvey; Shannon Samson; Bradley Sims; Rachel Swartwood; Kate Sweeney Bell,; Steve Talley; Alexander Totten; Barbara Tully; James Wade; Stephanie Wakeland; WCYT Channel 16; Madison Weintraut; Evan Williams

I. Call to Order

Proxy for the Chair, Peter Luster called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m.

II. Adoption of February 16, 2022 Minutes

Chair Luster made a motion to adopt the February 16, 2022 minutes. Secretary Eldridge moved to approve. Vice-Chair Ping seconded the motion. The Board unanimously approved the motion.

III. Candidate Challenges

1. Alexander Totten challenged candidate Thomas Griffin, who is seeking the office of Center Township Trustee. Totten is a registered voter of Center Township. He appeared in person before the board and said he is challenging Griffin because he does not have sufficient voting history in Democratic primary elections . Totten also said Griffin did not get permission from the party chair. Griffin appeared in person to talk about his background, which includes working for the Center Township Trustee's Office. He said he reached out to the party chair, Kate Sweeney Bell, in September 2020 to find out more about running for Center Township Trustee. He said they did not meet until February of 2021. He said Sweeney Bell told him to go to slating instead of telling him what to do to be a viable candidate. He said he isn't sure if he voted in the most recent primaries.

Director of Elections Brienne Delaney said Indiana code was changed after his February 2021 meeting with Sweeney Bell, at the end of the legislative session that year. Now, to run for office, Indiana law requires a candidates' two most recent primary election votes must have been for their party, regardless of how many years ago they were or gaps in time. She said the Indiana Statewide Voter Registration System (SVRS) showed Griffin voted Democratic in the 2020 primary but has no vote record prior to that. Director Delaney noted for Democratic Precinct Committee (PC) Persons, candidates only need their single, most recent vote in a primary to have been on a Democrat ballot. Republicans need two, which follows state law. To run for Republican State Delegate, a candidate must have voted on a Republican ballot in the two most recent primary elections. For Democratic State Delegate, a candidate would only need a single Democratic vote in the most recent primary. Secretary Eldridge made a motion to uphold the challenge due to the law. Vice-Chair Ping seconded the motion. The Board unanimously approved the motion.

At the urging of spectator Bobby Kern, who spoke out of order, counsel Drescher-Rhoades administered the oath to the speakers at the meeting. Counsel said it was not required, but the Board could choose to do it, which members did.

2. Amanda Lewis challenged candidate Doris Coleman Stewart. Coleman Stewart appeared in person to inform the board she has voted in every election since she was 18, so she wasn't sure why she did not meet the voting history requirements of candidate filing. Director Delaney said staff notes indicated Coleman Stewart's voting record did meet the requirements. Secretary Eldridge made a motion to strike the challenge because the law states that Precinct Committee Persons must have voted for their party the most recent time they voted in a Primary Election. Vice-Chair Ping seconded the motion. The board unanimously approved the motion. Coleman Stewart will remain on the ballot.

3. Bobby Kern challenged candidate Kate Sweeney Bell on the grounds that holding two lucrative political offices would lead to abusing her authority for personal gain. Kern appeared in person to inform the board Sweeney Bell's power might go to her head and she could, for example, take bribes. Kern said as Democratic Party Chair, she shouldn't have the power to hand pick candidates and turn away others because only God is in charge. Attorney Thomas Cook appeared in person on behalf of Sweeney Bell. He told the board party chairs are not considered political offices, a distinction that was settled in case law in the 1960s. Secretary Eldridge made a motion to strike the challenge due to the law. Vice-Chair Ping seconded the motion. The Board unanimously approved the motion.

4. Denise Paul Hatch challenged candidate Lance Eugene Stephens on the grounds he has an incomplete CAN-5/Declaration of Candidacy form and a pending felony. Hatch appeared in person to inform the Board it would be disgraceful if Stephens's name appeared on the ballot because he is accused of driving drunk in Hamilton County and this is his second DUI offense. She said this means he broke his oath as the current Center Township Constable. Mr. Stephens did not appear in person but did send a document for board members to read. Director Delaney paraphrased the document, which said a CAN-5 form is like a receipt issued by MCEB staff when a person files for candidacy and if it wasn't filled out correctly, that is an office error and not the candidate's. Stephens' statement also said he has never been convicted of a felony and as for the pending charges, he is innocent until proven guilty. Director Delaney said state law says a candidate cannot run or serve if he or she is convicted of a felony, but Stephens has only been charged at this point. Secretary Eldridge made a motion to strike the challenge because Stephens has not been convicted of a

felony. Vice-Chair Ping seconded the motion. The Board unanimously approved the motion.

5. Derek Morris challenged candidate Steve Talley on the grounds the candidate filed to run in the wrong county. Mr. Talley indicated he lived in “Mariom” County, and not “Marion” County. Morris appeared in person to inform the board this is a glaring error on the top of the filing form and there was plenty of time for Talley to correct it. He said small errors allowed to fester become big problems. Talley appeared in person to inform the Board he has lived in Marion County since the 1960s. He said there were other areas on the form where he spelled it correctly. He said the error on his application was a typing error, as M is right next to N on the keyboard. Director Delaney said there is no law that addresses typos. Secretary Eldridge made a motion to strike the challenge because humans make mistakes. Vice-Chair Ping seconded the motion. The Board unanimously approved the motion.

6. Kacey Crane challenged candidate Samantha Faulkner Gonzalez on the grounds she does not have an adequate Republican primary voting history to meet the party requirement or Indiana Code to run for Republican State Delegate. Director Delaney said voting records for Faulkner Gonzalez indicate she has no primary voting history. Vice-Chair Ping made a motion to uphold the challenge. Secretary Eldridge seconded the motion. The Board unanimously approved the motion.

7. Kacey Crane challenged Sam Gonzalez on the grounds he did not have an adequate Republican primary voting history to run for Republican State Delegate. Vice-Chair Ping made a motion to uphold the challenge. Secretary Eldridge seconded the motion. The Board unanimously approved the motion.

8. Linda Journey challenged candidate Shauna Lipscomb on the grounds she does not meet the voting history requirements. Lipscomb appeared in person to show the board a record of her voting history, which she said proves she did meet the requirement. Director Delaney said SVRS showed she voted on a Democratic ballot in the June 2020 primary. Secretary Eldridge made a motion to strike the challenge. Vice-Chair Ping seconded the motion. The Board unanimously approved the motion.

9. Kate Sweeney Bell challenged candidate Jocelyn-Tandy Adande on the grounds she did not mark her party on her form and did not meet the voting requirement for Democratic Precinct Committee Person. Director Delaney said Adande did not check her party on her filing form, so she thinks that is why the Democratic Party Chair assumed she was running for Democratic PC. She said SVRS showed Adande’s most recent primary voting history shows she voted Republican. She also filed to be a Republican State Delegate. Vice-Chair Ping made a motion to uphold the challenge because of her voting history. Secretary Eldridge seconded the motion. The Board unanimously approved the motion.

10. Kate Sweeney Bell challenged Democratic PC candidate Mmoja Ajabu on the grounds he voted for the opposite party in the last primary election. Ajabu appeared in person to show the Board records of his voting history which is primarily Democratic aside from the last primary election. He said Sweeney Bell is questioning his loyalty because she is running for Marion County Clerk and wants power. Secretary Eldridge made a motion to uphold the challenge. Vice-Chair Ping seconded the motion. The Board unanimously approved the motion.

11. Kate Sweeney Bell challenged Democratic PC candidate Zachary Conyers on the grounds he voted for the opposite party in the last primary election. Director Delaney said SVRS shows Conyers voted Republican in the most recent primary election. Vice-Chair Ping made a motion to uphold the challenge because of his voting history. Secretary Eldridge seconded the motion. The Board unanimously approved the motion.

12. Kate Sweeney Bell challenged Democratic PC candidate Christelle K. Mutombo on the grounds she is not registered to vote in precinct WS016. Secretary Eldridge made a motion to uphold the challenge. Vice-Chair Ping seconded the motion. The Board unanimously approved the motion.

13. Kate Sweeney Bell challenged Democratic PC candidate Suzanne Rockwell because she voted for the opposite party the last time she voted in a primary. Vice-Chair Ping made a motion to uphold the challenge because of her voting history. Secretary Eldridge seconded the motion. The Board unanimously approved the motion.

14. Kate Sweeney Bell challenged Democratic PC candidate Leasa R. Sanchez because she voted for the opposite party the last time she voted in a primary. Secretary Eldridge made a motion to uphold the challenge. Vice-Chair Ping seconded the motion. The Board unanimously approved the motion.

15. Kate Sweeney Bell challenged Democratic PC candidate Tyrone Wilson on the grounds he is not registered to vote in precinct CN005. Secretary Eldridge made a motion to uphold the challenge. Vice-Chair Ping seconded the motion. The Board unanimously approved the motion.

16. Remona McCauley challenged Democratic PC candidate Georon Evans. McCauley appeared in person to inform the board she issued her challenge because Evans has no primary voting history and failed to secure certification from county party chair. Secretary Eldridge made a motion to uphold the challenge. Vice-Chair Ping seconded the motion. The Board unanimously approved the motion.

IV. Administrative Corrections to Candidate Filings

Director Delaney noted the candidate filings being discussed all contain errors. She stated Indiana law does not address a remedy for errors. She said 99% of the time, the Board accepts these filings since, even with such errors, since there are very few circumstances in which the Board can reject filings. She also noted the Board has a history of correcting errors so the candidate can be placed on the ballot.

Group A

Candidates Meadow Fitzgerald, Kerry Forestal, Mitchell Gauger, Ashley Hogue, Melinda Jones, Cynthia Morraz, William (Duke) Oliver, and Carmen Overton failed to mark the box to indicate if they were running for State Delegate or Precinct Committee Person or marked both boxes on their form. However, these candidates wrote their precinct numbers in the Precinct Committee Person box. MCEB staff recommended placing these candidates in PC races. Fitzgerald sent an email to MCEB staff since she could not be in attendance. Counsel was present for Kerry Forestal. Secretary Eldridge made a motion to place all the individuals in the group on the ballot. Vice-Chair Ping

seconded the motion. The Board unanimously approved the motion.

Group B

Director Delaney said the missing or incorrect information on the candidates' forms in Group B are not germane to the filing. Carol Dunlevy, Matt Garthwaite, Cheryl Laux, Kelli Liggett, Colleen Russell, Shoshanna Spector, James Wade, and Toni A. Wilson. Staff recommends placing these candidates on the ballot. James Wade appeared in person. Vice-Chair Ping made a motion to place all the individuals on the ballot. Secretary Eldridge seconded the motion. The Board unanimously approved the motion.

Group C

Director Delaney said the candidates in Group C wrote the wrong delegate or precinct district on their forms or did not provide one at all. She said the staff used the address they wrote on the form to determine their correct district. The candidates include Ramona Coan-Ward, Gretchen Gutman, John Sherby, Gregor Walston, and Gregory Hahn. William Hadden Hogsett's form contained a staff error. Director Delaney apologized for the error. Toni A. Wilson had two forms, so staff used one form to fill in the blanks on the other. Secretary Eldridge made a motion to place all the individuals on the ballot. Vice-Chair Ping seconded the motion. The Board unanimously approved the motion.

Group D

Director Delaney said the candidates in Group D did not check the party affiliation box on their form. She said they filed more than one form and indicated their party affiliation on the second form, so staff gleaned the info from there. The candidates include Sharon Anderson, Daniel Cicchini, Eshel Faraggi, Faith James Kimbrough, Patricia McKinnon, and Rachel Swartwood. Staff recommended placing them on the ballot. Secretary Eldridge made a motion to place all the individuals on the ballot. Vice-Chair Ping seconded the motion. The Board unanimously approved the motion.

Group E

Director Delaney said candidates in Group E did not check the party affiliation box and did not have a second filing in which to glean the missing information. Director Delaney provided these candidates' vote history from SVRS. Vice-Chair Ping said she knows Mark Forcum personally and due to his voting history, he appears to be a Republican. She made a motion to uphold the staff recommendation to place him on the ballot as a Republican. Secretary Eldridge seconded the motion. The Board unanimously approved the motion. Avis Frieson had multiple Democratic primary votes in her history. Secretary Eldridge made a motion to place her on the ballot. Vice-Chair Ping seconded the motion. The Board unanimously approved the motion. Director Delaney said Jacob Lauer did not have a primary voting history but filed for PC. Democratic PCs are the only ones on the ballot this year. Counsel Drescher-Rhoades said his primary voting history doesn't have any bearing on the board's decision since Lauer was not formally challenged. Director Delaney said the filings are posted online, which is how people determine whom to challenge and since there were 900+ filings this year, perhaps it was difficult for someone to find Lauer on the spreadsheet or figure out his party affiliation. Secretary Eldridge made the motion to reject Lauer's filing. Vice-Chair Ping seconded the motion. The Board unanimously approved the motion. Director Delaney said William Salin filed an updated form, in which he did mark Republican Party, so he did not need any action from the Board. Director Delaney said Madison Weintraut wrote her correct Republican district on her filing form. Weintraut sent an email to the Board explaining the mistakes on her form. Vice-Chair Ping made a

motion to place Weintraut on the ballot for Republican Delegate, based on her voting history. Secretary Eldridge seconded the motion. The Board unanimously approved the motion.

Group F

Director Delaney said there were various errors on these forms in Group F. Staff was able to fill in blanks on Gregory Hahn's form from a second filing. Vice-Chair Ping made a motion to place Hahn on the ballot. Secretary Eldridge seconded the motion. The Board unanimously approved the motion. Director Delaney said Shauna Lipscomb did not put a precinct number on her form. Staff recommended placing her on the ballot as a Democratic PC candidate for her correct precinct based on her address. Vice-Chair Ping made a motion to place Lipscomb on the ballot. Secretary Eldridge seconded the motion. The Board unanimously approved the motion. Director Delaney stated that Karla Lopez Owens wrote the incorrect delegate district on her form, but staff used her address on the form to correct her delegate district. Secretary Eldridge made a motion to place Lopez Owens on the ballot as a Democratic State Delegate. Vice-Chair Ping seconded the motion. The Board unanimously approved the motion. Director Delaney said Crispus Moore wrote the wrong precinct on his form. Staff used the address on the form to correct his precinct. Secretary Eldridge made a motion to place Moore on the ballot as a Democratic PC. Vice-Chair Ping seconded the motion. The Board unanimously approved the motion. Director Delaney said Mark Orr did not write his candidate name in a box. She said this error is germane to the filing. Secretary Eldridge made a motion to place Moore on the ballot. Vice-Chair Ping seconded the motion. The Board unanimously approved the motion. Director Delaney said Lisa Schmitz did not check her party affiliation box or mark the contest. Director Delaney said her voting history includes pulling a non-partisan ballot in one of her two most recent primaries. She did not have a letter from her party chair either. Vice-Chair Ping said while Schmitz had a long history of voting Republican, she made a motion to reject Schmitz's filing due to her voting history. Secretary Eldridge seconded the motion. The Board unanimously approved the motion.

Group G

Director Delaney said staff recommended rejecting the filings in Group G. She said Jocelyn-Tandy Adande had an error on her PC form, which is why she was in this group, but the Board did not have to act since it already upheld a challenge earlier in the meeting. Director Delaney said Faith Alvarez did not have her form notarized, nor did she have the correct congressional district on it. Secretary Eldridge made a motion to reject Alvarez's filing. Vice-Chair Ping seconded the motion. The Board unanimously approved the motion. Director Delaney said De'ja Braughton filled out very few lines on her form and staff was unable to determine her intention. The Board was unsure if she had the form notarized either. Secretary Eldridge made a motion to reject Braughton's filing. Vice-Chair Ping seconded the motion. The Board unanimously approved the motion. Director Delaney said José Vazquez had two forms that were not notarized. Secretary Eldridge made a motion to reject both of Vazquez's filings. Vice-Chair Ping seconded the motion. The Board unanimously approved the motion.

V. Campaign Finance – Administrative Closing

Director Delaney stated that the Greater Indianapolis Democratic Central Committee (GRIDCO) is a PAC that meets all the qualifications to be administratively disbanded. It has not filed a report since January 18, 2017. She noted campaign finance committees that miss filing a report three times can

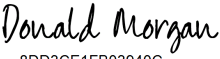
be administratively disbanded. She said those committees also must have less than \$1,000 on hand and MCEB must send the committee a notice via certified mail to their last-known address. Director Delaney said MCEB contacted the Marion County Democratic Party about this PAC, given that its address was the former Marion County Democratic Party headquarters and the PAC chair and treasurer were the former chair and treasurer for the party. She noted this PAC is not the official party's campaign finance arm. Director Delaney said staff recommended administratively disbanding the committee. Secretary Eldridge made a motion to disband the committee. Vice-Chair Ping seconded the motion. The Board unanimously approved the motion.

VI. Other Business and Updates


Director Delaney said the next meeting will be to approve the ballot for the upcoming primary election.

VII. Adjournment

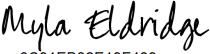
Secretary Eldridge made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was unanimously approved.

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Proxy for the Chair, Donald Morgan

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Proxy for the Vice-Chair, Jeff Cummins

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Secretary, Myla Eldridge



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Marion County Election Board Meeting

Friday, March 4, 2022 | 10:00 AM

City County Building Room #260

Board Members and Officials Present: Nolita Stewart, Chair of the Election Board; Jennifer Ping, Vice-Chair; Myla Eldridge, Secretary; Brienne Delaney, Director of Elections; Tenley Drescher-Rhoades, Election Board Counsel; Matt Jeziorski, Office of Corporation Counsel (OCC)

Others Present: Colin Claycomb, Ballot Administrator; Brent Stinson, MCEB Deputy Director

I. Call to Order

Chair Nolita Stewart called the meeting to order at 10:01 a.m.

II. Problem Filing – Susan Cassada

Chair Stewart said candidate Susan Cassada was listed in the wrong precinct but Marion County Election Board (MCEB) staff were able to correct it. Director Brienne Delaney said Cassada called the staff herself to alert them to this error. Secretary Myla Eldridge made the motion to accept the changes to Cassada's filing. Vice-Chair Jennifer Ping seconded the motion. The Board unanimously approved the motion.

III. 2022 Primary Ballot Ratification

Chair Stewart said the ballot drafts were shared with both parties, all the Board members and school superintendents with a public question on the ballot. Secretary Eldridge said there have been several workers proofreading the ballots. Director Delaney said there were 12 independent proofreaders, who worked for a week. MCEB staff sent the draft of the ballot to the political parties and to the school boards, whose members had a week to review it, which is possibly how Susan Cassada discovered she was in the wrong precinct. Secretary Myla Eldridge made the motion to accept the primary ballot. Vice-Chair Ping seconded the motion. The Board unanimously approved the motion.

IV. Other Business and Updates

Director Delaney said the next meeting will be the public test of voting equipment. She said there are a few contracts that will need to be ratified soon and the board will also need to approve a Vote Center plan. She thinks the board will need to schedule another meeting before April to accomplish these items.

V. Adjournment

The next scheduled meeting is Friday, April 1, 2022 at 9:00 a.m. at the Election Service Center, 3737 E. Washington Street.

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Donald Morgan

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Proxy for the Chair, Donald Morgan

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Proxy for the Vice-Chair, Jeff Cummins

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Secretary, Myla Eldridge