

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**

January 10, 2023, 10:00 a.m.

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

Board Members:

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

Staff:

Charles Holiday, Executive Director
Adam Lasker, General Counsel
Max Bever, Director of Public Information
Kimberly Carrillo-Walker, Finance Director
Karen Chin, Manager – Human Resources
Amanda Robledo, Purchasing
Lance Gough, Consultant
Trish Sheehy

Guests:

Josh Miller, Arrow Messenger
Helene Gabelnick, League of Women Voters Chicago
Danielle Matzdorf, Arrow Messenger
Josh Miller, Arrow Messenger
Andrew Finko
Tracy Wu
"BC"
"Eric"
Lisa Seigneur
Erin Hegarty

- I. Call to Order: The Chair called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.
- II. Roll Call: All Board members were present via WebEx teleconference.
- III. Consideration of Agenda: The Chair made a motion to defer for today's meeting the items in sections VII A 2 and section VII C. Commissioner Kresse seconded the motion. The motion passed by 3:0 vote of the Board.
- IV. Approval of Minutes:
 - A. Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of November 8, 2022
 - B. Minutes of the Canvassing Board Meeting of November 8, 2022 which concluded on November 29, 2022

Commissioner Brown moved to approve the Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of November 8, 2022 and the Minutes of the Canvassing Board Meeting of November 8, 2022 which concluded on November 29, 2022. Commissioner Kresse seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous vote of the Board.

V. Executive Director’s Report

Executive Director Charles Holiday reported:

We have met with all departments and completed a debriefing of the November 8th General Election. We discussed with the managers what was done well and what can be done better leading into the Municipal election, as well as identifying issues that can be resolved early in the process.

All 50 ward Early Voting sites have been set and will be ready to open on February 13th. We are also adding a new university location, National Louis University which will be open with our other three university voting locations from February 22nd through February 24th.

As we finalize the ballot and complete all Electoral Board cases, we expect to announce the 1st day of Early Voting at our Supersite and at the Board’s office.

After the Special Board meeting held on December 30th, we have moved forward with securing our new ballot marking pens from PaperMate. We plan to do Public and media demonstrations to get the word out when the pens arrive.

We are preparing the Supersite and the 6th floor for voting to possibly start on January 19th.

We have moved forward on securing a location and are getting ready to start in-person Judges of Election training.

As of this morning, we have a total of 163,685 Vote by Mail applications received. Of that total, 74.10% are from the Permanent Voter Roster.

Assistant Executive Director Sandra Aspera will not be joining us today.

Discussion ensued regarding Vote-by-Mail, the Permanent Voter Roster, and the ballot marking pens.

A. Assistant Executive Director’s Report: No report due to absence.

B. Public Information Director’s Report

Public Information Director Max Bever reported:

We just finalized an advertisement plan with our colleagues in Community Services. We have an expanded budget for non-English advertising. We are increasing ads for bilingual election judge recruitment, as well as securing new vendors for Korean and Tagalog media.

We will be advertising soon for Election Judges, bi-lingual recruitment, heading into advertising for Early Voting as well as reminding people of election day on February 28th.

We have sent out two emails to all voters with email addresses on file. We will have additional emails going out over the next two months. Our messages will focus on “It’s the winter. It’s likely to be cold, but you can vote from the comfort of your own home” and “Do that earlier rather than later”.

Looks like we are in good shape for those ballots to be mailed out on, or right after, the 19th. Mr. Bever is working on a press release that will go out by week’s end reminding people of Vote-by-Mail as well as the Permanent Vote-by-Mail options.

We are finalizing a contract with a vendor to restore and freeze-dry our historical records, ones that have been affected by mold and water over the last few decades. This was a special budget request with the City of Chicago, which was approved. We have a vendor that is used by the Chicago Public Libraries. If all goes according to plan, those should be removed in the next few months from our warehouse. They will undergo a 6-8 months remediation process and storage process; they will then be handed over to the Chicago Public Libraries, specifically the Harold Washington Library, for storage, for viewing, and for preservation. We are working out details with a working group of other sister city agencies on preserving records. Mr. Bever will have further updates in the future, but it looks like our first big step is about to be accomplished. The Chair added that it's been a long time coming.

Discussion ensued with the Commissioners regarding multilingual services and the historical records.

VI. Old Business

- A. Infrastructure Projects and Changes in Election Administration: Nothing to report at this time, other than maintenance for upcoming elections.
- B. Electronic Poll Books: E-poll book maintenance is underway for the upcoming elections.
- C. Voting Equipment: The voting equipment maintenance is underway for the upcoming elections.
- D. Legislation

General Counsel Adam Lasker reported that 5 days ago, during the current special session, the Senate introduced a Senate Amendment to House Bill 45 which had been considered an elections omnibus bill. It doesn't have much in it. On the 6th it passed both Houses, so it's on its way to the Governor for signature. It makes some slight changes to Vote-by-Mail processing. It expressly makes the practice of using multiple signatures on file common practice when doing signature comparisons for Vote-by-Mail applications and return envelopes.

The remainder of the bill deals with judicial subcircuits and the filling of judicial subcircuit vacancies. The aspect of filling the judicial vacancies has no impact on this Board. Mr. Lasker will be sending the bill to the Board's IT Department to the extent that it may have changed any of the boundaries for the newly drawn judicial subcircuits for the 2024 elections.

That is all that Mr. Lasker could see in the omnibus bill that has anything to do with elections.

VII. New Business

- A. Approval of professional services agreements for election judge training services with:

- i. George Muñoz
Amanda Robledo of the Board's Purchasing Department explained that the Purchasing Department issued an RFQ (Request for Qualifications) for professional trainers.

Executive Director Holiday stated that George Muñoz is long time trainer, he did reply to the RFQ (Request for Qualifications) that was issued by the Board's Purchasing Department. Mr. Lasker pointed out that there are separate items on the agenda related to the RFQ. As Mr. Muñoz responded separately as an individual to the RFQ, it's an individual Professional Services Agreement (PSA). This is slightly different from the next item on the agenda with ADO Professional Solutions, it being a corporate contract with a temp agency. They are all respondents to the RFQ issued.

Ms. Robledo continued to explain that Mr. Muñoz was an individual who sent in his resume and was also selected, during Mr. Holiday’s and Ms. Robledo’s initial review, to receive a PSA agreement for the 2023 elections and the 2024 Primary Election.

The Chair stated that she knows Mr. Muñoz was a longtime employee and a very good employee of the Board and now that he’s retired he comes back to do the Election Judge training, which he does very well.

Commissioner Kresse moved to approve a Professional Services Agreement with George Muñoz for Election Judge training services for the term January 10, 2023 through March 31, 2024 at the rate of \$50 per hour capped at \$100,000 over the term of this agreement. Commissioner Brown seconded the motion. The motion passed by 3:0 vote of the Board.

II. This item was deferred earlier in the meeting.

B. Approval of an RFQ bid award and contract with ADO Professional Solutions, Inc. (d/b/a LHH Recruitment Solutions) for eight individual election judge trainers.

In response to the RFQ we received 31 different candidates. Of the 31 candidates, Executive Director Charles Holiday and Ms. Robledo reviewed the resumes of all the candidates and selected 9 finalists.

Ms. Robledo added that from the candidates submitted by ADO Professional Solutions, Inc. we have selected 8 individual candidates for the RFQ for professional trainers. We are requesting the Board to approve a contract with ADO Professional Solutions, Inc (d/b/a LHH Recruitment Solutions) for the training services of the 8 trainers.

Commissioner Brown moved to approve a Professional Services Agreement with ADO Professional Solutions, Inc. at the rate of \$80 per hour beginning January 10, 2023 through completion of this project. Commissioner Kresse seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous vote of the Board.

C. This item was deferred earlier in the meeting.

D. Board action pursuant to 10 ILCS 5/10-8 and Section 500.11 of the Board’s General Rules on Administration to determine whether the petitions for the following questions of public policy for the February 28, 2023, ballot are in apparent conformity with mandatory provisions of the Illinois Election Code:

I. “Community Benefits Agreement” referendum (Precinct 1 of Ward 5)

II. Single petition for three separate referenda (Precinct 11 of Ward 35)

Mr. Lasker explained that members of the staff had done an apparent conformity review, they have done this for every election cycle. There are several referenda that will be on the ballot, but these two failed the apparent conformity review under Section 10-8 of the Election Code.

We are calling the one the “Community Benefits Agreement” referendum. For that precinct 56 signatures were required, but only 50 valid signatures appear on the petition sheets.

For the second one, it’s a single petition with three separate questions on it; that is prohibited by the Election Code.

For those reasons, these two referenda would be subject to apparent conformity removal from the ballot.

Commissioner Kresse moved to find that these petitions for questions of public policy are not in apparent conformity with the Election Code and therefore these petitions shall not be certified on the ballot. Commissioner Brown seconded the motion. The motion passed by 3:0 vote of the Board.

E. Administrative precinct adjustments in the 24th Ward.

Mr. Holiday explained that one precinct has been added to the 24th Ward ahead of the Municipal Election. An issue was previously identified concerning this precinct, specifically the distance of the polling place to voters, but it could not be addressed before the November General Election. So, the creation of this new precinct will improve polling place access for nearby residents.

After the April run-off election, we plan to take a close look at voter turnout in all the new precincts in Chicago and identify additional precincts adjustments.

Discussion ensued among the Commissioners, Mr. Lasker, Mr. Holiday, and Mr. Bever on this matter.

Commissioner Kresse moved to make the administrative precinct adjustment in the 24th Ward. Commissioner Brown abstained. Commissioner Hernandez seconded the motion. The motion passed by 2:0 vote of the Board, with Commissioner Brown abstaining.

VIII. Legal Report

General Counsel Lasker reported that most of the legal activity right now is preparing for the Electoral Board this Friday. We have about 42 cases that do not have final decisions yet. About 30 of those 42 are ready for the agenda this Friday, and more could be added to the agenda today or tomorrow. Mr. Lasker was hopeful that the Electoral Board would be finished by the end of this week, but it looks like there might be a couple of outliers.

We are also preparing for our first Municipal Election under the new precincts, and with the new police district candidates. There's another interesting fact about the ballot that we are going to have. There is one candidate of Chinese nationality whose nomination petitions has a Chinese character for his ballot name. Mr. Lasker has spoken with many election attorneys and scholars and they all think this may be the first time in the history of Illinois elections that there's a ballot name in a language other than English.

IX. Financial Report

- A. Balance Sheet and Voucher Listings for the City of Chicago – 2022 Appropriation – 22-09 dated January 10, 2023 in the amount of \$ 1,957,817.24: Commissioner Brown moved to approve this Balance Sheet and Voucher Listing. Commissioner Kresse seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous vote of the Board.
- B. Balance Sheet and Voucher Listings for the City of Chicago – 2022 Appropriation – 22-10 dated January 10, 2023 in the amount of \$ 837,960.81: Commissioner Kresse moved to approve this Balance Sheet and Voucher Listing. Commissioner Brown seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous vote of the Board.
- C. Balance Sheet and Voucher Listings for the City of Chicago – 2022 Appropriation – 22-11 dated January 10, 2023 in the amount of \$ 1,453,764.42: Commissioner Brown moved to approve this Balance Sheet and Voucher Listing. Commissioner Kresse seconded the motion.

The motion passed by unanimous vote of the Board.

- D. Balance Sheet and Voucher Listings for the County of Cook – 2022 Appropriation – 22-09 dated January 10, 2023 in the amount of \$ 1,513,988.99: Commissioner Kresse moved to approve this Balance Sheet and Voucher Listing. Commissioner Brown seconded the motion. The motion passed by 3:0 vote of the Board.
- E. Balance Sheet and Voucher Listings for the County of Cook – 2022 Appropriation – 22-10 dated January 10, 2023 in the amount of \$ 2,185,030.92: Commissioner Brown moved to approve this Balance Sheet and Voucher Listing. Commissioner Kresse seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous vote of the Board.
- F. Balance Sheet and Voucher Listings for the County of Cook – 2022 Appropriation – 22-11 dated January 10, 2023 in the amount of \$ 574,742.26: Commissioner Kresse moved to approve this Balance Sheet and Voucher Listing. Commissioner Brown seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous vote of the Board.

X. Public Comment:

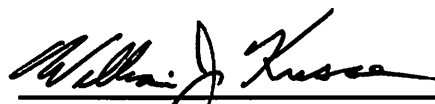
Mr. Andrew Finko spoke as an attorney on behalf of Corey Braddock to express concerns on behalf of all candidates and all voters regarding the Board’s “apparent conformity” process. Discussion ensued between Mr. Finko and General Counsel Lasker.

The Chair stated that the Board will take into consideration the comments of both Mr. Finko and General Counsel Lasker.

XI. Executive Session: none

XII. Adjournment: Commissioner Brown moved to adjourn. Commissioner Kresse seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous vote of the Board. The meeting was adjourned at 10:46 a.m.

Submitted,



Commissioner William J. Kresse
Secretary