

Commissioners

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

CHARLES HOLIDAY, JR., *Executive Director*



Board of Election Commissioners for the City of Chicago

Regular Board Meeting

January 11, 2022, 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

Staff:

Charles Holiday, Executive Director
Sandra Aspera, Assistant Executive Director
Adam Lasker, General Counsel
Max Bever, Director of Public Information
Al Chase, IT Department
Aneta Turek, Manager – Human Resources
Lance Gough, Consultant
Trish Sheehy

Guests:

Don Olson
Helene Gabelnick, League of Women Voters of Chicago (LWV Chicago)
C. Betty Magness, Rainbow P.U.S.H.
Cliff Helm

- I. Call to Order: The Chair called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.
- II. Roll Call: Both members of the Board were present via WebEx video conference.
- III. Consideration of Agenda: The agenda was accepted as presented.
- IV. Approval of Minutes:
 - A. Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of December 28, 2021
Commissioner Hernandez moved to approve the Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of December 28, 2021. Commissioner Kresse seconded the motion. The motion passed by 2:0 vote of the Board.
- V. Executive Director's Report
Executive Director Charles Holiday reported:

We have received a proposal from 191 North Clark for the Early Voting Supersite for our upcoming election. We looked at other sites, but 191 offered terms that the Board was looking for. As such, at an upcoming Board meeting we should be presenting the Board with a contract for that site.

Status of redistricting:

Voters in our voter registration system and online are using the new districts.

Regular Board Meeting – January 11, 2022

All maps, except for precinct maps are completed. They are in the process of being created at this point.

When requests are made for voter data, the new districts are being used. “Walk Sheets” are using the new districts as well.

Mr. Holiday has a meeting scheduled this week with Pre-Election Voting and Logistics Manager Clinton Hurde, Assistant Executive Director Sandra Aspera, and the 69 West Washington building management to look at extra space that we can use to conduct our Vote by Mail processes for the upcoming elections.

Petition circulation starts on January 13th. We have received calls from interested parties about coming in to the Board’s offices next week to start checking signatures. We are putting a process in place and guidelines for when they arrive.

We’re working toward sending out our mail canvass in March to all the voters with their updated districts and the notice about requesting to be on the permanent Vote by Mail list.

Commissioner Kresse asked Mr. Holiday and General Counsel Adam Lasker about conducting the canvass in March when we may not have a new Ward map by then. Mr. Holiday said that in that case we would have to use the current Ward lines but with the new District lines. The Commissioner asked that if a new Ward map is approved in City Council, what would be the deadline for putting in new Ward boundaries? Mr. Holiday said he will have to confer with Mr. Lasker about that and get back to the Commissioners later.

A. Assistant Executive Director’s Report

Assistant Executive Director Sandra Aspera stated that she has no updates, but will have many items to report on at the next Board meeting.

B. Public Information Director’s Report

Director of Public Information Max Bever reported:

National Poll Worker Recruitment Day is January 25, 2022.

We might not have our poll worker applications ready by January 22 due to the general primary election being pushed back until June 28th. However, we do have materials from the (U. S. Election Assistance Commission) that we will use those. We will be celebrating our poll workers – our Judges and Coordinators - during this day, as well as make everyone aware of when information will be out to apply to be a poll worker.

We sent out a press release for the new District maps that are up on our website. Reporters have been using that link, and our links have been used as a resource both for news media and for candidates. Mr. Bever thanked the whole team for working on that.

As Mr. Holiday mentioned, we had an all-staff meeting to take a look at our canvass mailing. Mr. Bever and Mr. Lasker are working on language. We will have a draft with our designers soon. Part of the thought there is to make sure that people have the opportunity to get their Vote-by-Mail ballot, or an opportunity to put themselves on the permanent Vote-by-Mail roster ahead of the Primary Election. Also, it’s helpful for additional safety as COVID numbers continue to go up, too.

VI. Old Business

A. Infrastructure Projects and Changes in Election Administration: Mr. Holiday stated that he has nothing to report on this.

B. Electronic Poll Books: Mr. Holiday stated that he has nothing to report on this.

C. Voting Equipment: Mr. Holiday stated that he has nothing to report on this.

D. Legislation

General Counsel Adam Lasker reported:

Last week Wednesday the Illinois General Assembly pushed through two fast-track bills that had some election matters involved with them. They have now been signed by the Governor, so they are law. Specifically, these are Public Act 102-0692 (formerly House Bill 1953) and Public Act 102-0693 (formerly House Bill 3138).

Counsel Laker reviewed some of the election matters in these bills. Previously approved legislation allowed for people to apply in-person for a Vote-by-Mail ballot up until one day before the Election Day. This has been changed such that there is a cut-off date for Vote-by-Mail applications all across the board of June 23rd for the June 28th Primary Election, five days before the election. Please note that this Board has had a long-standing practice that when people come to the Board's offices within five days before an election we ask those people to just please step over to the small vote center we set up in our 6th floor office and cast a ballot right then. This alleviates any concern that the voter may not receive and the return the ballot to us in time. We will continue to have that voting option available on our 6th floor, and will also encourage people to go to the voting Supersite.

The second matter is something that we will discuss a little more as it plays out in our Electoral Board cases in April. The circulators' affidavit has now been statutorily tweaked for the candidates' nominating petitions in relation to the fact that the circulation period for the Primary Election is not quite 90 days.

There is a lot of work on judicial sub-circuits involved in this legislation. However, the important news for us right now is that these provisions regarding new judicial sub-circuits in Cook County will not go into effect until December 2, 2024, i.e., after the next Presidential Election.

VII. New Business

A. Approval of a bid award to Johnson & Quin, Inc. for 2022 and 2023 Ballot Printing.

Mr. Lasker presented this item by stating that Opal Walls, the Board's Procurement Officer did a full Invitation for Bids (IFB) process for this ballot printing. Ms. Walls has asked that Mr. Lasker make the presentation today because she has to be at the Board's warehouse working on the cartage procurement process, specifically having a meeting with vendors there today as a part of that process. So, please excuse her absence. She also arranged to have Al Chase on the line as he is the Board's subject matter expert (SME) for ballot printing.

Mr. Lasker pointed out that this is the first time in many years that the Board has had to do an IFB for ballot printing as in previous years there was only one printing house in the State of Illinois that was certified by Dominion to print Dominion ballots. There have recently been two new vendors approved, and with that this matter went out to bid. Ms. Walls advertised the IFB on December 15th. Bids were submitted on January 5th, and she received what she said is clear award winner, that being the lowest priced responsive and responsible bidder being Johnson & Quin.

This is going to be for ballot printing for the precinct ballots, not for Vote-by-Mail ballots, which is a separate process. This is the precinct ballots for all four of the elections that will be held in both 2022 and 2023, and there are three options to extend. So, we can also extend this pricing. Mr. Lasker pointed out however that the pricing for paper costs is locked in only for 2022 because of fluctuations in the paper market., The contract does allow for deviations in the pricing for paper for the future years. That provision was in the prior contracts with the Board. It's very reasonable as the printers have no control over the cost of paper. But,

the pricing for the printing is locked in for the next four elections with the options to extend. The pricing on that is \$860,000 per election, which means the whole contract for the two years and all four elections shall not exceed \$3,440,000.00. The durational term of this contract will begin tomorrow and extend two years.

Chair Hernandez mentioned that in the past Johnson & Quin has provided some services for the Board. Mr. Lasker elaborated on that by saying, first of all Johnson & Quin did print some of our in-precinct ballots in November of 2020 as a subcontractor for Lake County Press who was our print shop back then. Mr. Lasker believes that Johnson & Quin has also done other printing matters for the Board, so they have a bit of a track record with us and we have good faith in their abilities.

Commissioner Kresse was happy to note that Johnson & Quin is located in Nilus, Illinois, a Chicago suburb.

Commissioner Kresse asked if we received bids from the other 2 Dominion-certified printers. Mr. Lasker stated that Lake County Press did submit a bid. They were responsive and responsible but they were not the lowest priced. Commissioner Kresse said it was good to hear that we had more than one bid.

Commissioner Kresse moved to approve a contract award for 2022 and 2023 ballot printing services to Johnson & Quin as the lowest priced responsive and responsible bidder, with a contract value not to exceed \$860,000 per election or \$3,440,000 over the two-year term of the agreement which shall run from January 12, 2022 through January 11, 2024 and that is subject to any fluctuations in paper industry pricing for 2023 and future years. Commissioner Hernandez seconded the motion. The motion passed by a 2:0 vote of the Board.

B. Adoption of 2022 Guidelines for Advisory Referenda.

Mr. Lasker stated that the Board does, every election cycle print guidelines for those petitioners and for the City of Chicago, essentially the City Council for the adoption of advisory referendum petitions and resolutions or ordinances from the City Council. We have provided the Board with the draft copy of those updated guidelines for 2022. The only real change, as previously mentioned, are from legislation that affects these 2022 elections and the petition filing period.

Commissioner Hernandez moved to adopt and publish the 2022 Guidelines for Advisory Referenda. Commissioner Kresse seconded the motion. The motion passed by 2:0 vote of the Board.

C. Adoption of 2022 Guidelines for Local Option Referenda.

Mr. Lasker reminded everyone that Local Option Referenda are those involving the sale of alcohol within specific precincts or an entire ward. A precinct may be voted “dry” to prohibit the sale of alcohol or a “dry” precinct may be voted “wet” to allow the sale of alcohol. These are all under the Liquor Control Act of the Illinois State Statutes.

The Board every election cycle does publish a guide for these referenda.

As a reminder to the Public these petitions would be filed in the office of the City Clerk. They are not filed with the Board of Election Commissioners’ office. Same with any objections to those petitions, they are to be filed with the City Clerk and heard by the Circuit Court, not by our Electoral Board.

No real changes to this other than the dates and deadlines. The statutes affecting the elections did not change the manner in which Local Option referenda are performed. The petition circulation period begins March 27th so Mr. Lasker is glad the Board is getting these guidelines out there ahead of that.

Commissioner Kresse moved to approve and publish the 2022 Guidelines for Local Option Referenda. Commissioner Hernandez seconded the motion. The motion passed by 2:0 vote of the Board.

VIII. Legal Report

General Counsel Lasker reported:

Good news, there is not a lot going on in the Legal Department in terms of litigation. The cases that the Board knows are pending do not have any major updates at the moment.

Last week Friday, the Illinois Department of Labor adopted the Federal Government's OSHA's vaccination testing rules. So, the Federal Government, through OSHA has created vaccination requirement rules that would apply to private businesses but also government employers with 100 or more employees. With the state Department of Labor adopting that rule for Illinois, that's going to go into effect on February 24th. The Board as an employer or government employer with more than 100 employees will have to make sure that it's COVID policies are in compliance. Mr. Lasker's first review of what OSHA requires, makes it look like we're in pretty good shape, but Mr. Lasker will work with Deputy Counsel Joan Agnew and the Board's HR department and make sure that the standards that we have are in compliance.

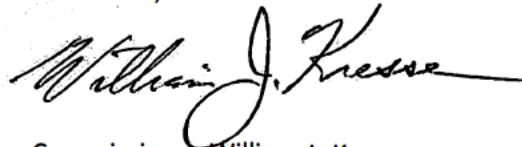
IX. Financial Report: None

X. Public Comment: None

XI. Executive Session: None

XII. Adjournment: Commissioner Kresse moved to adjourn this meeting of January 11, 2022. Commissioner Hernandez seconded the motion. The motion passed by 2:0 vote of the Board. The meeting was adjourned at 10:21 A.M.

Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "William J. Kresse". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Commissioner William J. Kresse
Secretary