



COLUMBIANA COUNTY

BOARD OF ELECTIONS

Kim Fusco, Director
Bryce A. Miner, Deputy Director

Board Members:
David W. Johnson, Chair
Patricia Colian, Vice Chair
Larry Bowersock
Victor W. Maroscher

Board Meeting Minutes – November 15, 2023, 4:30 p.m.

I. ROUTINE ITEMS:

1. Approve Agenda
2. Acceptance of Minutes

II. ACTION ITEMS:

3. Eligible Provisionals
4. Ineligible Provisionals
5. Uncountable Absentee Ballots
6. Accept Estimate for New Electronic Pollbooks and Sign Memorandum of Understanding

III. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

1. Set Official Certification Meeting
2. Holiday Hours

The Columbiana County Board of Elections met in special session at the Board Office located at 7989 Dickey Dr., Suite 3, Lisbon, Ohio on November 15, 2023 at 4:30 p.m.

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Johnson at 4:30 p.m.

Members present as shown by roll call:

Mr. Bowersock	<u>Yes</u>
Ms. Colian	<u>Yes</u>
Mr. Johnson	<u>Yes</u>
Mr. Maroscher	<u>Yes</u>

Pledge of Allegiance

Moment of Reflection

1. Approve Agenda

Moved by Ms. Colian and seconded by Mr. Maroscher to approve the agenda as submitted.

Roll Call:

Mr. Bowersock,	<u>yes;</u>	Mr. Johnson,	<u>yes;</u>
Ms. Colian,	<u>yes;</u>	Mr. Maroscher	<u>yes;</u>

Motion carried.

NOTES:

2. Acceptance of Minutes

Moved by Mr. Maroscher and seconded by Mr. Bowersock to accept the minutes of the special meeting which was held November 6, 2023 and continued November 7, 2023, as submitted.

Roll Call:

Mr. Bowersock,	<u>yes;</u>	Mr. Johnson,	<u>yes;</u>
Ms. Colian,	<u>yes;</u>	Mr. Maroscher	<u>yes;</u>

Motion carried.

NOTES:

3. Eligible Provisional Ballots

Moved by Ms. Colian and seconded by Mr. Bowersock to accept 244 eligible provisional ballots to be included in the official canvass as presented and recommended by board staff.

Roll Call:

Mr. Bowersock,	<u>yes;</u>	Mr. Johnson,	<u>yes;</u>
Ms. Colian,	<u>yes;</u>	Mr. Maroscher	<u>yes;</u>

Motion carried.

NOTES: Review five pending right church wrong pew ballots. 71% Acceptance Rate. Director Fusco shared the provisional report with the board for a total of 342 provisional ballots cast. Mr. Johnson questioned how voters could be led to vote in the incorrect precinct and it was due to poll worker or voter error. Deputy Director Miner explained that if the five ballots are approved after review, each ballot will be remade to only count the contests that were eligible to be voted on in their correct precinct. The board reviewed the five right church wrong pew ballots and determined that each of the five ballots were valid to be cast as per the SOS directive and director review and agreement.

4. Ineligible Provisional Ballots

Moved by Mr. Maroscher and seconded by Mr. Bowersock to reject 98 ineligible provisional ballot applications for the reasons submitted:

53: Not Registered
3: No Signature
12: Invalid ID
27: Wrong Precinct/Wrong Poll
3: Ballot Missing From Envelope

Roll Call:

Mr. Bowersock,	<u>yes;</u>	Mr. Johnson,	<u>yes;</u>
Ms. Colian,	<u>yes;</u>	Mr. Maroscher	<u>yes;</u>

Motion carried.

NOTES: 29% Deemed Ineligible. Director Fusco reviewed the ineligible provisional ballot categories with the board and the total being 98 ineligible ballot applications. Mr. Johnson asked the Directors to explain the 27 wrong precinct/wrong poll applications. Deputy Director Miner explained that there were voters that were registered in other counties that attempted to vote in Columbiana County and there was poll worker error in allowing voters to have a provisional ballot in the wrong precinct. In both instances, Deputy Miner explained the ballots did not count and poll workers would be trained again in the spring regarding this circumstance, and that each poll worker is directed to call the

BOE office should they need help clarifying a precinct for a voter. Director Fusco explained that 98 ineligible ballots are a higher number historically and it could be due to people moving or having their registration lapse and were removed from the rolls. Mr. Johnson questioned how the process of removing voters from the rolls was based on timeline wise. Mr. Bowersock asked about the invalid ID totals and Director Fusco noted that an ID is required and the voter did not complete the form so it is invalid, and explained the process of curing ballots and early voting versus election day provisional voting. Mr. Johnson reviewed the allowable forms of ID and the Directors stated the process of reviewing a voter with a sincere religious exemption. Director Fusco noted the provisional ballot voters will be registered for future elections.

5. Uncountable Absentee Ballots

Moved by Ms. Colian and seconded by Mr. Bowersock to reject 14 absentee ballots due to the presented errors, omissions, and deadlines.

9: Received Too Late/No Postmark/Late Postmark
2: No ID Envelope Completed
2: Undeliverable
1: Refused

Roll Call:

Mr. Bowersock,	<u>yes;</u>	Mr. Johnson,	<u>yes;</u>
Ms. Colian,	<u>yes;</u>	Mr. Maroscher	<u>yes;</u>

Motion carried.

NOTES: Director Fusco explained the categories of late absentees and presented the board with a report reflecting the total numbers of absentees. Mr. Bowersock asked who will receive credit for voting and the Directors noted they will follow the election official manual.

6. Accept Estimate for New Electronic Pollbooks and Sign Memorandum of Understanding

Moved by Mr. Maroscher and seconded by Ms. Colian to accept the estimate as presented by KNOWiNK for the purchase of 80 electronic pollbooks totaling \$78,000.00 and to authorize the Director on behalf of the board to sign any associated contracts and the electronic pollbook memorandum of understanding with the County Commissioners and Secretary of State's Office.

Roll Call:

Mr. Bowersock,	<u>yes;</u>	Ms. Colian,	<u>yes;</u>
Mr. Johnson,	<u>yes;</u>	Mr. Maroscher,	<u>yes;</u>

Motion carried.

NOTES: Columbiana County will receive \$61,481.00 in reimbursement from the State once a purchase is completed. The Directors presented the two estimates to the board, one from ES&S and one from KNOWiNK. Director Fusco noted that after breaking it down, KNOWiNK presented the lowest bid of the two companies and the cost will be \$78,000.00. Mr. Johnson asked to clarify the bid from KNOWiNK and why the bid from ES&S was more in price. Deputy Director Miner clarified the quotes and did an apples to apples comparison of the products being considered, and explained that each company is held to state contract pricing so the price is the same for all counties in Ohio. Mr. Maroscher asked to explain the stand set up on the KNOWiNK poll pad and it was explained that it is an updated stand compared to what our county currently has. Mr. Bowersock explained the ES&S quote and Mr. Johnson asked if our current poll books are obsolete, which they are now since they are 6 or 7 years old. Deputy Director Miner explained the process of the state allocating the money to counties for new electronic poll books and that the money will expire in spring of 2024, so it was important that the board make a decision to be able to use state funds and also implement the new devices in the 2024 primary election. Mr. Maroscher asked what will happen with the old machines. The Directors explained that KNOWiNK will buy them back or we can explore a path to donate them if allowable. Mr. Johnson asked about the warranty offered and Director Fusco explained it is one year with ES&S in total and with KNOWiNK it is one year on the poll pad and three years on the printer. Mr. Johnson asked how many counties use the KNOWiNK devices and Deputy Director Miner stated roughly 50% and Mahoning County uses them as well. The board reached consensus that KNOWiNK had the more attractive bid financially and asked what the training would be for the new devices. Deputy Director Miner explained that every poll worker must be trained prior to the March 2024 primary election so it is an ideal time to make this purchase in order to train the poll workers if needed. Both Directors agreed that the important factors for choosing KNOWiNK are 1. Cost 2. Staff and Director familiarity 3. Continuity for the poll workers going into a presidential election 4. Maintenance fees are much less with KNOWiNK than ES&S. Mr. Johnson asked what current machines we have in the office from ES&S and KNOWiNK and Mr. Bowersock asked what training would be needed. Both Directors agreed there would not be much of a learning curve with KNOWiNK. Mr. Johnson asked if our poll worker roster is becoming younger due to the new technology advances and adjustments and if the poll workers would struggle with the new iPads. The Directors explained a reason why KNOWiNK had a leg up was because of poll worker familiarity. Mr. Johnson asked where the equipment is made and Deputy Director Miner explained the product is most likely globally sourced, but the company is based in St. Louis, Missouri. Deputy Director Miner stated the electronic poll books are not connected to the internet at the polls and they have nothing to do with tabulating votes, the product simply processes voters in order to issue them a ballot just as the old paper pollbook

process was in prior years. The board reached consensus that they were comfortable with selecting KNOWiNK as the vendor for new electronic pollbooks.

Director's Report:

Director Fusco set the official meeting date with the board for November 28, 2023. The board decided to close the BOE office on November 24th to observe Veterans Day since the BOE was opened on the day the rest of the county was closed due to the absentee cure period just as has been done in past years.

Items From The Board:

Next Meeting: November 28th at 1:30 p.m.

Moved by Ms. Colian and seconded by Mr. Maroscher to adjourn the meeting.

Roll Call:

Mr. Bowersock,	<u>yes;</u>	Mr. Johnson,	<u>yes;</u>
Ms. Colian,	<u>yes;</u>	Mr. Maroscher	<u>yes;</u>

Motion carried.