

**Opening of Official Canvass  
of the March 17, 2020 Primary Elections**

**I. Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance**

Chairman Ray Lembke called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. Mr. Combs led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**II. Roll Call**

Ray Lembke – Chair – Yes

Rick Combs – Yes

Gregg Conrad – Yes

Richard Grant – Yes

Also present were Director Julia Carney, Deputy Director Chris Dennison and Becky Rudd – Clerk taking record.

**III. Other attendees** – Terry Casey – representing Jean Schmidt

**IV. Approval of agenda**

**2020-60** – Mr. Combs made the motion to approve the agenda as presented. Mr. Conrad seconded the motion. Upon discussion, Mr. Conrad asked if we should move the start of canvass up in the agenda so the staff can start on it. Director Carney advised the Board that the staff would not be starting until Monday morning. Upon roll call:

Mr. Combs – Yes

Mr. Conrad – Yes

Mr. Grant – Yes

Mr. Lembke – Yes

**V. Absentee Ballots**

**A. Absentee ballots to be reviewed by the Board**

Director Carney reviewed the absentee ballot numbers with the board.

40,496 – total number of absentee ballots requested

37,551 – total number of absentee ballots returned

Absentee ballots to be reviewed by the board

35 – refused by nursing home voters

60 – no secrecy envelope

17 – no valid ID (voters contacted)

46 – no signature on ID envelope (voters contacted)

29 – returned as undeliverable

12 – returned as undeliverable but voted 2<sup>nd</sup> ballot or provisional ballot

1 – \*signature problem (envelope was signed by someone other than the voter)

10 – no stubs

2 – no ballots included in the envelope

5 – voter dropped ballots in drop box with no ID envelope

1 – problem ballot – printed a sample ballot to vote

87 – good ballots received before April 27, 2020 deadline

16 – good/valid 11-S forms received on time

Ballots received after Election Day

13 – no postmark date – (SOS Liaison scanned the bar codes, all readable barcodes were late)

265 – postmarked day of election or after

6 – questionable postmark date

\*the ID envelope was signed by another person in the household, the person signs with an X according to our current records

The Director stated if we refer someone to the Prosecutor's Office, they would then send it to the Sheriff's Office for investigation. The board discussed this matter and decided to send a letter to the voter advising that their signature did not match what is on file and give them a signature update form to fill out and return.

The board discussed the issue of voted ballots being delivered to the wrong county board of elections. Chairman Lembke wanted to check the statute regarding this issue.

At 11:18 a.m., the board recessed.

At 11:27 a.m., the board returned from recess

Director Carney reported on the vote by mail Directive 2020-07, which references HB 197, the language mimics the statute that just says the “boards of elections”, it does not reference a specific board of elections. Chairman Lembke thinks the statute and the directive is ambiguous as to whether the ballot has to be delivered your county board of elections or any county board of elections and we don’t know if these ballots were timely delivered to count. He thinks they should be rejected on that basis.

**2020-61** – Mr. Grant made the motion to reject the 436 absentee ballots that were determined by the staff to be invalid and not count the 66 absentee ballots that there were not voted or were returned undeliverable. Mr. Conrad seconded the motion. Upon roll call:

Mr. Combs – Yes

Mr. Conrad – Yes

Mr. Grant – Yes

Mr. Lembke – Yes

**2020-62** – Mr. Grant made the motion to accept the 103 additional absentee ballots that the staff determined to be valid and add them to the count. Mr. Conrad seconded the motion. Upon roll call:

Mr. Combs – Yes

Mr. Conrad – Yes

Mr. Grant – Yes

Mr. Lembke – Yes

## V. Provisional Ballots

Director Carney reviewed the provisional ballots with the board, 800 provisionals were cast.

3 – current address is an old address on application

7 – not registered in Ohio

2 – no ballot in envelope

104 – voted in the office on 4-28-2020 and did not have an application on file

33 – received on 4-29-2020 – no postmark

9 – Cincinnati postmark after April 27, 2020

14 – Batavia postmark after 4-27-2020

137 – not returned or received

55 – voted in the office on 4-28-2020 – true provisionals – add to good count

7 – wrong precinct ballot issued – duplicate and add to the good count

429 – valid provisional ballots with no visible problems – add to good count

**2020-63** – Mr. Grant made the motion to reject the 170 provisional ballots that the staff determined to be invalid and not count the 139 provisional ballot envelope that did not contain a ballot or not returned to the office. Mr. Combs seconded the motion. Upon roll call:

Mr. Combs – Yes

Mr. Conrad – Yes

Mr. Grant – Yes

Mr. Lembke – Yes

The Director reached out to the Director of Southern Ohio Post Office regarding election mail and having postmarks. The Batavia Post Office started post marking the mail even if it was not the original post office to receive the mail.

**2020-64** – Mr. Grant made the motion to accept and count the 491 valid provisional ballots including those that need to be remade to the voters correct precinct. Mr. Conrad seconded the motion. Upon roll call:

Mr. Combs – Yes

Mr. Conrad – Yes

Mr. Grant – Yes

Mr. Lembke – Yes

**VII. Board to direct the Office Staff to proceed with the Official Canvass**

**2020-65** – Mr. Combs made the motion to direct the office staff to proceed with the official canvass for the March 17, 2020 Primary Election. Mr. Conrad seconded the motion. Upon roll call:

Mr. Combs – Yes  
Mr. Conrad – Yes  
Mr. Grant – Yes  
Mr. Lembke – Yes

**2020-66** – Mr. Conrad made the motion to authorize the Director and Deputy Director to adjudicate any absentee ballots that do not require board review. Mr. Combs seconded the motion.

Upon roll call:

Mr. Combs – Yes  
Mr. Conrad – Yes  
Mr. Grant – Yes  
Mr. Lembke – Yes

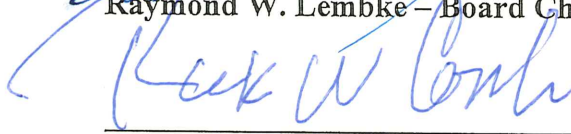
**VIII. Motion to Adjourn**

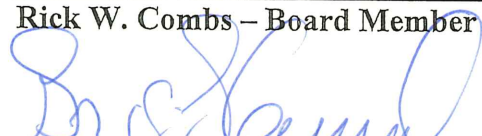
**2020-67** – At 12:00 p.m., Mr. Conrad made the motion to adjourn until May 15, 2020 at 4:00 p.m. to certify the election and hold the regular monthly meeting. Mr. Grant seconded the motion.

Upon roll call:

Mr. Combs – Yes  
Mr. Conrad – Yes  
Mr. Grant – Yes  
Mr. Lembke – Yes

  
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Raymond W. Lembke – Board Chairman

  
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Rick W. Combs – Board Member

  
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Gregg L. Conrad – Board Member

  
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Rick Grant – Board Member

Date 6-23-2020

**Rebecca Rudd**

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**From:** Rebecca Rudd  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 5, 2020 4:17 PM  
**To:** clermont sun  
**Subject:** bd mtg notice  
**Attachments:** 2020- may 9 & 15 canvass & certification.docx

Good Afternoon,

Please be advised and post as a PSA (no cost) the attachment regarding upcoming Clermont County Board of Elections board meetings. Please let me know if you have any questions.

Becky Rudd  
Clermont County Board of Elections  
76 S. Riverside Dr.  
Batavia, Ohio 45103  
513-732-7275

**Notice of Meeting  
Clermont County Board of Elections  
76 S. Riverside Dr.  
Batavia, OH 45103  
513-732-7275**

The Clermont County Board of Elections has scheduled a Board Meeting for

**May 9, 2020 at 10:00 a.m. – Opening of the Official Canvas.**

**May 15, 2020 at 4:00 p.m. – Certification of the March 17, 2020 Primary Election  
and regular monthly board meeting.**

The meetings are held at the Board Office, 76 S. Riverside Dr., Batavia, OH 45103.

**Julia Carney - Director**