

**Official Certification of the  
May 4, 2021 General Election**

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

Chairman Ray Lembke called the meeting to order at 10:01 a.m. Director Carney 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 Administrative Assistant Cherie Wilson.

**III. Motion to Adopt the Agenda as Presented**

**2021-57** – Mr. Grant made the motion to adopt the agenda as presented. Mr. Conrad seconded the motion. Upon roll call:

Mr. Combs – Yes

Mr. Conrad – Yes

Mr. Grant – Yes

Mr. Lembke – Yes

**IV. Other attendees** – Brian Shrive, Assistant County Prosecutor, joined the meeting at 10:15 a.m.

**V. Public participation** – none

**VI. Final Test Deck Verification for the May 4, 2021 Special Election**

Mr. Conrad read the results from the test deck that Director Carney and Deputy Director Dennison had watched ES&S consultant Dan Shebesta run. Mr. Grant compared them to the control sheet. The board found that the results matched and that the DS-850 ballot scanner was counting accurately.

**2021-58** – Mr. Combs made the motion to accept the results of the test deck that were run prior to commencing with the official count and after the official results were recorded as verified by the Director and Deputy Director that the computer is counting accurately. Mr. Conrad seconded the motion. Upon roll call:

Mr. Combs – Yes

Mr. Conrad – Yes

Mr. Grant – Yes

Mr. Lembke – Yes

**VII. Review of Final Election Results**

Deputy Director Dennison distributed and read the final official election results to the board. There were 793 votes for the levy, 598 votes against the levy, and one overvote.

**2021-59** – Mr. Grant made the motion to certify the results of the May 4, 2021 Special Election and provide the appropriate reporting forms to the Secretary of State, Bethel-Tate School Board, and other counties, offices and divisions as necessary. Mr. Conrad seconded the motion. Upon roll call:

Mr. Combs – Yes

Mr. Conrad – Yes

Mr. Grant – Yes

Mr. Lembke – Yes

**VIII. Review Results of Candidates and Issues to Determine Required Automatic Recounts**

Director Carney advised that there is no need for a recount for this election. The board signed all of the required reporting and certification documents.

**Regular Board Meeting**

**IX. Approval of Minutes**

- April 14, 2021 – Regular Monthly Board Meeting
- April 14, 2021 – Challenge Hearing
- May 4, 2021 – Opening Polls
- May 17, 2021 – Open Canvass

**2021-60** – Mr. Grant made the motion to approve the minutes of the listed board meetings and hearing. Mr. Conrad seconded the motion. Upon roll call:

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

#### **X. Approval of Bills as of May 20, 2021**

Mr. Conrad asked if some of the bills, specifically the advertising and overtime, would be charged back to the Bethel-Tate School District. Director Carney replied that those items will be included in the chargebacks, as well as other costs such as ballots; these will be reviewed and added to the chargeback calculation as we receive the bills. We expect the total chargebacks to Bethel-Tate School District to be less than the original estimate because we printed ballots in-house and did not contract with ES&S for Election Night support.

**2021-61** – Mr. Conrad made the motion to approve payment of the bills as of May 20, 2021. Mr. Combs seconded the motion.

Upon roll call:

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

#### **XI. Director's report**

##### **A. Referrals to Prosecutor:**

Director Carney advised the board of two voters with questionable voting activity in the Special Election.

1. Kasandra Renee Oelker was registered at 258 Plane Street in Bethel and voted on Election Day, May 4<sup>th</sup>, at the Bethel Community Building. She then changed her address via the SOS online voter registration portal at midnight (12:00 a.m. on May 5, 2021) to 1295 State Route 133 – still a Bethel mailing address, but in the Felicity-Franklin School District. Given the timing of the address change, Director Carney asked the board to consider a prosecutor referral regarding whether Ms. Oelker actually lived in Bethel on Election Day, then moved less than 24 hours after casting her vote. Mr. Conrad asked how we discovered the information. Director Carney explained that the SOS directed counties to process registrations last week in preparation for the Vax-a-Million lottery, although modifications to the voter rolls are normally suspended until election certification is complete. In order to maintain the integrity of the election results, we carefully reviewed any pending changes to voters in the Bethel-Tate School District before processing registrations; we discovered that Ms. Oelker had submitted the online address change less than a day after voting.

**2021-62** – Mr. Grant made the motion to refer Kasandra Oelker to the Clermont County Prosecutor for further investigation. Mr. Combs seconded the motion. Upon discussion, Mr. Conrad expressed concern that we might appear to accuse a voter of cheating without sufficient evidence. Chairman Lembke stated that, based on the facts presented to the board, it is possible that a voter who was ineligible voted on the levy. He reminded the board that a referral does not take a position that a voter is cheating or even make a probable cause determination; however, because of the unusual coincidence, it would be imprudent to disregard the information without asking the prosecutor to investigate. Upon roll call:

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

2. James E. Huegel, Jr. is registered at 848 Castlebay Dr. in Pierce Township G. He voted in the November 2020 General Election using that address, and has been registered to vote at that address since 2008. The property had been owned by his parents, and the voter lived there for some time. However, the property was sold to the Fenhoff family, who have been residing there since May 2020. Director Carney spoke to Amy Fenhoff, one of the current residents of that property, who indicated that Mr. Huegel did not live there in November 2020. Further review of our records finds that Mr. Huegel probably resides at 1166 Parkside Drive in Batavia. Mr. Huegel's wife Ashley has been registered at the Parkside Drive address since 2016, and the property was transferred to James Huegel in March, 2015. Based on the property records, he probably moved without ever changing his voter registration and voted at his old polling location on Election Day. He voted in November 2015 and November 2020, with no voting history

between those dates. Since he purchased the Parkside Drive property in March, 2015, he could have voted illegally using the Castlebay address in both 2015 and 2020. Mr. Combs asked how this registration discrepancy was discovered. Director Carney indicated that his name came across her desk due to his father's prior history with the board and with litigation regarding the family's actual school district of residence.

**2021-63** – Mr. Grant made the motion to refer James E. Huegel, Jr. to the Clermont County Prosecutor for further investigation. Mr. Conrad seconded the motion. Upon roll call:

Mr. Combs – Yes

Mr. Conrad – Yes

Mr. Grant – Yes

Mr. Lembke – Yes

#### B. Budget

Director Carney distributed a summary of YTD expenses vs the budget to the board for review.

Director Carney also distributed a summary of Ohio House Bill 294, the Ohio Elections Security and Modernization Act. The Ohio Association of Election Officials expects multiple changes to the bill before the legislature actually votes on it.

### **XII. Deputy Director's report**

#### A. Status of new Board of Elections website

Deputy Director Dennison reported that we have a proposed website contract with Revize that has been reviewed by Assistant Prosecutor Shrive for compliance with Ohio law. Deputy Director Dennison plans to collaborate with Revize on the specifications and web design in June; Revize anticipates a 60-90 day process to transition our current web pages and implement desired functionality. The board inquired about the proposed features of the website, specifically automated inquiries for public records requests and capabilities for candidates to file campaign finance reports electronically. Mr. Combs asked whether we need other bids. Deputy Director Dennison advised that the cost of the five-year contract, detailed during the February board meeting, would be under the multiple-bid threshold requirement. The quote includes a service contract. Revize has a specific support page we would use for update requests; most maintenance requests should be completed within 24-48 hours. Our site will link to the SOS site for campaign finance reporting, and we plan to incorporate the features that Revize has provided to Butler County allowing campaigns to generate absentee voter reports and labels from the site. Mr. Combs stated that he views the proposed website as an improvement for our citizens, and for our staff by saving hours of time providing data to political analysts;

The board asked if the county ISD director had reviewed the security criteria for the website. Director Carney reported that she and Deputy Director Dennison had recently met with the new county ISD director. The county has also hired a new web support person to join the ISD staff soon. Director Carney has recommended that the county adopt the enhanced cybersecurity measures that the SOS has required for all boards of elections. While the county administration has not yet decided to implement the higher security standards countywide, ISD has assisted us in meeting the state requirements.

Deputy Director Dennison asked the board for a motion to approve the contract with Revize. Mr. Grant asked whether the contract could be approved subject to board approval of the website content. Upon discussion, the board would prefer additional clarity on the performance terms of the contract prior to a vote. Mr. Shrive has reviewed the contract as to form and statutory compliance, however he has not provided legal advice as to whether the contract terms are favorable for the county. He and Director Carney will review the contract again, specifically focusing on the latitude written into the contract should Revize not meet our requirements or expected design quality. Given the time required to design, review and implement a new website before the November election cycle, Director Carney recommended a special meeting next week to vote on the proposed contract. Deputy Director Dennison will forward a copy to the board for prior review.

#### B. Creation of and updates to Board of Elections policies

The SOS Election Official Manual (EOM) directs the board to implement policies for certain specific areas of election administration. Following the EOM directions, Deputy Director Dennison advised the board of his plans to draft and present various policies to the board in future meetings. Director Carney advised the board that since the BOE personnel policy was never officially adopted by this board, we are subject to the county policy by default. The director and deputy director plan to review the BOE personnel policy and present an updated version to the board for approval.

**XIII. Upcoming Events and Meeting Dates**

Monday, May 31, 2021 – Memorial Day – office closed  
June 8-9, 2021 – Summer conference – Columbus  
June 23, 2021 – Regular Board Meeting

**2021-64** – At 10:51 a.m., Mr. Combs made the motion to go into Executive Session to discuss dismissal or discipline of an employee, pursuant to Ohio Revised Code §121.22(G)(1). Mr. Conrad seconded the motion. Upon roll call:

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

**2021-65** – At 11:08 a.m., Mr. Conrad made the motion to come out of Executive Session. Mr. Combs seconded the motion. Upon roll call:

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


There was no action to be taken from the Executive Session.

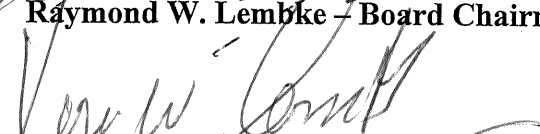
Mr. Lembke suggested naming Mr. Dennison as interim director effective June 12, 2021. Deputy Director Dennison asked if that would necessarily change the makeup of the board. Chairman Lembke replied that he does not believe an interim position would require a board reorganization. Director Carney will investigate with the SOS the protocols regarding party affiliation for interim director and deputy director positions. The board will table this matter until the May 26<sup>th</sup> special meeting.

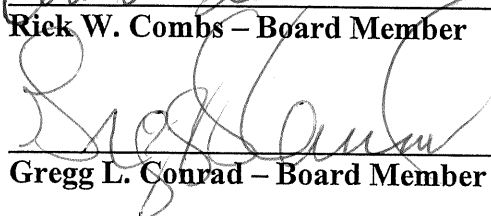
**XIV. Motion to Adjourn**

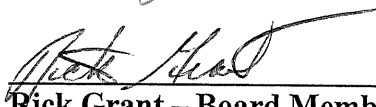
**2021-66** – At 11:15 a.m., Mr. Conrad made the motion to adjourn. Mr. Combs seconded the motion. Upon roll call:

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 June 23, 2021

**APPROVAL OF BILLS FOR BOARD MEETING  
MAY 20, 2021**

[illegible]

**Cherie Wilson**

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**From:** Cherie Wilson  
**Sent:** Friday, May 14, 2021 8:58 AM  
**To:** legals@clermontsun.com  
**Cc:** bmilam@clermontsun.com  
**Subject:** Revised Notice of upcoming board meetings  
**Attachments:** 2021 May Special Election Certification meetings REVISED.docx

Good morning,

Please be advised of the revised meeting description for the upcoming May board meetings. The dates have not changed, but we added information to the notice. Please let me know if you have any questions.

Thank you,

Cherie Wilson, Administrative Support Specialist  
Clermont County Board of Elections  
76 S. Riverside Dr.  
Batavia, OH 45103  
513-732-7485

## **Clermont County Board of Elections Second Revised Notice of Board Meetings**

The Clermont County Board of Elections has scheduled special board meetings for

**May 17, 2021 at 9:00 a.m.** – Opening of the Official Canvass, review of provisional ballots, and personnel matters.

**May 20, 2021 at 10:00 a.m.** – Certification of the May 2021 Special Election and rescheduled regular monthly board meeting for general purposes.

The meetings will be held at the Board Office, 76 S. Riverside Dr., Batavia, 45103.

Ray Lembke – Chairman  
Julia Carney – Director

Summary Results Report  
2021 May Special  
May 4, 2021

OFFICIAL RESULTS  
  
Clermont County

Statistics	TOTAL
Election Day Precincts Reporting	10 of 10
Registered Voters - Total	6,287
Ballots Cast - Total	1,392
Voter Turnout - Total	22.14%

Summary Results Report  
2021 May Special  
May 4, 2021

OFFICIAL RESULTS  
  
Clermont County

Bethel Tate Local School District		
Vote For 1		
	TOTAL	VOTE %
For the Tax Levy	793	57.01%
Against the Tax Levy	598	42.99%
Overvotes	1	
Undervotes	0	
Precincts Reporting	10 of 10	



May 4, 2021 Primary/Special Election  
Official Certification of Results  
Signature Form

We, the undersigned Members of the Board of Elections of County indicated below, do hereby certify that the Official Results of the Election (county specific and most-populous, if applicable) submitted to the Secretary of State's Office are valid and accurate, and and the number of absentee voters reconciles with the number of absentee ballots cast and counted.

Clermont

County Name

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, we have subscribed our names officially on the date indicated below:

MAY 20, 2021

Today's Date

Director

Deputy Director

Board Member

Board Member

Board Member

Board Member

The Board must complete and sign, scan, and email the signed form to [Results@OhioSoS.gov](mailto:Results@OhioSoS.gov) along with the Official Vote Total Summary Report.