

THE FRANKLIN COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS

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In Re: :

SPECIAL MEETING :

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May 21, 2026

Before Chairman Douglas Preisse,
Director Antone White, Deputy Director David Payne,
Chairman Douglas Preisse, Board Members
Mike Sexton, Meredith Freedhoff, and
Jamie Shumaker, on May 21, 2026, commencing at
approximately 9:00 a.m. and concluding at
approximately 3:20 p.m.

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ALSO PRESENT:

Erin Gibbons
Brian Zagrocki, Assistant Prosecuting Attorney
Sara Ziemba
Jeff Mackey
Carla Patton
Jeff Gatwood

Audience

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P R O C E E D I N G S

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MR. PRIESSE: Let us begin.

DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: Okay.

Mr. Chairman, I will go ahead and take roll call.

Jamie Shumaker?

MEMBER SHUMAKER: Here.

DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: Mike Sexton?

MEMBER SEXTON: Here.

DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE:

Doug Priesse?

CHAIRMAN PRIESSE: Here.

DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: Meredith

Freedhoff?

MEMBER FREEDHOFF: Here.

DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE:

Mr. Chairman, we have a quorum.

The first item on the agenda is the approval of minutes from the May 4th, 2026, meeting of the Franklin County Board of Elections. And I think those minutes were submitted by Erin to the board members.

CHAIRMAN PRIESSE: No questions here.

1 MEMBER CHAIRMAN: Mr. Chairman,
2 Michael Sexton.

3 I move the Board approve the minutes
4 of the May 4th, 2026, meeting of the Franklin
5 County Board of Elections as submitted.

6 CHAIRMAN PRIESSE: Second the
7 motion.

8 DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: It's been
9 moved and seconded.

10 All those in favor of the motion,
11 signify by saying "Aye."

12 (Vote taken.)

13 DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: All opposed,
14 same sign.

15 (No response.)

16 DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: The motion
17 carries.

18 The next item on the agenda is the
19 approval of provisional ballots, and I'm going to
20 turn that over to Sara Ziemba, who is the
21 supervisor of Voter Services.

22 SARA ZIEMBA: Good morning,
23 everyone.

24 I am Sara Ziemba, as David said, the

1 supervisor of the Voter Services Department; and
2 our department is in charge of evaluating and then
3 processing all of the provisional ballots that are
4 cast for every election in Franklin County.

5 And for the May 5th, 2026, Primary
6 Election, there were 1,746 provisional ballots that
7 were cast during both the early vote period and on
8 Election Day. And as with every election, our
9 Voter Services staff works in bipartisan pairs of
10 teams to evaluate each provisional ballot before we
11 decide to recommend to you that it be approved or
12 rejected.

13 And we -- we review those in
14 accordance with Ohio Revised Code Section 3505 and
15 the directives from the Ohio Secretary of State's
16 office.

17 We also had extra help this election
18 from our PEO Department and our Absentee
19 Department. Just want to thank those staff members
20 for joining our Voter Services team to help us
21 process these.

22 In general, any provisional ballot,
23 before we recommend it to the board to be approved,
24 has met -- the voter has met two conditions, and

1 they have supplied five required pieces of
2 information.

3 The two conditions that must be met
4 are the voter has to be registered to vote
5 somewhere in the state of Ohio at least 30 days
6 prior to the election, and that they can't have
7 already cast another vote for the election in some
8 other manner.

9 The five required pieces of
10 information that the voter needs to provide on
11 their affirmation statement are their name, their
12 date of birth, their current residential address,
13 their signature, and they have to show valid photo
14 identification at the time they present to vote to
15 the election official. If they do not provide that
16 photo identification at the time they cast their
17 ballot, they do have a four-day grace period to
18 come to the Board of Elections and show their valid
19 photo identification here at the Board of Elections
20 at our office.

21 And the valid photo IDs that they
22 have to show are one of the following: Ohio
23 driver's license or state ID, U.S. passport or
24 passport card, and a form of military ID. So

1 Veterans Affairs, Ohio National Guard, or
2 U.S. military ID.

3 And after of those ballots were
4 reviewed, we are happy to recommend 1,484
5 provisional ballots to the Board to be approved
6 where the voters have met both of the two criteria:
7 They are registered to vote in the state of Ohio,
8 they did not cast another ballot, and they provided
9 all five pieces of the required information on
10 their affirmation statement.

11 So that, again, was 1,484
12 provisional ballots that we recommend that the
13 board would approve today.

14 And I can ask -- take any questions
15 if you have any.

16 MR. PRIESSE: The -- You listed
17 appropriate ID; but somewhere along the line, I
18 remember hearing there's some form of military ID
19 that isn't effective as ID.

20 Is it like a veterans status ID or
21 something? It has to be a photo ID. Right?

22 SARA ZIEMBA: It has to be a photo
23 ID. And the difference with the one veteran's card
24 now, I think that they are issuing it digitally, so

1 that is the one that can be accepted on a phone, if
2 I remembering correctly.

3 DIRECTOR WHITE: That's correct,
4 yes.

5 SARA ZIEMBA: But all the rest are a
6 card.

7 MR. PRIESSE: So you're saying only
8 one form of ID can be used on a device?

9 SARA ZIEMBA: That's right.

10 MR. PRIESSE: I can't show a picture
11 of my driver's license?

12 SARA ZIEMBA: No.

13 You -- you are allowed to have
14 your -- They -- There's an app. I think with the
15 Ohio BMV, you can have your license on your phone,
16 like, on Apple Store or something; but you can't --
17 that's not valid for voting. You have to show the
18 actual card.

19 DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: Okay.

20 JAMIE SHUMAKER: Any questions?

21 MR. PRIESSE: No.

22 MEMBER SHUMAKER: Mr. Chairman,
23 Jamie Shumaker.

24 I move the board approve the

1 counting of 1,484 provisional ballots and that all
2 provisional ballots deemed valid will be counted
3 and included in the official canvass results for
4 the May 5th, 2026, Primary Election.

5 MR. PRIESSE: Excuse me.

6 Doug Priesse. Second.

7 DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: It's been
8 moved and seconded.

9 All those in favor of the motion,
10 signify by saying "Aye."

11 (Vote taken.)

12 DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: All opposed,
13 same sign.

14 (No response.)

15 DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: The motion
16 carries.

17 And I think we're looking for a
18 motion to extract those so we can get the
19 bipartisan teams ready to --

20 SARA ZIEMBA: That's correct.
21 They're waiting and ready to go.

22 MEMBER FREEDHOFF: Mr. Chairman,
23 Meredith Freedhoff.

24 I move that the Board authorize

1 the staff to extract the approved provisional
2 ballots.

3 MEMBER SHUMAKER: Jamie Shumaker. I
4 second.

5 DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: It's been
6 moved and seconded.

7 All those in favor of the motion,
8 signify by saying "Aye."

9 (Vote taken.)

10 DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: All opposed,
11 same sign.

12 (No response.)

13 DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: The motion
14 carries.

15 The next item on the --

16 I guess we can send somebody out.

17 That looks like what Adam's --

18 SARA ZIEMBA: They will get started
19 on that back in the vault.

20 And I will go through the 257
21 provisional ballots that Voter Services is going to
22 recommend that the Board take a vote to reject
23 today for missing either one of the five required
24 items or not meeting one of the two criteria that

1 you -- the voter needs to be able to meet in order
2 to have the ballot counted.

3 So the first --

4 You can following along on
5 Exhibit A, if you'd like.

6 But the first category of rejected
7 ballots that we are going to recommend the Board
8 reject today is people who are not registered in
9 the state of Ohio at least 30 days before the
10 election. And there were 126 of those individuals
11 who cast a ballot, a provisional ballot, that we
12 were not able to find them registered somewhere in
13 the state.

14 And the way that we try to find if
15 someone is registered is, we are required to do
16 three searches within our county registration
17 database to try and find that the voter is
18 registered in Franklin County somewhere.

19 And if we don't find the voter in
20 Franklin County, then we are able to look at the
21 statewide voter registration database, and we can
22 see if they are registered in one of the other 87
23 counties.

24 And as long as we can find the voter

1 somewhere in the state of Ohio registered, we're
2 able to recommend that that ballot be approved.
3 However, after six searches by our first round of
4 teams that process these, we weren't able to find
5 the voter.

6 And because we're very thorough in
7 Franklin County, we have another different team
8 review all of the first-round ballots that were
9 flagged for not being registered. They do another
10 six searches, trying to find the voter somewhere
11 registered in the state so that we can possibly
12 count the ballot.

13 But unfortunately, after we did all
14 of the searches for these voters, both in the
15 county database and the statewide database, we were
16 unable to find that the voter was registered
17 anywhere in the state of Ohio; therefore, they did
18 not meet the requirement of that condition to be
19 counted. And so we would recommend that the board
20 reject them for not being registered.

21 And while that is, you know, bad
22 news today, the good news is that Franklin County
23 is going to gain 126 voters as new voters after we
24 process these after the election because the

1 provisional affirmation statement is also a
2 registration form.

3 So we can't count them today because
4 they weren't registered in time, but they will be
5 going forward.

6 MEMBER FREEDHOFF: Sara, --

7 SARA ZIEMBA: Yeah.

8 MEMBER FREEDHOFF: -- I have a
9 question for you.

10 SARA ZIEMBA: Uh-huh.

11 MEMBER FREEDHOFF: If they're
12 registered in the state but not registered in the
13 county, you said that's counted?

14 SARA ZIEMBA: Yes. So as long as
15 the voter is registered somewhere in the state of
16 Ohio, we are able to contact the other county to
17 just verify with them that they are registered
18 there and that they didn't cast a vote, like, drive
19 home, cast a vote in their old precinct, and then
20 vote a provisional here or the other way around,
21 so.

22 MEMBER FREEDHOFF: Okay. So that
23 wouldn't fall under wrong precinct and location?

24 SARA ZIEMBA: If -- if they -- if

1 voted at their own -- their old location, then we
2 would have counted that as a double ballot some --
3 between one of the two counties.

4 But the ones that -- in this
5 category for not registered, they weren't
6 registered anywhere. Like, we couldn't find them
7 in another county.

8 MEMBER FREEDHOFF: Okay.

9 SARA ZIEMBA: That's -- Okay.

10 CHAIRMAN PRIESSE: But the
11 provisional form serves as a new registration --

12 SARA ZIEMBA: That's right.

13 CHAIRMAN PRIESSE: -- if they
14 haven't been registered?

15 SARA ZIEMBA: That's correct.

16 CHAIRMAN PRIESSE: And serves as a
17 change of address --

18 SARA ZIEMBA: If they are registered
19 in the state of Ohio.

20 CHAIRMAN PRIESSE: -- if they are
21 registered someplace in Ohio.

22 SARA ZIEMBA: That's right.

23 CHAIRMAN PRIESSE: If --

24 SARA ZIEMBA: That's right. Yeah.

1 So in that case, if, say, we found
2 them registered in some other county, we would
3 contact that other county. As long as they didn't
4 vote there, those voters fall under the approved,
5 sheets that show approved.

6 CHAIRMAN PRIESSE: Thank you.

7 SARA ZIEMBA: All right. So that
8 was 126 for voters who were not registered.

9 Our next category on here is the
10 voters who voted in the wrong precinct and
11 location. And there are 13 that fell under this
12 category. And those are our what we call "wrong
13 location" voters where the voter provided an
14 address on their provisional affirmation statement
15 that did not fall within the voting location
16 precinct where they showed up and cast their
17 ballots.

18 So there's no way that they got the
19 appropriate ballot for the address they provided on
20 the form.

21 Ohio law says that you have to vote
22 in the location where you live because you'll get
23 the correct ballots with the right issues,
24 candidates, and everything for your assigned

1 residential address.

2 And, unfortunately, in this case of
3 13 people, they showed up at a location where they
4 gave an address that wasn't in that location.

5 The poll workers are instructed to
6 tell the voter, you know, Your vote needs to be
7 cast where you live. You should go to X, Y, Z
8 location. Here's the address. Here's a piece of
9 paper; I'll write it for you.

10 And for whatever reason, if it's
11 time constraint, you know, transportation worries,
12 whatever the issue is, the voter -- these 13 voters
13 decided that they wanted to stay there at that
14 location even though it was the wrong location and
15 just cast their ballot there.

16 But, unfortunately, we cannot count
17 that because they were not voting in the correct
18 location for their address.

19 And that was 13.

20 Are there any questions on that one?

21 (No response.)

22 SARA ZIEMBA: Okay. The next
23 category is 12 provisional ballots that were voters
24 who failed to sign the affirmation statement. And,

1 unfortunately, this is one of those required --
2 five pieces of required information that must be on
3 the affirmation statement in order for the Board to
4 approve it. And because it was missing a
5 signature, we must recommend that the Board reject
6 those 12 ballots for not having a signature.

7 The next category are eight ballots
8 where the voter failed to provide a valid current
9 residential address within Franklin County. And
10 these eight voters, there was a combination of
11 things that we saw. So sometimes people just
12 forgot to put an address in the line in general, so
13 which is completely missing. There are a couple
14 other instances where the voter put a P.O. box.
15 And, unfortunately, in Ohio, the law says you have
16 to be registered at a residence, not a post office
17 box or a FedEx store or something.

18 And then there were a couple others
19 where they put their house name but they didn't put
20 a house number, so it was an incomplete valid
21 address there.

22 And so that was eight ballots to be
23 rejected for failing to provide a valid current
24 address.

1 The next category is 89 provisional
2 ballots where the voter failed to provide valid
3 photo identification at the time of voting when
4 they cast their provisional ballot either at
5 vote -- at the early vote center or on Election
6 Day.

7 And as I mentioned earlier, voters
8 must show photo ID when they vote in person, all
9 voters, including provisional voters. And when we
10 got the affirmation statements back for these 89
11 provisional voters, they did not have a valid form
12 of ID listed on there as seen by the poll workers
13 when they cast their vote.

14 Additionally, they did not -- these
15 89 voters did not come to the Board during the
16 four-day cure period between Wednesday, May 6th,
17 and Saturday, May 9th. Our office is open from
18 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. every day for voters to come in
19 and show their valid identification to us here at
20 the board.

21 And we had 23 voters who actually
22 did come in and do that, so that was great. But
23 unfortunately, the 89 of the remaining voters in
24 this category did not show valid photo

1 identification. And, therefore, because they were
2 missing the -- one of the five required items, we
3 recommend that the Board reject those for not
4 having an ID.

5 And I should also mention that
6 voters, when they cast their provisional ballots,
7 are given a provisional ballot notice, and that has
8 a -- it has both the cure period dates and times
9 and the location of our office on it. It also has
10 a phone number for a provisional hotline that
11 voters can call to get more information about what
12 type of ID they need and what -- if they need to
13 bring one or not.

14 The provisional notice was also
15 updated this year; and it's got kind of a nice flow
16 chart on it for voters where it says, If you did
17 this, it will send them through a map letting you
18 know, if you provided photo ID, you're good; if you
19 did not, you have to go and do these other steps
20 before your ballot could be counted.

21 So that the notice is actually -- I
22 thought it was a good upgrade to that this
23 election.

24 But, again, still, we had 89

1 voters that did not come in and give us an ID for
2 voting.

3 The category we have are five
4 provisional ballots where the voter had already
5 voted another ballot and had vote credit already
6 for the election.

7 And so of the five, there were three
8 voters who had a valid absentee ballot returned and
9 then had a provisional ballot from Election Day.

10 So three people --

11 This is easy to understand.

12 -- they got had an absentee ballot,
13 mailed it back but didn't see that it had been
14 accepted and approved already; so they went to
15 their voting location on Election Day, cast a
16 provisional ballot there.

17 We never got the -- Or we did get
18 the -- the absentee ballot back, so they got credit
19 for their absentee ballot; and therefore, we
20 recommend that the Board reject the provisional,
21 which would be their second vote.

22 The other two in this category were
23 individuals who had voted in person at the early
24 vote center before the election and then on

1 Election Day went to their assigned location and
2 voted a provisional ballot in person on Election
3 Day.

4 And in that case, we'll have our
5 investigator contact the voters and just ask them
6 why did they do this. We'll give the report to the
7 director and the deputy director once we have that
8 completed.

9 But total, there were five people
10 who had another vote history on file for the
11 election; and so, therefore, the provisional was a
12 second ballot and we would recommend the Board
13 reject it for -- so everyone can only have one
14 vote.

15 And our last category for rejection
16 are just four provisional ballots where the voter
17 failed to provide any date of birth in the
18 date-of-birth field.

19 So these are different from the
20 special cases that we'll talk about in just a
21 second; but these ones, the voter didn't provide
22 any attempt at a birth date; the field was blank.
23 And in that case, there's not a recourse for the
24 Board to approve that. If the field is completely

1 missing, the ballot must be rejected because it was
2 missing the item. And that was four there.

3 So in conclusion on that, I'll be
4 happy to take any questions.

5 But there were 257 total that we are
6 going to recommend that the Board take a motion to
7 reject today for failure to meet the two criteria
8 or failure to provide one of the five required
9 items on the ballot.

10 CHAIRMAN PRIESSE: Excellent review,
11 Sara. Thank you.

12 SARA ZIEMBA: Uh-huh.

13 CHAIRMAN PRIESSE: Any questions?

14 Hard to come up with any. You
15 didn't refigure.

16 SARA ZIEMBA: That's my goal.

17 CHAIRMAN PRIESSE: I don't see any.

18 I move that the Board reject the
19 counting of 257 provisional ballots as identified
20 by category in Exhibit A and that all provisional
21 ballots rejected will not be counted or included in
22 the official canvass results for the May 5, 2026,
23 Primary Election.

24 MEMBER SEXTON: Mr. Chairman, if

1 there is no questions, I will second the motion.
2 Michael Sexton.

3 DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: It's been
4 properly moved and seconded.

5 All those in favor of the motion,
6 signify by saying "Aye."

7 (Vote taken.)

8 DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: All opposed,
9 same sign.

10 (No response.)

11 DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: The motion
12 carries.

13 The next item on the agenda are five
14 provisional ballots for Board consideration.

15 SARA ZIEMBA: Yep. There -- I --
16 David, I put them there in front of you if you want
17 to pass those out to the Board to look at.

18 As we usually have in elections,
19 there is a notable exception to the rule that the
20 voter has to provide all of the five required
21 pieces of information.

22 All of these voters attempted to put
23 a birthday on there; however, it was inconsistent
24 with what we have on our voter registration

1 database for the voter. And Ohio law allows for
2 the Board to make an exception for these voters
3 where they have met the -- both requirements, that
4 they are registered, they have not cast another
5 vote, and that they have provided all other
6 information that is required on the affirmation
7 statement except for the birthday, which is
8 slightly different than what we have on file.

9 And for one of them, they wrote the
10 election date as their birthday, and the other four
11 were some sort of combination of transposing their
12 day and month of birth.

13 And so for all of those, as the --
14 I'll read into a count here for the
15 record.

16 -- the Board has the power to vote
17 to accept or reject these provisional ballots as a
18 group or individually in accordance with the
19 following direction from the Ohio Revised Code
20 Section 3505.183, Exception: If the affirmation
21 statement contains the voter's date of birth but
22 the month and day are different from the month and
23 day in the statewide voter registration database,
24 the Board must reject the provisional ballot unless

1 the voter's date of birth in the database is
2 1-1-1800 or the Board of Elections finds by a vote
3 of at least three of its members that the voter has
4 met all other requirements of the division.

5 And so I'm happy to say that the
6 voters have met all of the requirements. All of
7 the other information matches what's on our system.
8 They provided ID, they are not -- they have not
9 cast another vote, and they are registered.

10 And so we would ask that the Board
11 take a look at these.

12 I can answer any questions if you
13 have any. And we would recommend that the Board
14 would vote to approve these based on your power
15 using that exception in the law.

16 CHAIRMAN PRIESSE: Two of these do
17 not have the Today's Date under the signature.

18 SARA ZIEMBA: That's -- We don't
19 consider that a fatal flaw.

20 CHAIRMAN PRIESSE: Okay. And red
21 check on these means --

22 SARA ZIEMBA: Our team has checked
23 them over when we made sure they had all the other
24 requirements.

1 CHAIRMAN PRIESSE: And there's five
2 of them.

3 SARA ZIEMBA: Uh-huh.

4 DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: So, Sara,
5 you're -- you're looking for a motion to -- after
6 everybody looks at these, a motion to approve five
7 additional provisional ballots and the rejection of
8 zero?

9 SARA ZIEMBA: That's correct.

10 MEMBER CHAIRMAN: Mr. Chairman,
11 Michael Sexton.

12 I move the Board approve the
13 counting of five additional provisional ballots
14 and the rejection of zero additional provisional
15 ballots, and that all provisional ballots deemed
16 valid will be counted in and included in the
17 official canvass for the May 5th, 2026, Primary
18 Election.

19 CHAIRMAN PRIESSE: Doug Priesse.
20 Second the motion.

21 DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: It's been
22 properly moved and seconded.

23 All those in favor of the motion,
24 signify by saying "Aye."

1 (Vote taken.)

2 DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: All opposed,
3 same sign.

4 (No response.)

5 DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: The motion
6 carries.

7 I think we're looking for a motion
8 to extract those five extra provisional ballots.

9 MEMBER SHUMAKER: Jamie Shumaker.

10 I move the Board authorize the staff
11 to extract the additional five approved provisional
12 ballots.

13 CHAIRMAN PRIESSE: Second.
14 Doug Priesse.

15 DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: It's been
16 moved and seconded.

17 All those in favor of the motion,
18 signify by saying "Aye."

19 (Vote taken.)

20 DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: All opposed,
21 same sign.

22 (No response.)

23 DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: The motion
24 carries.

1 I think in the past, we have given
2 the Board, a bipartisan team of workers in the
3 back, the authority to remake any ballots necessary
4 if for whatever reason they are not able to be
5 scanned for some reason.

6 If that's the pleasure of the board
7 at this time, we would appreciate that.

8 CHAIRMAN PRIESSE: I would move that
9 the Board authorize the staff to make -- I'm
10 sorry -- to remake any provisional ballots that
11 require remaking and that these remade ballots
12 shall be tabulated and included in the official
13 canvass of the results for the May 5, 2026, Primary
14 Election, with a report to be made to the Board
15 later today.

16 MEMBER CHAIRMAN: Mr. Chairman,
17 Michael Sexton. I'll second.

18 DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: It's been
19 moved and seconded.

20 All those in favor of the motion,
21 signify by saying "Aye."

22 (Vote taken.)

23 DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: All opposed,
24 same sign.

1 (No response.)

2 DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: The motion
3 carries.

4 The next item on the agenda are
5 independent and write-in candidates recommended for
6 certification for the November 3rd election; and I
7 will call on Jeff Mackey, the manager of Petitions
8 and Filings for that report.

9 JEFF MACKEY: So on the March --
10 Monday, March 4th deadline for independent
11 candidates the day before the Primary Election, we
12 received three petitions from candidates seeking to
13 be independent candidates.

14 Also, over the last couple months,
15 we received three declarations of intent to be a
16 write-in candidate for the General Election,
17 candidates seeking to be write-in candidates.

18 Staff has reviewed all of those
19 petitions and declarations; and the candidates
20 found on Exhibit B, staff reviewed those, found
21 those to be timely filed and valid and sufficient.

22 MEMBER FREEDHOFF: Jeff, how many
23 signatures were required to be on the record as a
24 write-in?

1 JEFF MACKEY: As a write-in, there
2 are -- is no signature requirement for independent
3 candidates. It's dependant on which office you're
4 looking at. So for the -- There's two
5 congressional candidates, one for the third and one
6 for the fifth.

7 MEMBER FREEDHOFF: So how many
8 signatures do they have to get on their ballot to
9 be --

10 MR. MACKY: For the third -- third
11 district, they needed -- a candidate needed
12 3,000 and -- oh, I'm sorry -- 2,621 valid
13 signatures.

14 MEMBER FREEDHOFF: And which one --
15 which person was this?

16 JEFF MACKEY: That was the Third
17 Congressional District, Michele Bird. She'll be on
18 Exhibit C.

19 MEMBER FREEDHOFF: I'm on Exhibit B.

20 JEFF MACKEY: Okay. Exhibit B,
21 three of those people are write-in candidates, so
22 they have no signature requirements.

23 MEMBER FREEDHOFF: No -- Not -- None
24 at all?

1 JEFF MACKEY: No.

2 MEMBER FREEDHOFF: You can have one
3 signature?

4 JEFF MACKEY: Well, no signatures.
5 Just file -- file your declaration of intent to be
6 a write-in candidate.

7 MEMBER FREEDHOFF: Okay. So there
8 were no signatures --

9 JEFF MACKEY: There was one
10 candidate on there who was running for -- as an
11 independent candidate for the House, and I don't
12 have that number in front of me. It was around
13 five or 600 signatures required.

14 MEMBER FREEDHOFF: Okay. And that's
15 nonparty? Is that what you call nonparty?

16 JEFF MACKEY: He is a --

17 As an independent candidate, you are
18 offered a choice. As a party candidate, your name
19 appears on the ballot. Under your name appears
20 your party.

21 As an independent candidate, you
22 have a choice of three options. Your name can
23 appear with either nonparty candidate, which he
24 selected, other party candidate, or just no

1 selection at all; it would be blank. It would just
2 be your name on the ballot. So he chose nonparty
3 candidate.

4 MEMBER FREEDHOFF: Then, how do you
5 become unaffiliated?

6 JEFF MACKEY: Unaffiliated is just a
7 voting status that means you're not affiliated with
8 a party.

9 MEMBER FREEDHOFF: So they didn't
10 choose that?

11 JEFF MACKEY: That -- that's not one
12 of the options, no.

13 MEMBER FREEDHOFF: Okay.

14 CHAIRMAN PRIESSE: Okay.

15 MEMBER FREEDHOFF: When are their
16 signatures -- petitions due?

17 JEFF MACKEY: The petitions were due
18 the day before the Primary Election for the
19 independent candidates.

20 The write-in deadline is not until
21 the end of August. But these candidates have
22 already filed, so we just decided to put those on
23 this meeting since we have them already.

24 MEMBER FREEDHOFF: Okay. Then,

1 they'll be on it again at the August deadline?

2 JEFF MACKEY: Ah, any additional
3 write-in candidates would be, yes, later at a
4 different meeting, to certify those candidates.

5 MEMBER FREEDHOFF: Okay. So, like,
6 for example, the person that had to get five to 600
7 signatures, that will be on in August, as well?

8 JEFF MACKEY: No. He has already
9 submitted his petition with the 500 signatures, and
10 we found them valid and sufficient.

11 MEMBER FREEDHOFF: I'm just
12 confused 'cause you said there didn't have to be
13 signatures.

14 JEFF MACKEY: For the write-ins,
15 yeah.

16 MEMBER FREEDHOFF: Okay.

17 JEFF MACKEY: There are different
18 types of independent --

19 MEMBER FREEDHOFF: And this says
20 that --

21 (Contemporaneous crosstalk.)

22 MEMBER FREEDHOFF: So you've got
23 write-in there with a no, so that means he's not a
24 write-in.

1 JEFF MACKEY: Correct.

2 MEMBER FREEDHOFF: I guess I'm not
3 asking you specifically enough. I'm sorry, Jeff.

4 DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: You okay?

5 MEMBER FREEDHOFF: I'm good now.

6 CHAIRMAN PRIESSE: Okay.

7 MEMBER CHAIRMAN: If there are no
8 other questions, Mr. Chairman, Michael Sexton, I
9 move the Board declare each of such persons as
10 appeared -- appears in Exhibit B, that we certify
11 their names to the November 3rd, 2026, General
12 Election Ballot; and that these petitions were
13 filed timely and found to be sufficient.

14 MEMBER FREEDHOFF: Meredith
15 Freedhoff. Second.

16 DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: It's been
17 moved and seconded.

18 All those in favor of the motion,
19 signify by saying "Aye."

20 (Vote taken.)

21 DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: All opposed,
22 same sign.

23 (No response.)

24 DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: The motion

1 carries.

2 The next item are independent
3 write-in candidates not recommended for
4 certification.

5 JEFF MACKEY: So these two
6 candidates filed petitions as independent
7 candidates. We reviewed their petitions, and they
8 were both short of the required number of valid
9 signatures.

10 (Discussion held off the record.)

11 CHAIRMAN PRIESSE: Okay.

12 Doug Priesse.

13 I move the Board declare each of
14 such persons as appears in the Exhibit C that we
15 not certify their names to the November 3rd, 2026,
16 General Election ballot and that these petitions
17 were found to be invalid and insufficient.

18 MS. SHUMAKER: Jamie Shoemaker, and
19 I second.

20 DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: It's been
21 moved and seconded.

22 All those in favor of the motion,
23 signify by saying "Aye."

24 (Vote taken.)

1 DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: All opposed,
2 same sign.

3 (No response.)

4 DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: The motion
5 carries.

6 The next item --

7 Thank you, Jeff.

8 DIRECTOR WHITE: Thanks, Jeff.

9 JEFF MACKEY: Yeah, I think I'm also
10 on the next motion. We're doing withdrawal.

11 DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: We have
12 Whitehall is the next.

13 (Discussion held off the record.)

14 DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: The next
15 item on the agenda is to accept three resolutions
16 for scheduling the Whitehall Special Election, and
17 I'm going to turn that over to Director White
18 that's been paying particular attention to these
19 and going to the Whitehall meetings to make sure
20 that we do have an election and that they operate
21 in a proper manner.

22 Mr. Director.

23 MR. WHITE: Thank you, sir.

24 So a group of citizens filed a --

1 three re-call petitions with the City of Whitehall.

2 I believe it was back in April
3 originally, Jeff. Is that correct?

4 JEFF MACKEY: Yes.

5 DIRECTOR WHITE: And we -- our role
6 in that is to validate petitions' signatures. It's
7 the City of Whitehall's role to certify the
8 petitions after we give them a signature report.

9 SO they certified originally these
10 three re-called petitions and scheduled an election
11 for Thursday, May 28th.

12 Early vote started, and there was an
13 overlap with that early vote. It's a separate
14 election from the May 5th Primary Special Election,
15 but there was an overlap. We started early voting,
16 but there was a lawsuit filed in the Ohio Supreme
17 Court challenging the number of signatures that
18 were filed.

19 On May 3rd, which was a Sunday, the
20 Ohio Supreme Court issued a ruling where they
21 nullified that election and which they said that
22 the City used an incorrect calculation for the
23 signature requirement. And so this group had to go
24 out and get another 140 signatures in order to

1 qualify for the ballot. So that May -- Thursday,
2 May 28th election was essentially nullified. This
3 group went out and got more signatures. We
4 validated those signatures.

5 And then the City once again
6 declared that those petitions were valid and
7 certified.

8 So then on Tuesday, I spoke at
9 Whitehall City Council where I requested that they
10 set the date of Tuesday, June 23rd, for a special
11 election, and they adopted that motion in an
12 emergency manner. They had to suspend the rules,
13 and so that was done.

14 So the resolution was delivered to
15 us yesterday. And so now we have an election set
16 for Tuesday, June 23rd in the City of Whitehall for
17 three separate re-call petitions. And so the
18 motion in front of you today is just to accept
19 those resolutions.

20 MEMBER CHAIRMAN: Okay.

21 Mr. Chairman, Michael Sexton.

22 I move that the Board accept the
23 three resolutions from Whitehall, scheduling in the
24 Whitehall Special Election for the -- with the

1 early voting commencing on May 26th, 20-- 2026.

2 CHAIRMAN PRIESSE: Doug Priesse.

3 Second the motion.

4 DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: It's been
5 properly moved and seconded.

6 All those in favor of the motion,
7 signify by saying "Aye."

8 (Vote taken.)

9 DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: All opposed,
10 same sign.

11 (No response.)

12 DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: The motion
13 carries.

14 Thank you.

15 The next item on the agenda is the
16 paper ballot allocation for the Whitehall Special
17 Election, and I'll turn that over to
18 Carla Patton, who is the manager of Operations.

19 CARLA PATTON: Good morning.

20 All right. You have in your packet
21 Exhibit D, which is the 2026 Whitehall Special
22 Election Paper Ballot Allocation. So the election
23 official manual, Chapter 5, Section 5.08, Ballot
24 Quantities, requires that we look at a previous

1 like election and allocate the number of
2 provisional ballots that was cast in the previous
3 like election for each precinct, plus an additional
4 five percent.

5 For Election Day ballots, because
6 we offer a choice to voters whether to vote
7 on a machine or on paper, our Board has the
8 discretion to determine the amount of paper ballots
9 allocated.

10 For this election, there is no
11 recent similar election to look back to. So for
12 the paper ballot allocation, we have reverted to
13 the formula that was used for the 2026, May 5th,
14 Primary Election.

15 So the allocations for provisional
16 and Election Day ballots are combined.

17 So for the 2026 Primary, we actually
18 looked back to the 2022 Primary Election in May,
19 not August.

20 And so the calculation, we looked
21 at -- we calculated the number of provisional
22 ballots required and divided that by the total
23 ballots cast in the election. That calculation
24 gave us the base percentage for the -- of what to

1 add for provisionals. That ended up being one
2 percent.

3 We then took 16 percent of the
4 ballots cast on Election Day for the paper
5 ballot -- for the Election Day paper-by-choice
6 ballot and added that to the one percent and
7 multiplied that. So in theory multiplied
8 17 percent to -- of the total ballots cast from
9 that election in 2022 May to come up with our
10 paper ballot allocation for this election.

11 The result was then rounded up to
12 the nearest increment of 25, as we had our ballots
13 in pads of 25.

14 So the calculation is applied for
15 the allocation. We've used the allocation that was
16 done for the Democrat and Republican ballots in the
17 primary versus the independent, which everyone got
18 25. So we went with the Democrat/Republican.

19 So the exhibit has a total of
20 350 ballots that are being allocated across
21 11 precincts on Election Day.

22 We do have --

23 Our print shop is in-house here so
24 that if we find that, you know, we are running

1 short on ballots, our print shop is able to quickly
2 spin up some ballots for us, and we can get
3 those out to the ballots -- to the voting location
4 in less than an hour.

5 So we would ask at this time that
6 you adopt the paper ballot allocation for the
7 Whitehall Special Election on June 23rd, 2026, as
8 it's set before you on Exhibit D.

9 CHAIRMAN PRIESSES: Thank you.

10 Questions? Looks good, as usual.

11 MEMBER FREEDHOFF: And you said 350
12 total?

13 CARLA PATTON: 350 total.

14 MEMBER FREEDHOFF: If there are no
15 questions, Mr. Chairman, I move that the Board
16 adopt the paper ballot allocation formula in
17 Exhibit D compiled by the Board staff for the
18 Whitehall Special Election.

19 MEMBER CHAIRMAN: Mr. Chairman,
20 Michael Sexton. I'll second the motion.

21 DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: It's been
22 moved and seconded.

23 All those in favor of the motion,
24 signify by saying "Aye."

1 (Vote taken.)

2 DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: All opposed,
3 same sign.

4 (No response.)

5 DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: The motion
6 carries.

7 Carla, I'll call on you to also
8 describe the voting machine and pollbook allocation
9 for the Whitehall Special Election.

10 CARLA PATTON: You will find
11 Exhibit E in your packet, which is the voting
12 equipment allocation for the June 23rd, 2026,
13 Whitehall Special Election.

14 On that you will notice there are
15 five locations for this election that will be open.
16 Those five locations are listed there.

17 The first column after the location
18 names is your Tabletop Express Votes, which are the
19 ballot-marking devices; and we have allocated those
20 for one marking device for every 350 voters with
21 no -- with a location receiving no less than two.
22 There are a total of 35 Express Vote Tabletop
23 markers being allocated.

24 The next item is the Kiosk Express

1 Votes, which allow for a better experience for ADA
2 voters that allow for tilting for their ease of
3 use. Those marking devices are allocated one for
4 every 4,100 in a location, with no less than one
5 being allocated; and there are a total of six of
6 those being allocated.

7 The third column there with numbers
8 is the total number of ballot marking devices,
9 which is the total of the Tabletops and the Kiosk
10 machines, for a total of 41 pieces of marking --
11 markers being deployed for this election.

12 Next is the DS200 Ballot Counters,
13 which are the tabulators. At least one for every
14 location is being allocated, and we allocate those
15 one at -- for every 200 and -- 2,550 voters in a
16 location, for a total of 70 DS200s to be allocated
17 for this election.

18 The Electronic Pollbooks, we are
19 allocating those for this election, one for every
20 825 voters, with no less than three allocated to a
21 lo- -- a location, for a total of 19 allocated for
22 the whole election.

23 If we do find that a location is
24 busier, we do have conditional equipment here that

1 we can deploy within a short time frame to any
2 location.

3 Unless you have any questions, we
4 would ask that you adopt the voting equipment
5 allocation for the 2026 Whitehall Special Election.

6 CHAIRMAN PRIESSE: No questions
7 here.

8 MEMBER SHUMAKER: No question.
9 Jamie Shumaker.

10 I move the board adopt the voting
11 machine allocation formula in Exhibit E compiled by
12 the Board staff for the Whitehall election.

13 MEMBER FREEDHOFF: I second.

14 DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: It's been
15 properly moved and seconded.

16 All those in favor of the motion,
17 signify by saying, "Aye."

18 (Vote taken.)

19 DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: All opposed,
20 same sign.

21 (No response.)

22 DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: The motion
23 carries.

24 Thank you, Carla.

1 The next item on the agenda is the
2 purchase of Escode Testing Services, and I'll turn
3 that over to Jeff Gatwood, Director of IT.

4 JEFF GATWOOD: Good morning, Board
5 Members.

6 I am seeking approval for the Escode
7 Testing Services.

8 Escode is the escrow account where
9 our Tenx source code is maintained. They're going
10 to take the deposit of the source code and rebuild
11 the entire system from scratch. And this is just
12 to prove that if something catastrophic happened to
13 our environment, that is the AWS GovCloud
14 environment, if that should fail or if for some
15 reason the vendor has a catastrophic event and they
16 can no longer support the software, we're in a
17 position where we can rebuild our environment.

18 CHAIRMAN PRIESSE: This description,
19 I read three times and didn't understand it, so I'm
20 glad you -- I'm glad you translated it into mostly
21 standard English there.

22 Okay. Now I get it.

23 MEMBER FREEDHOFF: So the Secretary
24 of State requires that we build and --

1 JEFF GATWOOD: Yes.

2 MEMBER FREEDHOFF: -- and are able
3 to rebuild the voter registration system?

4 JEFF GATWOOD: Correct.

5 MEMBER FREEDHOFF: Thank you.

6 JEFF GATWOOD: Yes.

7 So several things that we do to
8 maintain continuity in case of a disaster, we have
9 a -- our production environment, we also have our
10 UAT environment. The UAT environment is a copy of
11 our production environment; and that allows us to
12 prove that, one, we have a backup of that existing
13 system, plus, we can back up all the data that
14 supports it.

15 This takes it one step further in
16 case that entire environment goes away; and, again,
17 or if Tenx should have some kind of catastrophic
18 failure, we're in a position where we can still
19 continue.

20 CHAIRMAN PRIESSE: Where is Escode
21 located?

22 JEFF GATWOOD: I think they're
23 headquartered out of Georgia.

24 DIRECTOR WHITE: Atlanta. I think

1 they're in Atlanta.

2 CHAIRMAN PRIESSE: Any questions?

3 Okay. I move that the Board
4 purchase the testing services offered by Escode in
5 the amount of \$39,560.

6 MEMBER SHUMAKER: Mr. Chairman,
7 Jamie Shumaker. And I second.

8 DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: It's been
9 properly moved and seconded.

10 All those in favor of the motion,
11 signify by saying "Aye."

12 (Vote taken.)

13 DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: All opposed,
14 same sign.

15 (No response.)

16 DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: The motion
17 carries.

18 JEFF GATWOOD: Thank you.

19 DIRECTOR WHITE: Thanks, Jeff.

20 DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: I think at
21 this point, we may want to recess the Board.

22 Do we have an idea of how long we
23 need to recess, Carla and Jeff?

24 CARLA PATTON: Depending on how

1 long -- how far they are with extracting.

2 DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: 1 o'clock?

3 CARLA PATTON: Couple hours, maybe.

4 DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: 12?

5 (Discussion held off the record.)

6 CHAIRMAN PRIESSE: What are you
7 saying?

8 DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: We need to
9 recess the Board, and I was asking them how long it
10 would take to do that. And we thought 12 noon?
11 Will that work to come back?

12 (Discussion held off the record.)

13 MEMBER FREEDHOFF: We have on our
14 thing 3 o'clock. 3 o'clock.

15 CHAIRMAN PRIESSE: What -- And so
16 the length of this afternoon section, the
17 provisional ballots for consideration certification
18 for May 5th, what's the estimated time to do the --

19 DIRECTOR WHITE: Probably another
20 half hour of work.

21 CHAIRMAN PRIESSE: Probably what?

22 DIRECTOR WHITE: Another half hour
23 of work. 30 minutes. Because we'll have to draw
24 for the audit.

1 MEMBER FREEDHOFF: Spin the wheel.

2 CHAIRMAN PRIESSE: 1 can work for
3 me. If it goes beyond 1:30, I'm going to have to
4 leave. But I can do that because we'll still have
5 a quorum as long as the other members can stay.
6 And I don't --

7 MEMBER FREEDHOFF: Does noon work
8 for you?

9 CHAIRMAN PRIESSE: Noon does not
10 work for me. I have a noon downtown and a
11 2 downtown. So I'm sort of --

12 CARLA PATTON: Does 12:45 work?

13 We can do 1 o'clock, and we can get
14 through it.

15 CHAIRMAN PRIESSE: I'm going to have
16 to leave by noon. So 1's okay. Okay?

17 So there we go.

18 You want to move to recess us?

19 MEMBER SEXTON: Mr. Chairman,
20 Michael Sexton. I move that the Board recess this
21 meeting of the Board of Elections until 1 p.m.
22 today.

23 DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: Seeing --

24 CHAIRMAN PRIESSE: Second.

1 DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: We'll
2 recess.

3 CHAIRMAN PRIESSE: We'll recess.

4 MEMBER FREEDHOFF: Second.

5 ERIN GIBBONS: All right, everyone.
6 We'll restart the meeting at 1 o'clock.

7 (Thereupon, the Board was in recess
8 at 10:00 a.m.)

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Thursday Afternoon Session
May 21, 2026
1:03 p.m.

- - -

DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: We are back
from recess.

I'm going to call on Sara Ziemba to
give a report. And I don't believe -- Although
she'll tell it in the report, I don't believe we
had any provisional ballots for consideration for
the board. Is that correct?

MS. ZIEMBA: We do not.

Sara Ziemba from Voter Services
again.

Just -- We did not have any that
needed the Board to review them for voter intent
issues.

We do have an amended exhibit,
though, that has the new total of the five that
were for Board review added to the approved total.
So now the grand total that we have provisional
ballots that we have accepted are one-four-eight-
nine, 1,489; and the rejected total remain the same
of 257, for the grand total of 1,746. And so that
was all I had to say.

1 Thank you.

2 DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: Perfect.

3 The next item on the agenda would be
4 the certification of the May 5th, 2026, Primary
5 Election.

6 And I will call on Carla, our
7 Operations Manager, for that.

8 CARLA PATTON: Good afternoon.

9 Before you are the official results
10 for the votes cast in Franklin County on May 5th,
11 2026, in the Primary Election.

12 Out of 885,474 voters that were
13 registered to vote, a total of 179,922 voters cast
14 a ballot, which is 20.32 percent turnout of the
15 registered voters.

16 The operations staff has done a
17 thorough bipartisan review of all the returns to
18 ensure that all ballots cast were counted. And we
19 have included the provisional ballots, as you will
20 see, 1,489 ballots cast as reported.

21 We have also added in, there were 26
22 absentee or UOCAVA ballots that were included in
23 after Election Day.

24 And we also had to include -- we

1 also included 58 ballots for the Election Day group
2 of voters who were erroneously given provisional
3 envelopes for their ballots rather than allowing
4 them to cast them into the tabulator machine at the
5 location.

6 So at this time, we would ask that
7 you certify the results as they appear before you
8 on the report.

9 And I would be happy to report that
10 we will have no recounts in any other races for
11 this election.

12 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: Okay. Any
13 questions?

14 MS. SHUMAKER: No.

15 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: I move that the
16 Board certify and declare as final the official
17 canvass of the votes case at the May 5, 2026,
18 Primary Election as submitted by staff.

19 MEMBER SHUMAKER: Mr. Chairman,
20 Jamie Shumaker. I second.

21 DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: It's been
22 moved and seconded.

23 All those in favor of the motion,
24 signify by saying "Aye."

1 (Vote taken.)

2 DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: All opposed,
3 same sign.

4 (No response.)

5 DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: The motion
6 carries.

7 The next item on the agenda is a
8 candidate withdrawal, and I'll turn that over to
9 Jeff Mackey to explain that.

10 JEFF MACKEY: On May 14th, we
11 received written notification from -- I'm not sure
12 how to pronounce his name -- Da-veed or Da-vid
13 Cugini.

14 MEMBER FREEDHOFF: Da-vi-day.

15 JEFF MACKEY: Da-vi-day.

16 He -- he wants to withdraw from the
17 General Election as a candidate for County
18 Commissioner for the Republican party. The party
19 will have until August 10th to replace them if they
20 choose to do that.

21 MEMBER FREEDHOFF: Mr. Chairman, if
22 there are no questions, I move that the Board
23 accept the withdrawal of Davide Cugini as a
24 Republican candidate for Franklin County

1 Commissioner in the November 3rd, 2026, election.

2 MEMBER SEXTON: Michael Sexton.

3 I'll second.

4 DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: It's been
5 properly moved and seconded.

6 All those in favor of the motion,
7 signify by saying "Aye."

8 (Vote taken.)

9 DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: All opposed,
10 same sign.

11 The motion carries.

12 The next item on the agenda is the
13 post-election audit that we were required to
14 perform by the Secretary of State; so, again, I'll
15 turn that over to Jeff Mackey.

16 JEFF MACKEY: Per Section 3505.331
17 of the Ohio Revised Code and Section 11.03 of the
18 Ohio Election Official Manual, after -- after
19 declaring the official results of the election, the
20 Board of Elections shall audit those results. The
21 Board must audit not less than three contested
22 races, questions or issues as directed by the
23 Secretary of State.

24 Typically the Board uses a

1 percentage-based audit protocol which requires
2 bipartisan teams of election officials to
3 physically examine and hand count a number of
4 randomly sampled ballots equal to at least five
5 percent of the total ballots cast in the county at
6 the election.

7 No later than the time the Board
8 meets to certify the official results of the
9 election, the Board must select a date and place
10 that the audit will commence and determine whether
11 it will conduct its post-election audit by
12 precinct, by polling location, or by individual
13 voting machine.

14 For this election, we'll be auditing
15 the Republican Governor/Lieutenant Governor
16 contest, Democratic Attorney General contest, and
17 Republican Treasurer, State Treasurer. So these
18 are all countywide. So we can draw by polling
19 location if that is acceptable to you.

20 For the last several elections,
21 we've used that website, Random.org, to randomly
22 generate our sequence to be used in the audit.

23 There's a couple motions we'll need
24 you to make so we can proceed with that.

1 DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: We need a
2 motion to accept the post-election audits.

3 MEMBER FREEDHOFF: Okay.

4 Mr. Chairman, I move that the Board set the
5 post-election audit to begin Thursday, June 2nd at
6 9 a.m. until completed, and that the audit be
7 conducted in accordance with the Secretary of State
8 directive and to be held at the Franklin County
9 Board of Elections, 1700 Morse Road.

10 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: Second.

11 DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: And it's
12 been moved and seconded.

13 All those in favor, signify by
14 saying "Aye."

15 (Vote taken.)

16 DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: All opposed,
17 same sign.

18 (No response.)

19 DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: The motion
20 carries.

21 Again, we need to make a motion to
22 use Random.org. Is that correct, Jeff? I believe
23 so.

24 JEFF MACKEY: I don't know that we

1 need to make a motion to do that, but we definitely
2 need a motion for the --

3 DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: -- for the
4 races.

5 JEFF MACKEY: -- ratio, which unit
6 we're going to be auditing.

7 DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: Which is the
8 voting locations?

9 JEFF MACKEY: Which is the voting
10 locations.

11 MEMBER SHUMAKER: Okay. Any
12 questions?

13 Mr. Chairman, I move that the Board
14 use Random.org to select the locations for the
15 audit of the Republican Primary race for
16 Governor/Lieutenant Governor, and the Democratic
17 Primary Race for Attorney General, and the
18 Republican Primary Race for Treasurer.

19 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: I second the
20 motion.

21 DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: It's been
22 approved and -- moved and seconded.

23 All those in favor, signify by
24 saying "Aye."

1 (Vote taken.)

2 DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: All opposed,
3 same sign.

4 (No response.)

5 DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: The motion
6 carries.

7 You're on, Jeff.

8 JEFF MACKEY: Okay. So IT Manager,
9 Mr. Gatwood, has set up this fancy spreadsheet for
10 us.

11 Each voting location is over here
12 on the left side. Each one has been assigned a
13 number, and there are 298 locations. So each one
14 of them has a number from 100 down, all the way to
15 the last one, is at 380 -- 97.

16 I'm going to put that number in our
17 sequence generator here. I messed it up already.
18 9-7. And it is going to give us a sequence
19 randomly generated.

20 We can grab a big chunk of these to
21 start with so we can get to our five percent of
22 the -- what were the numbers -- 179,000 votes cast.

23 CARLA PATTON: 179, almost 180,000.

24 JEFF MACKEY: One big number there.

1 So here's the total votes cast. We
2 got that in there updated. It matches what Carla
3 presented to you.

4 We're a little bit over. We are
5 over by 808 ballots cast; but the last location I
6 picked has 951 ballots, so that's -- I -- I nailed
7 it.

8 DIRECTOR WHITE: Good job.

9 What's the percentage there, Jeff?

10 JEFF MACKEY: We are at 5.45 percent
11 of the ballots cast. And I can read the Lid
12 numbers for you, if you would like.

13 DIRECTOR WHITE: Please, for the
14 record. Thank you.

15 JEFF MACKEY: So I have Lid 2339,
16 5001, 1028, 2017, 2204, 1131, 5015, 2113, 1180,
17 3065, 3019, 3008, 2029, 2118, 2010, 2048, 3045, and
18 6012.

19 DIRECTOR WHITE: Thank you.

20 DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAYNE: Any
21 questions or --

22 I think that concludes our meeting.

23 I did want to mention that we have
24 three full-time employees that will be leaving, I

1 believe, prior to the next Board meeting. They've
2 served us extremely well.

3 We have Brennan Wood, who has been
4 here three years, and he works with Jeff in
5 Petitions and Filings. And he is going to the
6 Federal Election Commission.

7 We have Aaron Sellers, our
8 Communications Director, who has been here
9 19 years and is the communications manager. And
10 he's going to Job and Family Services to work with
11 Director Damschroder over there.

12 And then finally, Thu Nguyen is our
13 fiscal manager. She's been here 13 years, and
14 she's going to Adam H.

15 So I don't know, Mr. --

16 DIRECTOR WHITE: Yeah. And three --
17 three outstanding staff members. And we wish them
18 well. We're going to miss them, miss their
19 presence here and all the work that they did for
20 us.

21 But we congratulate them on new
22 career opportunities.

23 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: And I'll seize
24 the prerogative, if I may, since I have the weapon,

1 to say congratulations to all three.

2 But it's not a secret that Aaron and
3 I have been buddies for a long time. He used to
4 work down at my firm. I can't believe he's been
5 here 19 years. It feels like 19 minutes
6 underwater.

7 (Laughter.)

8 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: I learned that
9 language years ago, and I've been waiting to use
10 it.

11 But Aaron is moving distressingly
12 closer to my office downtown. But we'll welcome
13 him back into the downtown circle of -- of public
14 servants.

15 So best wishes and luck to all
16 three of -- all three, who are doing some pretty
17 neat things. And they got great training with the
18 hard work of the best Board of Elections in the
19 state.

20 And you're asking to speak?

21 AARON SELLERS: May I?

22 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: Sure.

23 AARON SELLERS: I'll take --

24 Can I get my time back?

1 So I just -- 19 years. So I just
2 want to thank the Board for allowing me to work
3 19 years.

4 I've -- I've worked 53 elections.
5 I've -- There's been 12 Board members that -- that
6 I've worked under. I think out of those 12, I
7 think four are no longer with us, six directors,
8 and five deputy directors. So when you think about
9 it, that in its totality, that's a long time.

10 So -- so thank you. Thank you very
11 much. I leave --

12 I -- I wasn't looking to leave, but
13 an opportunity arose; and I leave in -- in the best
14 regard of this place. And I -- I have enjoyed my
15 time. Thank you.

16 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: To all three of
17 you.

18 (Applause.)

19 DIRECTOR WHITE: Congratulations.

20 And I would say for Aaron, the TV
21 camera is going to miss him.

22 AARON SELLERS: I don't know about
23 that.

24 CHAIRMAN PREISSE: Now we're

1 adjourned.

2 MEMBER FREEDHOFF: Thank you.

3 - - -

4 Thereupon, the meeting concluded at
5 approximately 1:17 p.m.

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C E R T I F I C A T E

- - -

THE STATE OF OHIO:

SS:

COUNTY OF FRANKLIN:

I, Beth A. Higgins, a Professional Reporter and Notary Public in and for the State of Ohio, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true, correct, and complete written transcript of the proceedings in this matter;

That the foregoing was taken by me stenographically and transcribed by me with computer-aided transcription;

That the foregoing occurred at the aforementioned time and place;

That I am not an attorney for or relative any parties and have no interest whatsoever in the event of this litigation.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and official seal of office at Columbus, Ohio, this 2nd of June, 2026.

/s/Beth A. Higgins
Notary Public, State of Ohio

My Commission Expires: July 16, 2030.

- - -

BOARD MEMBERS: Douglas J. Preisse, Chairman ★ Meredith Freedhoff ★ Michael E. Sexton ★ Jamie Shumaker

Antone White, **DIRECTOR** David R. Payne, **DEPUTY DIRECTOR**

EXHIBIT A (Amended)	
May 5, 2026 Primary Election Provisional Totals Recommended for Board Approval and Rejection	
GRAND TOTAL RECOMMENDED TO ACCEPT	1489
REASONS FOR REJECTION	
Not Registered in the State	126
Wrong Precinct and Location	13
No Signature	12
Failed to Provide Valid Current Address	8
Missing or Mismatched ID	89
Voter Already Voted	5
DOB Missing	4
GRAND TOTAL RECOMMENDED TO REJECT	257
GRAND TOTAL ALL PROVISIONALS CAST	1746

RONAN, SAMUEL	Ballot Name: Samuel Ronan	Party: Unaffiliated
REPRESENTATIVE TO CONGRESS 15TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT Full Term		Write-In: Yes

ANGUS, RAISHEDA	Ballot Name: Raisheda D. Angus	Party: Unaffiliated
STATE SENATOR OHIO SENATE DISTRICT 25 Full Term		Write-In: Yes

KOFFEL, CAMERON	Ballot Name: Cameron Koffel	Party: "nonparty"
STATE REPRESENTATIVE OHIO HOUSE DISTRICT 07 Full Term		Write-In: No

ELDRIDGE, EBONEY	Ballot Name: Eboney C. Eldridge	Party: Unaffiliated
STATE REPRESENTATIVE OHIO HOUSE DISTRICT 05 Full Term		Write-In: Yes

Venne, David	Ballot Name: David Venne	Party: no designation
REPRESENTATIVE TO CONGRESS 15TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT Full Term		
Deficiency: Insufficient Valid Signatures: The candidate submitted 3,221 signatures of which 2,183 were found to be valid. 2,484 Required.		

Ballot Name: _____ **Party:** _____
Deficiency: _____

Precinct Split	Ballot Style	Ballot Allocation
WHITEHALL 1-A 1	1	25
WHITEHALL 1-B 1	2	50
WHITEHALL 2-A 1	3	25
WHITEHALL 2-B 1	4	25
WHITEHALL 2-C 1	5	25
WHITEHALL 3-A 1	6	50
WHITEHALL 3-B 1	7	25
WHITEHALL 3-C 1	8	25
WHITEHALL 4-A 1	9	25
WHITEHALL 4-B 1	10	25
WHITEHALL 4-C 1	11	50

LID	Location Name	Tabletop ExpressVotes	Kiosk ExpressVotes	Total ExpressVotes	DS200 Ballot Counters	EPBs - Touchpads
1012	FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH	4	1	5	1	3
2036	WHITEHALL SENIOR CENTER	6	1	7	1	3
2207	EASTVIEW UNITED METHODIST CHURCH	3	1	4	1	3
3004	WHITEHALL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH	9	1	10	2	4
4029	WHITEHALL YEARLING HIGH SCHOOL	13	2	15	2	6