

BOARD FOR REGISTRATION OF VOTERS

MEET: Time 6:00 1/4/2022

DRAFT

Where: Police Department, 1 North Ave.

Present: Elisabeth Mickenberg, Larry Granillo, Lenore Broughton, Grace Grundhauser, Thea Knight, Annie Schneider, Helen Rock, Michelle Lefkowitz, Jim Rader, Mike McGarghan, Martha Gile

Absent: Charles Cashatt, Kate Baldwin, Youth Member Rebecca Cunningham,

Also Present: Sarah Montgomery, Associate City Clerk

Meeting called to order by Chair Elisabeth Mickenberg

Agenda: The agenda was adopted unanimously as presented.

Meeting Length: The meeting length was set for 1 hour.

Minutes: Lenore Broughton made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Thea Knight. The motion passed unanimously.

Public Comments: None

Approval of Applications: Sarah Montgomery reported:

November - New Registrations 167, Transfer out of Town 116, Purged 9

December - New Registrations 121, Transfer out of Town 94, Purged 23

Michelle Lefkowitz made a motion to accept the numbers as presented, seconded by Helen Rock. The motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Voter Challenges

Board members were asked to approve a list of 3,945 voter challenges that the clerk's office generated based on ballots from the December Special City Election that were returned as undeliverable. This list does not include any voters who have made a change to their voter profile since the ballots were mailed out and it does not include anyone who participated in the Election. Elisabeth Mickenberg noted that there was a voter on the list that should not be included and that she reached out to that voter so she could resolve the issue. She encouraged other members to do the same if they noticed a voter that they did not believe should be challenged. A motion to approve the voter challenges was made by Thea Knight and seconded by Michelle Lefkowitz. The motion pass unanimously.

Discussion: Mike McGarghan asked for more information about how we ensure that our registered voters are not also voting in another state. Sarah Montgomery explained how within our state, our voter database checks for duplication and allows for individuals to only be registered once. If a voter listed a previous address on their voter registration application that is outside of Vermont, that information is

entered into our voter database, and then the Secretary of State's office will notify the other state that we have registered a voter that was previously registered with them. If the voter is still on their checklist, they remove them so there is no duplication. The Burlington clerk's office does the same thing when receiving notifications from other states letting the office know that they have registered a voter that was previously registered in Burlington. A national database, which most states will participate in, will be also available soon to check for voter duplication across the country. Michelle Lefkowitz noted that when a new voter fills out a voter registration application, they are attesting that they meet all the requirements to legally vote in Vermont. Mike McGarghan expressed concerns about who was enforcing laws that prevent our registered voters from voting elsewhere. The Board decided this topic was not on the meeting's agenda and that they would move on to the next topic.

Clerk's Report:

Sarah Montgomery reported participation numbers from the December 7th, Special City Election. A total of 6,917 registered voters participated in the Election. Of the total votes, 6,133 were cast via absentee ballot and 784 were cast in person. Sarah reported that preparations for the Annual City Election on March 1, 2022 have begun and ballots will be prepared and mailed out to all active registered voters no later than February 9th.

Board members discussed what can be done to help educate voters about the upcoming Election, with a specific focus on spreading the word that all registered voters will be mailed a ballot and alerting them about when they can expect to receive it. Board members will follow up with Seven Days, North Avenue News, The League of Women Voters of Vermont, their City Councilors and the Mayor's Office to do this Election outreach.

Application Signing Schedule:

The Board set the following schedule for the Month of January: January 6 – Thea; January 13 – Michelle; January 20 – Grace; January 27 – Martha.

December Election Review

Board members agreed that the Election was slow. Michelle Lefkowitz stated that she had some trouble with the two-factor authentication for VEMS. Other board members ran into some other glitches with VEMS as well. Thea Knight reported that she had a good day training. Lis Mickenberg asked that BRV members try to find an assistant for the March Election since it will be a busier Election. Annie Schneider offered that she knew some students who would be able to help for a couple of hours each.

Helen Rock made a note that the BRV Youth Member, Rebecca Cunningham, was recently named as a Vermont Presidential Scholar through BHS. Congratulations Rebecca!

Review Election Manual

During the December Election, board members reviewed and made notes on the draft election manual. Members will send all suggested changes to the group by 1/15 and Grace Grundhauser will collate the

revisions. Edits can be emailed to the group, or dropped off at City Hall, where Lis Mickenberg will pick them up.

On a motion by Jim Rader, seconded by Grace Grundhauser, the meeting was adjourned at 7:10pm.

Respectfully Submitted By:

Sarah Montgomery, Associate City Clerk