

BOARD FOR REGISTRATION OF VOTERS

MEET: Time 6:00 4/5/2022

DRAFT

Where: Community Room at the Police Department

**Present:** Elisabeth Mickenberg, Grace Grundhauser, Thea Knight, Annie Schneider, Michelle Lefkowitz, Jim Rader, Mike McGarghan, Kate Baldwin.

**Absent:** Charles Cashatt, Martha Gile, Helen Rock, Larry Granillo, Youth Member Rebecca Cunningham,

**Also Present:** Sarah Montgomery, Associate City Clerk; Jeff Comstock, Ward 7 Inspector of Elections

**Meeting called to order by Chair Elisabeth Mickenberg at 6:03pm**

**Agenda:** Lis Mickenberg made a motion to add two items to the agenda: 1.) Upcoming board appointments and 2.) August election prep. Helen Rock made a motion to approve as amended seconded by Kate Baldwin. Approved unanimously.

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

**Minutes:** Thea Knight moved to approve the minutes from the meetings held on 1/4/22 and 2/1/22. The motion was seconded by Annie Schneider. Approved unanimously.

**Public Comments:** Jeff Comstock spoke. He asked about the use of the colored cards that are used on Election Day to transfer information from the election workers checking voters in to the member of the BRV. Lis Mickenberg explained that these cards help the BRV member understand what issue the voter needs to address. Kate Baldwin and Michelle Lefkowitz agreed that the cards are very helpful. One of the issues a voter may be given a card and referred to the BRV for is for an unverified social security number. Mike McGarghan asked how BRV members can verify the social security number without asking the voter to present it to them. Lis Mickenberg explained that we can just ask them to verify it verbally and Michelle Lefkowitz added that we can also have them write it down. Jim Radar asked if there may be a way we can further help voters verify their social security number since some voters have difficulty getting this issue resolved. Mike McGarghan asked who verifies social security numbers at clerk's offices throughout the state.

**Approval of Applications:** Sarah Montgomery reported:

February - New Registrations 664, Transferred out of Town 184, Purged 84

March - New Registrations 358, Transferred out of Town 148, Purged 185

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

**Clerk's Report:**

Sarah Montgomery reported that there were 9,994 votes cast in the recent annual city election. Out of those votes, 7,336 votes were cast via absentee ballot. 6,040 of the absentee ballots were received through the clerk's office and the remaining 1,296 were dropped off to the polling places on Election Day. The remaining 2,658 votes were cast in person on Election Day. Sarah Montgomery gave an update on the voter challenges that were approved at the last meeting. Right after those challenges, in early February, there were 13,099 challenged voters on Burlington's checklist. As of 4/5/22, there are 11,979 challenged voters on the checklist. This number dropped significantly due to people responding to the challenges either by changing/ confirming their address or by removing themselves from the checklist. There will be another large number of challenges coming up, based on the undeliverable ballots from the annual city election. This will result in approximately 1,200 challenges which will be submitted for approval at the next meeting.

### **Application Signing Schedule:**

The Board set the following schedule for the month of April: April 7 – Michelle, April 15 – Thea, April 21 – Grace, April 28 – Kate

### **Discussion of Upcoming Board Appointments**

Lis Mickenberg share that 4 board members' terms will be ending in June – Helen, Jim, Mike, and Thea. She shared that out of the 4 seats that will be open, 3 will go to Republican applicants as long as there is interest, in order to keep political party balance on the board. Mike McGarghan asked is if members need to reapply each term. Lis Mickenberg explained how a Council subcommittee makes the board appointments each year. Annie Schneider noted that the exact process can vary from year to year – often an interview is required and sometimes the process is even more rigorous. Sarah Montgomery and Lis Mickenberg will share more information as soon as applications are being accepted. Mike McGarghan asked about the authority that the board of Civil Authority has delegated to the BRV. Grace Grundhauser explained that the board of Civil Authority delegated their responsibilities related to the checklist to the members of the BRV. Mike McGarghan further asked if the Board of Civil Authority could override decisions made by the BRV.

### **August Election Prep**

Lis Mickenberg wanted to start thinking about the August election since she will not be here at that time. Since there may be new board members by that time, no concrete plans were made, but the board decided to hold a meeting in July so there would be more time for that discussion before the election.

### **March Election Review**

One issue that came up during the March election was how to best communicate when a voter is changing their address from one ward to another on Election Day. What is best practice to communicate with the other ward that they need to delete that voter from the checklist? One way this was being done on March 1<sup>st</sup>, was through a group text with BRV members. Mike McGarghan asked if there was a

contact list for board members and Lis Mickenberg answered that yes there is a listing with members contact info and their ward assignments for the day. This is found in the BRV folders. Mike McGarghan asked if people's personal cell phones become public record if they are using it to conduct official Election Day business. Further, if using a personal email, does that entire email account become public record? Sarah Montgomery will bring this question to the city's attorney office and share the response with the board. The discussion about a voter transferring from one ward to another continued with questions relating to what technology would work best for sharing this information. The board decided there were two questions they were considering about this issue: 1.) From an efficiency standpoint, does it make sense to communicate this change with the other ward? 2.) If yes, what is the best way to communicate this information? Grace Grundhauser made the motion to add the topic "Election day communication between wards" to the agenda for the next meeting. Jim Radar seconded. The motion passed unanimously. Michelle Lefkowitz noted that she noticed a few errors on the interactive ward lookup map on Election Day. Sarah Montgomery will look into this and address it. Mike McGarghan expressed concern over election workers processing ballots before Election Day. He wondered why, since the polling places are slower than they used to be, they cannot be processed at the polling place on Election Day. Jeff Comstock explained how the pre-processing works and that everything is sealed between processing and election day and recorded with chains of custody. Mike McGarghan had further questions about the pre-election processes, which he will take up with the clerk's office.

On a motion by Jim Rader, seconded by Grace Grundhauser, the meeting was adjourned at 7:15pm.

Respectfully Submitted By:

Sarah Montgomery, Associate City Clerk