

BOARD FOR REGISTRATION OF VOTERS

MEET: Time 6:00 10/06/2020

Where: Remote and Virtual via Zoom

Present: Elisabeth Mickenberg, Annie Schneider, Jim Rader, Lenore Broughton, Martha Gile, Ariana Cano, Michelle Lefkowitz, Charles Cashatt, Kate Baldwin, Larry Granillo, Youth Member Rebecca Cunningham

Absent: Helen Rock

Also Present: Amy Bovee, Assistant City Clerk

Meeting called to order by Chair Lis

Agenda: Michelle Lefkowitz made a motion to adopt the agenda as presented, seconded by Kate Baldwin. The motion passed unanimously.

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

Minutes: Jim Rader made a motion to accept the minutes from August 4 and September 10 as presented, seconded by Michelle Lefkowitz. The motion passed unanimously.

Public Comments: N/A

Approval of Applications: Amy Bovee reported September: New Registrations 819, Transfer out of Town 575, Purged 87.

Michelle Lefkowitz mad a motion to accept the numbers as presented, seconded by Ariana Cano. The motion passed unanimously.

Clerk's Report/Prepare for November Election:

Morgan Doherty, Community and Economic Development Office, reported on voter outreach efforts that she was working on. She has developed an FAQ document and has worked to have it translated into each of the 6 languages. She has created a language access webpage to help voters whose primary language is not English. She has also worked to organize voter education events targeted at the New American community. The Board and Amy Bovee thanked her for this work and noted how important it is.

Amy Bovee reported that there is a vacancy on the Board and applications will be accepted through October 14. A new member will be appointed at the October 19 City Council meeting.

Kate Baldwin inquired about the status of conversations with UVM to provide students with information about voting. Amy Bovee reported that she had met with Tanaisha Coleman, UVM's Asst. Director of Civic Engagement, to create a "Voting Dos and Don'ts" document. The document was distributed in

residence halls, at tabling events, and as part of voter education events held for students. The document provided information about voting in Vermont and about general resources for voting information in other states.

Larry Granillo requested an updated on ballot drop boxes around the City. Amy Bovee reported that ballot drop boxes had been installed at City Hall, the Department of Public Works, and at Fire Station #2. These boxes will be emptied daily and will be available for voters 24/7 leading up to Election Day. Larry Granillo suggested that additional signage and advertising would be helpful for voters. Amy Bovee stated that the City is working on these items.

The Board had a discussion about how procedures on Election Day will be different. Amy Bovee noted that since all active, registered voters have already been sent a ballot, most voters coming to vote at the polls will need to sign an affidavit. If a voter brings their ballot with them, or is registering to vote for the first time, they will not need to sign an affidavit. Anyone who does not have their ballot with them, or is changing their address from one Burlington location to another will need to sign an affidavit. Amy Bovee agreed to report back with information on whether an affidavit will be required for voters moving from one Vermont town to another and registering at the polls.

Michelle Lefkowitz requested a report of how many ballots were deemed defective ballots in the August Primary. Amy Bovee reported that 467 of 7,929 ballots were deemed defective. So far for the General Election about 1% of ballots cast so far have been deemed defective. The Board inquired if data was available to explain the reason these ballots were defective. Amy Bovee stated the data is available but that she did not have it on hand. The board agreed to continue these discuss.

Lis Mickenberg reminded Board members to let her know what help they would like at the polls, and to let her know if they knew of folks willing to volunteer. 8 out of 11 current Board Members expressed a willingness to work at the polls, and a new member will be appointed and hopefully can be available to work that day. Board members said it was helpful having an on call Board member who was not assigned to a polling place available to answer question. Lis Mickenberg agreed that they would assign wards at the next meeting, October 20.

On a motion by Jim Rader, seconded by Ariana Cano, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted By:

Amy Bovee, Assistant City Clerk