

**Ohio Association of Election Officials –January 21, 2022** was held virtually. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss redistricting.

The meeting was **called to order** at 9:05 AM by President Sleeth.

Upon **roll call** the following 2022 officers and members were present: President Brian Sleeth, First Vice President Sherry Poland, Past President Lisa Welch, Treasurer Brian Mead, Executive Director Aaron Ockerman, Trustees; , Cheryl Browning Warner, Sarah Greathouse, Julie Leathers-Stahl, Phil Long, Faith Lyon, Lynn Mintchell, Bill Rich, LaVera Scott, Ed Ryder, Ranae Lentz, Michelle Wilcox, Terry Burton and Brandon Wobler.

Aaron summarized legislative discussions regarding redistricting and possible legislation being considered.

Tim Cosgrove, legal counsel for OAEO, provided insight on the pending court cases concerning legislative and congressional maps.

LaVera summarized the discussions that took place at the January 20<sup>th</sup> legislative committee meeting that resulted in the drafting of a letter to the legislature.

Sherry provided a summary of the January 20<sup>th</sup> call between OAEO leadership and the SOS senior staff.

There was a conversation about next steps for OAEO to take to make our concerns and issues about redistricting known to the legislature. It was agreed that a letter should be sent with the following recommendations:

- The Secretary of State should be given discretion to adjust other election deadlines in the same manner as prescribed in SB 258. OAEO will work closely with the Secretary of State to ensure these deadlines are workable for election administrators and the candidates they impact.
- The legislature should appropriate money to local boards of elections to help accomplish several key tasks and staff the boards as necessary. Those include reprecincting, expedited checking of petitions, voter outreach and education, and additional supplies required to meet the new deadlines. After the 2000 census and the 2010 census, the legislature appropriated \$2.75 million for local boards for these tasks, but has yet to do so following the 2020 census.
- The filing deadline for state legislative districts should be moved to March 4<sup>th</sup> to coincide with the Congressional filing deadlines.
- The state should create a statewide educational campaign to inform voters about their new districts to supplement the work local election officials will be doing.
- The state should send absentee ballot requests to all registered voters similar to what they have done for other statewide elections.

There being no new business to come before the Trustees, the meeting was adjourned at 10:11am.

Respectfully submitted.

Aaron Ockerman, Executive Director

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_