

Ohio Association of Election Officials –September 21, 2021 was held virtually. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss amendments to HB 294.

The meeting was **called to order** at 3:04 PM by President Welch.

Upon **roll call** the following 2021 officers and members were present: President Lisa Welch, First Vice President Brian Sleeth, Second Vice President Sherry Poland, Past President Michelle Wilcox, Treasurer Brian Mead, Executive Director Aaron Ockerman, Trustees; Meredith Bodey, Cheryl Browning Warner, Aundrea Carpenter-Colvin, Sarah Greathouse, Julie Leathers-Stahl, Phil Long, Faith Lyon, Lynn Mintchell, Tony Perlatti, Bill Rich, LaVera Scott and Brandon Wobler. Absent were: Secretary Joyce Kale-Pesta, Frank Correll, David Karmol, Ann Reno and Ed Ryder. 19 officers and trustees were present.

President Welch asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the previous trustee's meeting. Discussion was held on some spelling errors and verbiage. Aaron informed them the changes would be made. Phil Long made the motion to accept the minutes as changed, seconded by Brandon Wobler, all members voted "Aye", no dissents.

President Welch asked if there was any old business to come before the trustees. Hearing none, the board moved on to new business.

Terry Burton and LaVera Scott shared their perspective on the HB 294 interested party meeting. Aaron Ockerman reviewed the 10 amendments that were discussed at the IP meeting with Terry and Lavera adding additional insights.

There were questions about what would happen if drop box provisions were removed from the bill with Bill Rich indicating his belief that the status quo would continue.

There was further discussion about the elimination of Monday voting and the reallocation of Monday hours to other days. Tony Perlatti expressed his view that new hours the week before the election should be 7:30AM-7:30PM Monday-Friday, Saturday 8AM-4PM, and Sunday Noon-5:00PM. The trustees agreed that this was a good approach.

There was a discussion about the deadline for absentee ballot requests and a suggestion that the deadline for requests be set at 10 days before the election and allow ballots to be returned until 10 days after the election, but allow ballots postmarked on Election Day to count. It was suggested that setting the request deadline at 7 days, allowing 7 days after the election for ballots to be returned, and allowing ballots postmarked on Election Day to count is preferable. Sherry Poland asked that the deadline for requests be set uniformly at 5:00pm 7 days before the election.

MOTION: Brian Mead moved that the trustees ask that the absentee ballot request be set at 5:00 pm 7 days before the election, that ballots be allowed to be received until 7 days after the election, and that ballots postmarked on Election Day be allowed to count. Sherry Poland seconded. The trustees unanimously voted in favor of the motion.

MOTION: Tony Perlatti moved that the trustees ask that the hours for early in-person voting be set for the week before the election as follows: 7:30am-7:30pm Monday through Friday, 8am-4pm on Saturday, Noon-5pm on Sunday. Brian Mead seconded. The trustees voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

MOTION: Michelle Wilcox moved that the trustees ask that any provisions related to drop boxes be removed from HB 294. Faith Lyon seconded. The trustees voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

LaVera Scott moved to adjourn. Julie Leathers-Stahl seconded.

There being no new business to come before the Trustees, the meeting was adjourned at 4:02pm.

Respectfully submitted.
Aaron Ockerman, Executive Director

Approved: _____