

The special meeting of the Erie County Board of Elections was called to order by Chairman Thomas Ferrell on Friday, December 29th, 2023 at 3:30 p.m.

Roll Call:	(D) Thomas M. Ferrell, Chairman	Present
	(R) Lisa M. Crescimano, Member	Present
	(D) MaryAnn Groot, Member	Present
	(R) Nancy C. McKeen, Member	Present

Guests in attendance: Amy Grubbe

The purpose of the special meeting was to approve the Election Administration Plan, candidate petitions, candidate name changes, and issues for the March 2024 Primary, and to consider a polling location change.

Adrienne James, Deputy Director, stated that she emailed the Election Administration Plan to the board members last week. Ms. Crescimano motioned to adopt the EAP, with Ms. Groot seconding. All board members voted yes; motion carried. The board members, director, and deputy director signed the EAP to submit to the Secretary of State's Office.

Ms. Groot motioned to approve the petitions for the candidates listed on the agenda. Ms. Crescimano seconded the motion, but noted that we received a letter regarding the candidacy of Steven Kraus. Alex Jones, Director, stated that the question today is, "Did Mr. Kraus submit sufficient petitions with enough valid signatures?" It is the staff's opinion that he did. The protest letter is a separate question, which is, "Is Mr. Kraus qualified to hold the office?" After reviewing the Elections Officials Manual and communicating with both the Erie County Prosecutor's Office and the legal team in Columbus, we think we need to schedule a hearing to determine that question. The board then voted on the motion to approve the candidate petitions. All board members voted yes; motion carried. The approved candidate petitions are as follows:

- Alicia W. Roshong, State Representative, 89th District, Democrat
- Steven W. Kraus, State Representative, 89th District, Republican
- Douglas James Swearingen Jr., State Representative, 89th District, Republican
- Nicholas J. Smith, County Recorder, Republican
- Randolph E. Drewyor, County Treasurer, Democrat
- Brian A. Baxter, Coroner, Republican
- Robert C. DeLamatre, Judge of Court of Common Pleas, Juvenile Division, Republican

Ms. Crescimano motioned to accept the candidate name change requests listed on the agenda. Ms. Groot seconded the motion. All board members voted yes; motion carried. The approved name changes are as follows:

- Randolph E. Drewyor to Randy Drewyor
- Douglas James Swearingen Jr. to D.J. Swearingen

Mr. Jones stated that Patina Porch in Sandusky O submitted paperwork for a local option. Their forms were sufficiently completed, and they had enough valid signatures. Ms. Crescimano asked how many signatures were required. Mr. Jones stated that since it is for Sunday sales, they needed 50. Ms. Groot motioned to approve the issue, with Ms. Crescimano seconding. All board members voted yes; motion carried.

Mr. Jones stated that at the last meeting, we discussed the Sandusky City Service Complex polling location. The Sandusky Municipal Court has moved into the Service Complex, so we think it's going to be tight next year. Mr. Jones and Ms. James visited the Health Department last week to view their conference area. There are about 50 to 55 parking spaces in the back lot, which Mr. Palmucci from the Health Department stated would be cleared for poll workers and voters on Election Day. The conference room has enough space for about 35 to 45 voting stations, plus space for workers. There is a kitchen and two bathrooms, and everything is ADA accessible. It is Mr. Jones' recommendation to move Sandusky O and P from the Service Complex to the Health Department, which already hosts Sandusky M.

Ms. Groot asked if we would provide more signs to the Health Department. Mr. Jones stated yes. He also noted that we have many large A-frame signs we can use for parking and voting signs, and for redirecting voters at the old location. Ms. Groot asked if we notify the voters. Mr. Jones stated that we notify them by mail, and we'll place a notice in the newspaper. Ms. Crescimano motioned to approve the polling location change as recommended, with Ms. McKeen seconding. All board members voted yes; motion carried.

Mr. Ferrell asked if there was anything further. Ms. Crescimano asked about the hearing for Mr. Kraus. Mr. Jones stated he would contact Jason Hinnars at the Prosecutor's Office to see when he is available, and then contact the board members about a hearing date. Per the elections calendar from the SOS office, we must certify the candidates to our overlapping counties no later than January 9th.

Ms. Groot asked if Mr. Jones had heard anything further about the people who took signs last Election Day. Mr. Jones stated he had not.

Ms. Grubbe asked if we place notices on the radio about polling location changes. Mr. Jones stated he was not sure if we did in the past, but it's been a priority for us to rethink how we are communicating with the public. We intend on using both the newspaper and the radio to inform people of changes. Ms. Grubbe also asked if the letter protesting Mr. Kraus' candidacy was about signatures. Mr. Ferrell replied that the letter referenced the theft at Catawba. Ms. Grubbe asked for a copy of the letter.

Ms. Crescimano motioned to adjourn, with Ms. Groot seconding. All board members voted yes; motion carried. Board adjourned at 3:40 p.m.

Alexander W. Jones, Director

Attest:

Thomas M. Ferrell, Chairman