

A meeting of the Board of Elections Commissioners of St. Louis County was held at its office located at 725 Northwest Plaza Drive, St. Ann, Missouri, Tuesday, August 13, 2019.

Present at the meeting were:

Sharon Buchanan-McClure	Chair
Trudi McCollum Foushee	Secretary
Matthew Potter	Commissioner
Peggy Barnhart	by telephone
Steve Garrett	Attorney
Rick Stream	Director
Eric Fey	Director
Christian Tolbert	Deputy Director
Julie Leicht	Deputy Director

Chair Buchanan-McClure called the meeting to order and a roll call was taken. A quorum was present.

During the Public Forum portion of the meeting there were eight people who signed up to speak. First, Bill Neukum, a voter from West County, wanted to express his preference for pre-printed ballots to a ballot-on-demand (BOD) or ballot-marking device system. He discussed the studies of cyber security experts who also believe pre-printed ballots are the best option. Nancy Saccone, a voter from Creve Coeur, said she was glad to hear about this meeting and excited to make her comments that the BOD system is the most direct and secure line between voters and their paper records, is the least vulnerable to attacks, and that she has read from a lot of experts who agree. Wylie Williams expressed his support for the BOD system, as no technology is completely safe since people are so technically competent today. John Bubb, a voter of Bonhomme Township, said that there are so many ways to compromise votes, and he would prefer paper evidence for potential recounts which is why he supports the BOD system. Bernice Williams, a voter from University City, said that the only way to keep our Republic great and to trust that votes are counted correctly is with paper ballots. Cynthia Richards, co-director of the nonpartisan statewide group Missouri's Coalition for Transparent and Secure Elections, explained to the Board that their group has been advocating for paper ballots for years in St. Louis County and the Missouri state legislature. With the passage of several of the bills that the group supports, they prefer the BOD system as it complies with the bill language. Cynthia also explained that the BOD system provides a software-free record of the votes, and it does not rely on the voter to review potential software errors – just errors the voter made themselves. Cynthia said that selecting the BOD system would restore voter confidence from the hacking conversations taking place across the country, would require fewer machines to purchase and maintain, and would streamline the voting process. Laura Hausladen, a voter from Bourbon, Missouri and another member from the Missouri Coalition for Transparent and Secure Elections, mentioned that this issue is important to people all around the state, and that what happens in St. Louis County affects statewide elections. Laura also mentioned that the public is asking for the least expensive and most transparent option for the voters. Finally, Phillip Michaels, a voter of University City and member of the Missouri Coalition for Transparent and Secure Elections, said that many of the members of their group have been involved in this issue for a long time.

He asserted that the last time St. Louis County went through the process of purchasing new voting equipment, it was not transparent. Phillip said that while the BOD system is not as secure as pre-printed ballots, he would settle for it as it is a less expensive, more transparent, and faster system than the ballot-marking device.

Chair Buchanan-McClure expressed that the directors and commissioners have taken this decision very seriously, and explained how transparent the process has been thus far. She thanked everyone for their interest in the process, and reiterated that they have not taken this decision lightly. Commissioner Potter made a motion to close the Public Forum and Secretary Foushee seconded the motion. A vote was taken and the Public Forum was closed.

Chair Buchanan-McClure asked if everyone had read the minutes from the July 9 meeting. Commissioner Potter made a motion that the minutes be approved with a formatting modification and Secretary Foushee seconded the motion. A vote was taken and the minutes were approved. Chair Buchanan-McClure then asked if everyone had read the closed minutes. Secretary Foushee made a motion that the closed minutes be approved and Commissioner Potter seconded the motion. A vote was taken and the minutes were approved.

Chair Buchanan-McClure called for the directors' reports. Director Stream announced that we had an election last week for two County Council seats, a Clayton aldermanic seat, and a Westwood proposition. With 92 polling places, we sent 20 employees out in the field to work as technician/deputy teams, while 40 employees stayed in the office to handle the phone calls and other issues. With an 8.5% turnout, it was a seemingly slow day that went very well. Poll workers had trouble getting into one polling place, but were able to set up by 6:00am. The usual amount of poll workers didn't show up in the morning, but we had plenty of standbys to send out. The unofficial results were released to the public by 8:30pm. Finally, Director Stream explained that within the last week, several County offices at Northwest Crossings have been approached by County Executive officials about the possibility of moving out of this location in the future.

Director Fey explained that our office has been busy working on the statutorily required biennial canvass. Voters should have received a new voter ID card in the mail. The post office returns those cards to us for voters who are no longer at the address we have on record for them, notifying us of the changes. This is a very labor-intensive process, although we have automated it in the past few years.

There was nothing to discuss under Old Business.

There was nothing to discuss under New Business.


Under Financial/Budget, Director Stream explained the July reports.

Under Personnel, Director Stream explained the report and announced that we have hired one new employee, one employee has received a raise, and one employee has retired.

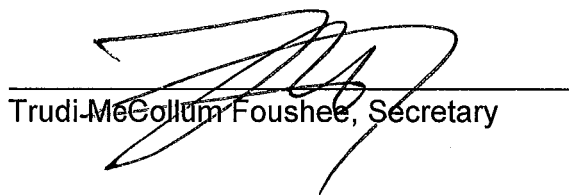
There were no legal matters to discuss in the open meeting.

Secretary Foushee moved that the meeting be closed session pursuant to RSMo 610.021(1),(2) and (3) to discuss litigation, real estate, personnel issues, and contract negotiations and Commissioner Potter seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken and the votes were as follows: Chair Buchanan-McClure, aye; Secretary Foushee, aye; Commissioner Potter, aye; Commissioner Barnhart, aye. The Board then entered into closed session.

The Board then returned to open session, and Commissioner Potter made a motion to adjourn and Secretary Foushee seconded the motion. A roll vote was taken and the votes were as follows: Chair Buchanan-McClure, aye; Secretary Foushee, aye; Commissioner Potter, aye; Commissioner Barnhart, aye. The meeting was then adjourned.



Sharon Buchanan-McClure, Chair



Trudi-McCollum Foushee, Secretary