

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, November 19, 2019.

Present at the meeting were:

Sharon Buchanan-McClure	Chair
Trudi McCollum Foushee	Secretary
Matthew Potter	Commissioner
Peggy Barnhart	Commissioner
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.

No one signed up to speak at the Public Forum. Chair Buchanan-McClure then asked if everyone had read the minutes from the October 22 meeting. Commissioner Potter made a motion that the minutes be approved as amended and Commissioner Barnhart seconded the motion. A vote was taken and the minutes were approved. Chair Buchanan-McClure then asked if everyone had read the closed minutes from the October 22 meeting. Secretary Foushee made a motion that the closed minutes be approved as amended and Commissioner Barnhart seconded the motion. A vote was taken and the closed minutes were approved.

Chair Buchanan-McClure called for the directors' reports. Director Stream announced that the November 5 election was two weeks ago. This election included about 53,000 registered voters in 4 contests. A little over 9,000 voters cast their ballots for a turnout of slightly more than 17%. The 99th State Representative district had a 25.5% turnout, while the 74th State Representative district had a 7.86% turnout. The City of Jennings Proposition E passed by one vote, and a hand recount showed the same results. Director Stream then explained that the building of the election went very well. A four-person team participated in the build and tabulation of votes. The turn-in of election day v-drives and voted ballots went well. While some polling places did not shut down as quickly as others, unofficial results from the 30 polling places were posted by 8:45 pm. The St. Ann Transportation Development District's results were available first. On November 6, the directors met with all of the staff who were in the field on election day for feedback on the new equipment. They discussed their experiences from training to the final turn-in. We received plenty of good information from these meetings and will be making changes in our processes based on what we've learned.

Director Fey announced that we are conducting election certification seminars for all of the city/village/town clerks and school, fire, and special districts today and tomorrow. Our office offers this seminar annually to discuss the candidate filing process for the districts. Candidate filing for the April 7, 2020 election begins on Tuesday, December 17. There are several districts who have existing cooperation agreements with our office, where we take their candidate filings.

These districts include the Cities of Bel-Ridge, Crystal Lake Park, Country Club Hills, Oakland, and Charlack, the Village of Wilbur Park, and Jennings School District. Director Fey then informed the Board that the City of Maplewood is the only charter city in St. Louis County who has a primary process. The certification deadline for the February election is November 26, and it does not appear that they will need a primary. Candidate filing for the Presidential Preference Primary begins November 26 at the Secretary of State's office. Finally, Director Fey announced that we will be sending applications to be placed on the permanently disabled list to 50,000 of the oldest voters in St. Louis County next month. In the past, we have sent applications to voters who have voted curbside after every election. We currently have about 12,000 voters on this list. We are doing this to facilitate voting for the permanently disabled and elderly.

Deputy Director Leicht reiterated Director Stream's comments about the post-election meeting with staff. One of the biggest issues they found was the layout of the equipment within the polling places. In December, we will be making site visits to all polling places to take measurements and note where the electrical outlets are so we can customize the layout and make note of anything we need, such as extension cords and tables. We will begin with schools before their Christmas breaks.

The directors have also met with the Training department and decided to redistribute the workload at the polls and provide more cross-training. We will now have two classes of workers: Verity workers and PollPad workers. There will be a minimum of 8 workers at each polling place, with half being assigned to work with the Verity equipment, and half working with the PollPads. The workers will all make the same amount of money, aside from the "team leaders" who will be tasked with taking the v-drives and voted ballots to their turn-in locations, who will make a little bit extra. Another common issue noted on the comment cards was that the cages had a lot of items in them and that they were a little difficult to pack. We will have them practice in training class how to pack the cages correctly with detailed pictures for future reference. Deputy Director Leicht then mentioned that we will be having an open house on January 7 from 9 am – 4 pm for poll workers, municipal clerks, public officials, the press, etc. to see how the new equipment works with a mock election. We want everyone to become familiar with the equipment before the March election. Finally, Deputy Director Leicht announced that the poll worker recruitment tax flyers have gone out in St. Louis County, and we have already received calls from potential poll workers. Last year, we received about 5,000 responses.

Deputy Director Tolbert announced that the post-election audit went great. We were almost complete the day after the election, but needed to wait to complete until the military deadline on November 8. Our Central Election Management System (CEMS) was able to flag two ballots that were missing, so we went through the comment sheets and saw the two ballots were not scanned, and were placed in the emergency provisional bin. Once we retrieved the missing ballots we were able to scan them in so that they were accurately counted. Deputy Director Tolbert then gave an update on registered voter statistics. At the end of October, we had a total of 729,814 registered voters. Of these, 634,026 were active and 95,788 were inactive. Our biennial canvass affected these numbers. All of the new equipment has been delivered except for the auto ballots. We are testing these last to make room in the warehouse. There have been 12 semi-trucks delivered so far. All staff has helped with the acceptance testing. We were able

to recycle the replaced equipment and all of the waste from the boxes, styrofoam, etc. Finally, Deputy Director Tolbert announced that the November 5 election has been certified.

There was nothing to discuss under Old Business.

There was nothing to discuss under New Business.

Under Financial/Budget, Director Stream explained the October reports. He then gave an update on the budget process, and announced that the directors went to Clayton late last month to present their budget to the County Council. We did receive a cut of \$12,000 to fringe benefits. The County Council has until the end of the year to pass the budget.

Under Personnel, Director Fey announced that two employees have resigned to take positions in private industry with higher salaries.

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

Chair Buchanan-McClure announced that the Board would adjourn after the closed session.

Secretary Foushee moved that the meeting be closed session pursuant to RSMo 610.021(1),(2) and (3) to discuss potential litigation, real estate, personnel issues, a financing contract, and any other employee-related matters 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.



Sharon Buchanan-McClure, Chair



Trudi McCollum Foushee, Secretary