

*Commissioners*

**MARISEL A. HERNANDEZ**, *Chair*  
**WILLIAM J. KRESSE**, *Commissioner/Secretary*  
**JUNE A. BROWN**, *Commissioner*

**CHARLES HOLIDAY, JR.**, *Executive Director*



**Board of Election Commissioners for the City of Chicago**

**Minutes of the**

**Regular Board Meeting**

**September 27, 2022, 10:00 a.m.**

**69 West Washington Street, 8th Floor Conference Room, Chicago, Illinois 60602**

**via WebEx video conference**

**Board Members:**

Marisel A. Hernandez, Chair  
William J. Kresse, Commissioner/Secretary  
June A. Brown, Commissioner

**Staff:**

Charles Holiday, Executive Director  
Sandra Aspera, Assistant Executive Director  
Adam Lasker, General Counsel  
Max Bever, Director of Public Information  
Opal Walls, Purchasing Agent  
Matthew Lin, Manager – Information Technologies  
Karen Chin, Karen Chin, Director - Human Resources  
Lance Gough, Consultant  
Trish Sheehy

**Guests:**

C. Betty Magnus, Operation P.U.S.H.  
Brian Whiteley, ES&S  
Danielle Matzdorf, Arrow  
Helene Gabelnick, League of Women Voters Chicago

- I. Call to Order: 10:00 a.m.
- II. Roll Call: All members of the Board were present via WebEx video conference.
- III. Consideration of Agenda: The agenda was accepted as presented.
- IV. Approval of Minutes:
  - A. Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of August 9, 2022: Commissioner Brown moved to approve the Minutes of the Regular Board meeting of August 9, 2022. Commissioner Kresse seconded the motion. The motion passed by 3:0 vote of the Board.
- V. Executive Director's Report:

Executive Director Charles Holiday reported:

For the November 2022 election, 1,273 precincts have been assigned to almost 1, 000 polling places. Seventeen precincts have yet to be assigned. Mr. Holiday expects to have those precincts assigned shortly.

All the Early Voting sites and secure dropbox locations have been confirmed and the list has been posted on the Board's website. We will be sharing flyers and signage with this information shortly.

We're still looking at new Vote Centers for Election Day. We've located some possible sites in the 21<sup>st</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> wards. We're also looking at an additional Election Day site in the 42<sup>nd</sup> ward. Navy Pier and the United Center are unable to serve as Vote Centers for Election Day. Soldier Field is willing to host a dropbox on November 6<sup>th</sup> because they have a home game that day and will announce that the dropbox is there for City voters to drop off their Vote by Mail ballots.

We started our weekly in-house staff meetings yesterday and are getting things ready for the election.

Commissioner Kresse commended Mr. Holiday on the phenomenal success of locating polling places. Mr. Holiday added that the Polling Place Department is hard at work. They are doing an outstanding job.

The Chair stated that we hope to be able to get more Vote Centers in other areas. She looks forward to hearing more about the Vote Centers as time progresses.

Commissioner Brown asked Mr. Holiday, regarding Soldier Field, if there is anything else that the Board needs to do, because that would be great. Mr. Holiday said that Soldier Field is just waiting to hear from us and then we'll decide if we are going to have a dropbox on each end of the field on November 6<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Holiday said Soldier Field will only have the dropbox(es) on the Sunday before the election and that they cannot accommodate us on Election Day. The Chair inquired as to whether the Bulls would be making similar announcements. Mr. Holiday stated that we'll have drop boxes at the United Center and he believes that the Bulls have a game the day before the election and we could speak with them about having the dropbox there the day before election as well as Election Day and if they would announce it and put it on the Jumbotron, etc. The Wintrust Arena is going to have a dropbox as well as Wrigley Field. The Chair stated that while the dropbox is at these venues, it would be great if each venue would go out of its way and make announcements. Commissioner Brown mentioned that the NBA has a civic engagement action program, and she has a name that she will provide Mr. Holiday.

A. Assistant Executive Director's Report

Assistant Executive Director Sandra Aspera reported:

This past Friday, September 23<sup>rd</sup>, a total of 670 Military and Overseas ballots were sent. This met the 45-day mailing deadline.

The Election Central briefing is scheduled for Sunday, November 6<sup>th</sup>. Ms. Aspera's goal for staffing is 55 people.

The Early Voting location sites and hours for the November 2022 General Election are posted on the State Board of Elections' website.

The Pre-election Logic and Accuracy Testing (pre-LAT) for the supersite is scheduled to start next Monday, October 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Weekly meetings with vendors ES&S and Dominion have started. We will have a joint meeting this week to finalize the schedule for the mock election.

As of today the Vote-by-Mail Department has processed a total of 148,522 applications> The current totals for Judge of Election (JEs) are 4,139 “active/assigned” Judges, this includes 676 high school students; there are 817 “pending/waiting to be assigned” JEs; there are 489 JE applications “submitted – waiting to be reviewed and approved”; the current total for Election Coordinators is 285 “assigned/active”, 1,400 “pending/waiting to be assigned” and 23 applications “submitted -waiting to be reviewed and approved”.

Online training for both Election Coordinators and Judges of Election started last week.

The warehouse is currently recharging the e-pollbooks and continuing to remove equipment and materials from the blue carriers.

Commissioner Brown asked Ms. Aspera how she feels about the current numbers. Ms. Aspera said that Judges Department assigned 3,811 JEs and Election Coordinators within 2 weeks. Ms. Aspera said that she feels very good about reaching the goal of 6,450. Ms. Aspera would like to give thanks to the Judges Department.

Commissioner Kresse asked Ms. Aspera and General Counsel Adam Lasker about court confirmation of JEs. Mr. Lasker said that we’re halfway through the process of confirmation. We got the Rule to Show Cause Order today. We’ll be publishing that in the newspaper, showing back up in court on October 4<sup>th</sup> for final confirmation of the Judges.

B. Public Information Director’s Report

Director of Public Information Max Bever reported:

As the Executive Director and Assistant Executive Director have mentioned, we have a lot of good news to share over the next few weeks as we are heading into voting season, officially starting October 7<sup>th</sup> here in Chicago with Early Voting starting at the Supersite as well as at our offices on the 6<sup>th</sup> floor here at 69 West Washington. We will have a press release going out this week with dates, times and our new Early Voting flyer. We’ll also have a press conference to open up the Supersite on October 7<sup>th</sup> and again on October 24<sup>th</sup> with the opening of the 50 ward sites.

As the Executive Director mentioned, we have good news when it comes to polling places. As soon as the list is finalized, we will do another press release as well as media availability. We will hit as many media outlets that we can and share with all of our Community Partners because this is important information. It will show that we are not closing hundreds of polling places, and, in fact, will nearly match the numbers of polling places we had for the June Primary Election. We expect that with the now smaller target number of JEs, the polling places will be more fully staffed, with Judges of Election assigned well ahead of Election Day. That is good news and good messaging headed into Election Day.

Regarding voter card mailing, we unfortunately just learned that there was some data errors and some voters did get duplicate cards in the mail. We are following up on some voters who still need to receive their cards. We are following up with our vendor and our teams to get that done ASAP because our next mailing is our household polling place mailer. We expect to have polling places assigned and complete in the next week, and then get a head start on our household polling place mailer. This will give people plenty of time to receive that in the mail and have it up on their refrigerator; they will also get information for Vote-by-Mail and Early Voting. The mailer will show their two closest ward site Early Voting locations along with their precinct polling place.

We are finalizing advertising with media publications as well as working with our Language Access Team for minority language publications. Our main message heading into November

8<sup>th</sup> is “Has Your Polling Place Changed?”. That will be the focus of our digital advertising and the focus of our main messaging.

As Mr. Holiday mentioned, we are excited about the drop boxes with our partners in the sports community.

Community Services and Mr. Bever had a great meeting with the Chicago Bulls and they have very graciously offered to give us tickets as well as autographed items and some other incentives that we can provide JEs, other election workers and poll workers. We will be following up with them. We may need a raffle as there probably will not be enough to offer to all Election Judges But these items from the Bulls is a nice thank you for their service. As it was mentioned, the NBA is going above and beyond ahead of this election season with their outreach. Also, the NBA has not scheduled any games to be played on Election Day. We very much appreciate our partners at the Chicago Bulls.

We are also following up with the Cubs, Blackhawks, White Sox and other major Chicago sports teams to get them election information. They reach out to their fan base and ticket holders with information as well as our calls for poll workers and Election Judges.

As Ms. Aspera mentioned, we are looking good.

Commissioner Kresse confirmed with Mr. Bever that people don't have to wait for that household mailer to come in to find their polling places, we're updating the website as we get the polling place locations. Mr. Bever added that about 99% of the polling places have already been assigned and people can find that at ChicagoElections.gov on the “Your Voter Information” page.

Commissioner Brown thanked Mr. Bever and asked him if he thought that Community Engagement needs anything else. Mr. Bever thanked Commissioner Brown and said that he appreciates her outreach too, including her getting the part-time hire flyers and our Election Judges information out into the community and in the faith community, too. Mr. Bever said that when he last talked with Community Services, we do need to focus on trying to get as much translator help as we can. We need some extra help when it comes to ballot proofing and supporting our Community Services Language Access Team. We're following up with colleges, with the University of Chicago's International House, as well as some other different options for students. We think this might be a good opportunity for students who are bilingual to help us.

VI. Old Business

- A. Infrastructure Projects and Changes in Election Administration: Mr. Holiday reported that we are just preparing for the upcoming election.
- B. Electronic Poll Books: In process of preparing for upcoming election.
- C. Voting Equipment: In process of prepping equipment for November election.
- D. Legislation: Mr. Lasker stated that there is nothing to report on legislation.

VII. New Business

- A. Approval of Lease Agreement with Meeting Tomorrow for Laptop lease, 2022 General Election

Procurement Officer Opal Walls presented this item.

This is a request to approve a sole-source contract agreement with Meeting Tomorrow. They have been our laptop provider for the last several election cycles. We are asking Meeting Tomorrow to provide us with 360 standard laptops along

with 15 spare laptops. The total fees due on this contract is \$63,678.80 and the contract term is September 23, 2022 through November 28, 2022. Ms. Walls stated that we've utilized this company for our last several elections. We have no issues or concerns. They're prompt with their deliveries and pickups and they're very responsive to any request that we have. Matt Lin, IT Department Manager, is the subject matter expert on this.

Commissioner Kresse asked Mr. Lin if he would like to comment. Mr. Lin responded that Meeting Tomorrow is really proactive; whatever we asked they would give it to us right away. Mr. Lin added that he was able to convince Meeting Tomorrow to provide us with 22 spares laptops instead of the customary 15 (or 5%). Mr. Lin said that Meeting Tomorrow is really good.

Commissioner Kresse moved to approve a contract with Meeting Tomorrow for laptop computer rentals and related services for the period of September 23, 2022 through November 28, 2022. with a total cost of \$63,678.80 plus potential additional hourly fees for unscheduled onsite service needs. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Brown. The motion passed by 3:0 vote of the Board.

B. Ratification of new precinct boundaries following decennial redistricting pursuant to 10 ILCS 5/11-3(a)

General Counsel Adam Lasker stated that as the Commissioners are aware, on August 23<sup>rd</sup> the Board went public with its proposed new precinct lines. We have 1,290 precincts under the plan. Maps have been available to the public since August 23<sup>rd</sup>, along with the Public being able to view the new precincts on the Board of Elections' website. Now, as you've heard this morning, it's still a work in progress but there are nearly 1,000 polling places assigned to all but a few precincts, and that effort continues. But, for today we're just requesting formal adoption of the proposed precinct lines. Mr. Holiday, Mr. Gough and others met with the Alderpersons before these precincts went public, to get their feedback on the lines and make some changes based on things that might work best. There were so many different factors that went into the computer algorithm and the team that computer program then goes over everything manually to make sure everything looks good. We've done our best to try to avoid things like crossing railroad tracks and highways, along with trying to keep precincts inside of nursing centers and Elderly Homes whenever possible. Anyway, all of these kinds of factors went into the algorithms for creating these precincts in a way that best serves the community and also complies with the legislation that requires Election Authorities all throughout the State of Illinois to increase the number of registered voters inside precincts. Mr. Lasker wanted to tip his hat to the Board's Redistricting Team. It's a really complicated process. The team clearly knows what it's doing and he thinks we've got a pretty decent precinct map proposed for the Board today.

Commissioner Kresse asked if he was correct in his assessment, that in looking for polling places we're using many of the existing polling places, but we always kept an eye out for finding accessible polling places to make sure that the right to vote is

available to the disabled community. Mr. Lasker stated that the Commissioner was correct. We're not moving into any new locations until they've been approved by the DOJ (U.S. Department of Justice) unless there are exigent circumstances. The DOJ will approve the accessibility of a site before we move in. The work of the Polling Place Department is very much a full-time, year-round job.

Commissioner Kresse wanted to express his gratitude to everyone who's worked on this project. While we have nearly a 38% reduction in the number of precincts, we have a much smaller percentage reduction in polling places. We are aiming to have more accessible polling places, we'll have plenty of equipment and personnel to go around, and the we'll have an impact on the taxpayer, as well. Commissioner Kresse thinks everyone did a great job.

Commissioner Brown moved to ratify the new precinct boundaries following the decennial redistricting pursuant to Illinois Statute. Commissioner Kresse seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous vote of the Board.

VIII. Legal Report

General Counsel Adam Lasker provided the following report:

There are no substantive updates in the pending litigation today.

As mentioned earlier, Mr. Lasker was in court this morning for Judge of Election confirmation and appointment. We got the Rule to Show Cause Order entered today. That will be published in newspapers. On October 4<sup>th</sup> we'll be back in court for final confirmation of the Election Judges.

The Legal Department, thanks to Trish Sheehy and Assistant Executive Director Sandra Aspera, is reaching out to more than 50 attorneys to get the roster set for Election Central for this Election Day, along with recruiting for Nursing Home Election Central and Early Voting Election Central.

We're preparing for the candidate filings for the 2023 elections. Those will be November 21<sup>st</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup>. We are working with Mr. Holiday and others on determining what location might be best. Mr. Lasker reminded the Board that there's been changes to the Board's use of space in the pedway. As such, the basement filing room might not work as normal. We might be moving the candidate filing over to the Supersite at 191 North Clark. It is a large space and could facilitate that well.


Mr. Lasker is proud of the way that the staff has addressed some new changes to the Illinois Attorney General's Address Confidentiality Program. That's a statutory program to help protect victims of domestic abuse and other kinds of violence. Through that program, people who enroll in the program through the Attorney General's Office can then register to vote without their registration address being public record. That required some special programming in the Board's electronic registration database. Mr. Lasker wanted to commend the Registration Department for working with SKU and Mr. Jong Lee and the IT Department on getting that all set up. We've received our first applications through the Attorney General's Office so we now do have a few people in the system under that program. Mr. Lasker is proud to have it up and running so smoothly.

Commissioner Kresse also said that in the past or the most recent election or so, attorneys who trained to be Election Judges were able to get a little bit of Continuing Legal Education (CLE) credit. Will that continue for this election? Mr. Lasker said yes, if we can get it recertified; it was a tremendous amount of work to get it certified and then it was for only three-quarters of an hour credit that. The Commissioner knows that there are other States that give lawyers credit for training and for working the elections as well. The Chair said that she remembers that being discussed at one point, for lawyers working, volunteering to work Election Day and trying to see if we could get them some credit. Mr. Lasker stated legislation or a new Supreme Court Rule might be the more productive route to follow, as this has happened in some other jurisdictions. It could be potentially something good to look for the Presidential Election in 2024. The Chair agrees that we should focus on the 2024 elections. The Chair would love to get more attorneys involved in the electoral process so, let's see how we can do that.

Commissioner Brown asked Mr. Lasker about whether confidentiality of voter roll information, is also available to our attorneys or people working elections, given the current election issues with security. Mr. Lasker said that there has to be a statute to make that address information private in voter registration systems.

- IX. Financial Report: none
- X. Public Comment: none
- XI. Executive Session: none
- XII. Adjournment: Commissioner Kresse moved to adjourn. Commissioner Brown seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous vote of the Board. The meeting was adjourned at 10:35 a.m.

Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "William J. Kresse". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish at the end.

Commissioner William J. Kresse  
Secretary