

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 Acting as the Canvassing Board
for the Canvass of the Returns and Proclamation of Results
of the**

FEBRUARY 28, 2023

**MUNICIPAL AND ALDERPERSON ELECTIONS
HELD IN THE CITY OF CHICAGO**

Minutes of the Meeting held

Tuesday, February 28, 2023

7:00 p.m.

Suite 800

69 West Washington Street

Chicago, Illinois 60602

Board Members:

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

Staff:

Charles Holiday, Executive Director
Adam Lasker, General Counsel
Lance Gough, Consultant
Trish Sheehy

Guests:

[none.]

- I. **Call to order by the Chair pursuant to Sections 7-56 and 22-8 of the Election Code (10 ILCS 5/7-56 and 5/22-8):** At 7:03 p.m. the Chair called to order the Board of Election Commissioners for the canvass of the returns of the February 28, 2023 Municipal and Alderperson Elections held in the City of Chicago.
- II. **Roll Call:** All members were present.
- III. **Consideration and adoption of rules that are to govern the canvass of returns of the February 28, 2023 Municipal and Alderperson Elections in the City of Chicago:** Commissioner Kresse moved to adopt the Rules. Commissioner Brown seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous vote of the Board.
- IV. **Consideration and adoption of special rules governing the canvass of returns for vote-by-mail ballots cast in the 5th Ward of the City of Chicago:** Commissioner Brown moved to adopt the special rules governing the canvass of returns for Vote-by-Mail ballots cast in the 5th Ward of the City of Chicago. Commissioner Kresse seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous vote of the Board.

- V. Consideration and adoption of special rules governing the canvass of returns for ballots cast in the 28th Ward of the City of Chicago:** Commissioner Kresse moved to adopt special rules governing the canvass of returns for ballots cast in the 28th Ward of the City of Chicago. Commissioner Brown seconded the motion. The motion passed by 3:0 vote of the Board.
- VI. Public Comment:** There were no requests for public comment.
- VII. Recess:** A motion to recess until the call of the Chair, was made by Commissioner Brown. Commissioner Kresse seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous vote of the Board. The meeting was recessed at 7:04 p.m.
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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
Lance Gough, Consultant
Trish Sheehy

Guests:

Lora Chamberlain, Illinois Ballot Integrity.org
Christopher M Laurent
Clare J. Tobin, Illinois Ballot Integrity

- VIII. Call to order:** Chair Marisel A. Hernandez reconvened the Canvassing Board meeting on March 15, 2023 at 2:04 p.m. by calling to order the Board of Election Commissioners for the Canvass of the Returns and Proclamation of the Results of the February 28, 2023 Municipal and Alderperson Elections held in the City of Chicago
- IX. Roll Call:** All members were present.
- X. Consideration of "Tabulated Statement of the Returns and Proclamation of the Results of the Canvass of the Election Returns for the February 28, 2023 Municipal General Election Held in the City of Chicago."**
- A. Action pursuant to 65 ILCS 5/3.1-10-20 and 10 ILCS 5/22-12 to break a tie vote for the third-place winning candidate for the office of Chicago Police District Council**

member in the 15th Police District, where candidates Darius Newsome and Carmelita P. Earls each received 2,244 votes. The Chair stated that this item is no longer applicable and moved on to item B.

- B. Motion to Approve, Adopt and Proclaim:** Commissioner Kresse moved to approve, adopt and proclaim the results of the canvass of the election returns.
- C. Second of Motion to Approve, Adopt and Proclaim:** Commissioner Brown seconded Commissioner Kresse's motion to approve, adopt and proclaim the results of the canvass of the election returns.
- D. Discussion:** [none.]
- E. Vote on Motion to Approve, Adopt and Proclaim:** The motion passed by unanimous vote of the Board and the results were approved, adopted and proclaimed.

XI. Further discussion, if any: There was no further discussion on the matter by the Commissioners.

XII. Public Comment:

A. Clare J. Tobin of Illinois Ballot Integrity:

Ms. Tobin thanked everybody for all their hard work.

Ms. Tobin wanted to convey to the Board her experience as a poll watcher at the Broadway Armory in the 48th Ward. Ms. Tobin felt that her movement at the Polling Place were so restricted that she could not carry out her function as a poll watcher. The Chair asked Ms. Tobin if she has called Election Central and report this?" Colloquy ensued between the Chair and Ms. Tobin as to this. Ms. Lora Chamberlain interrupted and joined in the conversation. The Chair concluded by noting that calling Election Central would be helpful.

Ms. Tobin also asked about Vote-by-Mail (VBM) ballots, and various statistics, such as the number VBM ballots mailed, delivered, returned, etc. Ms. Tobin said that she had submitted a FOIA request with Ms. Agnew and that Ms. Agnew said that she would respond to Ms. Tobin shortly. Discussion with Ms. Tobin, the Chair, and General Counsel Lasker took place.

The Chair again asked Ms. Tobin to remember that if there are any issues, please report them to Election Central.

B. Lora Chamberlain of Illinois Ballot Integrity:

Ms. Chamberlain spoke about reporting matters to the Board. Colloquy ensued between Ms. Chamberlain and the Chair regarding the proper procedures for notifying the Board via Election Central and the occurrences at the Broadway Armory.

Ms. Chamberlain thanked the Board for adopted new ballot marking pens.

The Chair said that the Board doesn't have a response to the matters raised by Ms. Tobin and Ms. Chamberlain at this time, but thanked Ms. Chamberlain for her comments.

C. Adam Lasker, General Counsel to the Board:

Mr. Lasker wanted to point out that there's actually some historic highlights this election:

This is the first election with Police District Council offices, and with three elected positions for each of the 22 police districts, this added 66 new elected offices to the ballot for a total of 119 offices, up from just 53.

Mr. Lasker had asked among election scholars and attorneys, and to their knowledge this is the first time in the history of the State of Illinois that a candidate's name appeared on the ballot with non-Latin alphabet. Specifically, there was a candidate in the 11th Ward whose name had been printed on the ballot in his Chinese character. Mr. Lasker found that to be an interesting piece of history

Also, there was notably a lot of write-in candidates this election. Nonetheless, we just provided, what may be the earliest recording of write-in results in history. We just declared three write-in candidates as winners: in the 5th Police District, in the 6th Police District and in the 14th Police District.

Mr. Lasker added that the April Run-off elections will be our 4th election in a 9-month period. So, Mr. Lasker wanted to tip his hat to all the staff members starting with Mr. Holiday and Ms. Aspera, but everybody else at the Board who have been working so hard for this agency during this 9-month period. It has been an honor and a privilege to watch everyone work so hard.

The Chair thanked Mr. Lasker and the leaders in this Board, Mr. Holiday, Ms. Aspera along with the Board's executive team, managers, and its employees. They have done a fantastic job. We have been in one election after another. It has been very challenging. When new issues have come up we have had to improve our procedures and processes. The Chair thinks that we have had a very successful election and has no doubt that this upcoming election will be just as successful. The Chair thanked everyone for all their hard work and said now on to April 4th.

Commissioner Kresse asked when Early Voting starts. Executive Director Charles Holiday said that Early Voting opens Monday, March 20th. The Chair added that Communications Director Max Bever will send out the notices.

XIII. Adjourn: Commissioner Brown moved to adjourn this meeting. Commissioner Kresse seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous vote of the Board. The meeting was adjourned at 2:20 p.m.

Submitted,



Commissioner William J. Kresse
Secretary