

Eddie L. Edwards III
Chairman

Jimmy E. Hull
Secretary

Nicki T. Artis
Member

County of Wayne Board of Elections

Bridgette C. Cowan
Member

Charles Wright
Member

Anne C. Risku
Director

Wayne County Board of Elections Board Meeting May 27, 2022

Eddie L. Edwards, III, Chairman
Nicki T. Artis, Member
Charles Wright, Member
Anne C. Risku, Director

Jimmy E. Hull, Secretary
Bridgette C. Cowan, Member
Andrew Neal, Staff Attorney

The meeting was called to order at 11:00 a.m. by Mr. Edwards.

I. Approval of May 27, 2022 meeting agenda

- Mr. Artis made a motion to approve the May 27, 2022 meeting agenda. Ms. Cowan seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

II. Absentee Ballot Challenges

- Michael Ray Godwin: Ms. Risku presented the Board with the voter challenge information and documentation. Mr. Godwin completed a Same Day Registration during One Stop Early Voting but is an active felon. Mr. Edwards asked if anyone was present to speak at Mr. Godwin's hearing. No one presented. Mr. Hull made a motion to sustain the voter challenge to Mr. Godwin. Ms. Cowan seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.
- Matthew Pate: Ms. Risku presented the Board with the voter challenge information and documentation. Mr. Pate submitted an Absentee by Mail ballot on May 16th and voted in person on May 17th. Mr. Pate indicated to staff that he and his wife were confused and did not intend to vote twice and would not be present at the hearing. Mr. Edwards asked if anyone was present to speak at Mr. Pate's hearing. No one presented. Mr. Wright made a motion to sustain the voter challenge to Mr. Pate. Mr. Hull seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.
- Hilda Pate: Ms. Risku presented the Board with the voter challenge documentation. Mrs. Pate submitted an Absentee by Mail ballot on May 16th and voted in person on May 17th. Mr. Pate indicated to staff that he and his wife were confused and did not intend to vote twice and would not be present at the hearing. Mr. Edwards asked if anyone was present to speak at Mrs. Pate's hearing. No one presented. Mr. Hull made a motion to sustain the voter challenge to Mrs. Pate. Mr. Wright seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.

III. Signing of the *Final Pollbook of Absentee Voters*

- The Board signed the *Final Pollbook of Absentee Voters*

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- IV. Canvass of May 17, 2022 Primary and Delayed Town of Mount Olive Municipal Election
- Ms. Risku presented the Board with the final canvass documents for their review. Ms. Cowan made a motion to canvass the election. Mr. Hull seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.
 - Ms. Risku updated the Board on the final procedural matters of the election. No Wayne County contests are eligible for a runoff and there is only one close contest – Mayor of Mt. Olive – however it is outside the recount margin. Recount request and protest deadlines are next week. Certifications will be sent following canvass.
- V. Public Comment
- Linda Harper stated that she thought Precinct Officials needed more training.
- VI. Board Comments
- Mr. Artis thanked Ms. Risku and her staff for their hard work. He noted that he did not realize how much work went into conducting elections.
 - Mr. Hull and Ms. Cowan both thanked the staff and concurred with Mr. Artis' comments.
 - Mr. Wright thanked the staff as well and stated that he would like the Board to entertain raising the pay for Precinct Officials and temporary staff going forward. Ms. Risku stated that increased pay might become a necessity to keep seasoned officials as the job has become increasingly difficult.
 - Mr. Edwards recognized the professional way staff conducted themselves during the election. He noted that Ms. Risku and staff are on the frontlines representing the Board and face a lot of scrutiny. Much of the scrutiny is from people who don't have any idea how elections are run. Mr. Edwards stated it often seems like citizens take for granted the people that work hard to make elections work and should remember that elections are run by our friends and neighbors. Mr. Edwards asked that Ms. Risku pass on the Board's thanks to staff and precinct officials. He agreed with Mr. Wright that the Board should look at the pay rates for precinct officials.
 - Mr. Artis thanked Mr. Neal for his attendance and help throughout the election cycle.
- VII. Adjournment
- With all business having been conducted, Ms. Cowan made a motion to adjourn and Mr. Hull seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous and the meeting adjourned at 11:33 a.m.


Jimmy E. Hull, Secretary