

Eddie L. Edwards III

Chairman

Jimmy E. Hull

Secretary

Nicki T. Artis

Member

Bridgette C. Cowan

Member

Charles Wright

Member

Anne C. Risku

Director

County of Wayne

Board of Elections

Wayne County Board of Elections Board Meeting November 1, 2022

Eddie L. Edwards, III, Chairman

Nicki T. Artis, Member

Charles Wright, Member

Anne Risku, Director

Jimmy E. Hull, Secretary

Bridgette C. Cowan, Member

Andrew Neal, Staff Attorney

The meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m. by Mr. Edwards.

I. Approval of November 1, 2022 Meeting Agenda

- Ms. Cowan made a motion to approve the November 1, 2022 meeting agenda. Mr. Wright seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.

II. Approval of October 18, 2022 and October 25, 2022 Meeting Minutes

- Ms. Cowan made a motion to approve the October 18, 2022 and October 25, 2022 meeting minutes. Mr. Hull seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.

III. Director's Update: Ms. Risku updated the Board on the following items.

- Early Voting: As of 3 p.m. turnout was at about 19.4%. The minor Observer issues appear to be caused by miscommunication between the Observers and whomever is responsible for making the lists.
- Absentee Voting: The absentee ballot request deadline was at 5pm today so voters will now need to vote at Early Voting or Election Day.
- Mr. Wright made a motion to send a letter from the Chairman of the Wayne County Board of Elections to the Chairman of the Wayne County Republican Party in regards to Observer conduct and reminding them of the rules based on the issues Precinct Officials have had. Mr. Hull asked that Mr. Wright amend his motion to also send the letter to the Chairman of the Wayne County Democratic Party. Mr. Wright stated all of the Observer complaints have been regarding Republicans. Mr. Hull responded that it was easy to send the letter to both and felt such things should always be addressed with both parties. Ms. Cowan stated while she understood and agreed with Mr. Wright's point, she also agreed with Mr. Hull that, in fairness, the Board should send information to both. Mr. Artis voiced support for Mr. Hull's position, stating that there could be issues with either party in the future. Mr. Edwards stated that he felt the statement was

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warranted but in the spirit of bipartisanship supported sending the letter to both party Chairmen.

Mr. Wright declined to amend his motion. Ms. Cowan seconded the motion. The motion failed 1-4. Mr. Wright voted in favor of the motion. Mr. Edwards, Mr. Hull, Ms. Cowan, and Mr. Artis voted against the motion.

Mr. Hull made a motion to send a letter regarding Observer conduct to both Party Chairmen. Mr. Artis seconded the motion. The motion passed 4-1. Mr. Edwards, Mr. Hull, Ms. Cowan, and Mr. Artis voted in favor of the motion. Mr. Wright voted against the motion.

- Ms. Risku informed that the State Board's Chief Information Officer had notified all County Directors that there is a standing request for all incident reports and that they have recently been released. Several news organizations have reached out for interviews in response. Mr. Wright asked how much research reporters typically do on such incidents and do they contact those involved. Ms. Risku stated that the form is public record except for any protected information so reporters might contact those involved. Mr. Wright asked if other counties received similar attention. Ms. Risku stated, yes, but much of the past interview requests stemmed from a survey she completed after the primary election that was later made public by the State Board.

IV. Absentee by Mail Ballot Applications

- Approval
 - Ms. Risku presented the Board with (221) Civilian, (3) Overseas, and (11) Military properly executed Absentee ballots.
 - Ms. Risku presented the Board with (11) Civilian improperly executed Absentee ballots.
 - Mr. Hull made a motion to approve (235) properly executed Absentee ballots and to disapprove (11) improperly executed Absentee ballots. Mr. Artis seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.
- Processing
 - Ms. Risku and Mr. Sullivan scanned the ballots into the DS200.
 - The ballots were boxed and sealed by the Board.

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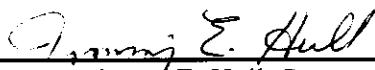
Charles Wright
Member

Anne C. Risku
Director

- Reconciliation: The Board reviewed and signed the *Executed Absentee Ballot List, Cover Sheet List of Envelopes Acted Upon and Approved or Disapproved in Lieu of Signing Individual Envelopes*, and the *Absentee Processing Log*.

V. Adjournment:

- With all business having been conducted, Mr. Hull made a motion to adjourn and Mr. Wright seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous and the meeting adjourned at 6:49 p.m.



Jimmy E. Hull, Secretary