

*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**  
**May 24, 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 [absent]  
Opal Walls, Procurement Officer/Purchasing Agent  
Karen Chin, Director - Human Resources  
Kimberly Carillo-Walker, Director Finance  
Lance Gough, Consultant  
Al Chase  
Trish Sheehy

**Guests:**

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

I. **Call to Order:** Chair Hernandez called the meeting to order at 10:02 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 May 10, 2022:**

Commissioner Brown moved to approve the Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of May 10, 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:

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The Board's Early Voting Supersite at 191 North Clark will open on Thursday at 9:00 a.m. We had a one-week delay because of the Chicago City Council's remap vote, we had to remove the referendum from the ballot.

Mr. Holiday participated in several staff meetings including meetings on the printing of forms and envelopes, Vote-by-Mail planning, cartage, and delivery of tables and chairs. There were also meetings with the United States Postal Service (USPS) and with Hensley about ballot delivery, along with meetings with our staff and equipment vendor Dominion.

Mr. Holiday joined the Board's Chinese-Language Outreach Coordinator Jane Lau at the Coalition for a Better Chinese American Community (CBCAC) anniversary celebration. We did some networking and continued our great relationship with the CBCAC. Ms. Lau also recruited some Judges of Election.

Along with General Counsel Adam Lasker, Communications Director Max Bever, and Community Services Manager Audra Lewicki, we had a video conference with members of the following community groups: Asian-Americans Advancing Justice; The Alliance of Filipinos for Immigrant Rights and Empowerment (AFIRE); Chicago Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights, HANA Center, Indo-Americans Center, South-Asian American Policy and Research Institute. We discussed language access for Chicago voters, especially leading up to the June 28<sup>th</sup> Primary, along with keeping open our lines of communication and continuing our good relationships.

The rehab work at 1819 West Pershing (the warehouse) has stopped. A date to resume work has not been established.

We had previously talked about a site to replace the United Center as an Election Day "supersite." We have identified a site at 240 North Ashland. This site is available for Election Day and is "move-in ready". All we would have to do is set the machines up and plug them in. This site is available and is not that far from the United Center. This site has a large parking lot, is disability accessible, and could hold up to 100 touchscreen machines. Discussion ensued between Mr. Holiday and the Commissioners. Mr. Holiday gave credit to the Board's Facility Coordinator Dean Ftikas for finding this location.

**A. Assistant Executive Director's Report**

Assistant Executive Director Sandra Aspera reported:

Election Central training will be on Sunday, June 26<sup>th</sup>. Ms. Aspera's goal for staffing is 55 people.

The Pre-Election Logic and Accuracy Testing (Pre-LAT) for the Supersite will start today. Ms. Aspera will participate in that testing, following this meeting.

The total processed Vote-by-Mail applications is 86,995.

The cumulative total of Military and Overseas ballots that were sent is 296.

There will be a total of 91 nursing homes participating in this Primary Election.

A total of 7,443 Election Judges are assigned of which 556 are high school students. As previously mentioned, Friday, May 20<sup>th</sup> was the deadline for parental consent.

The Election Coordinator totals are 1,401 pending and 303 currently assigned.

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The mock election will now take place over two days. ES&S will hold its mock election on Friday, May 27<sup>th</sup> and Dominion will hold its mock election on June 1<sup>st</sup>.

The Purchasing Department has ordered additional PPE (Personal Protective Equipment) supplies (masks and hand sanitizer) in light of the fact that the COVID virus numbers are going from “low” to “medium” and continue to rise.

Ms. Aspera will be at the warehouse this Friday, May 27<sup>th</sup>

**B. Public Information Director’s Report**

Director of Public Information Max Bever reported:

We are keeping busy with communications over the next five weeks.

The second canvass notice following up with the voters whose first canvass notice were returned to us went out at the end of last week; it was to approximately 140,000 voters. We have the Polling Place mailer going out to approximately 1.1 million households by June 9<sup>th</sup>, informing people of their polling place information.

Mr. Bever also has a series of press releases planned to go out every week up until the election. The upcoming press releases over the next two weeks cover another call for election judges; the opening of the Supersite; information on media availability of Mr. Bever and others; and the opening of Ward Early Voting on June 13<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Bever is also hoping to get a couple stories about our new “I Voted” stickers as well.

We have a lot of digital ads that just started in *La Raza*, *Chicago Reader*, along with other ones set to start in the *Sun-Times* - both in Spanish and English - reminding people about Early Voting start days, all of the Early Voting sites, and also to “click for more information”.

Mr. Bever will be following up with staff, on all of the remaining legal notices as well as all of our minority language publications; these will be going out in the next two weeks as well, before the deadline for the election.

Commissioner Brown asked about other newspapers, such as the *Defender* and the *Crusader*. Mr. Bever stated that he is following up with those. Mr. Bever also offered to send the Commissioner a list of the very wide breadth of publications we are using, including many community publications and publications in Chinese, Hindi, Polish and Spanish. The Chair added that if either of the other Commissioners have suggestions for additional newspapers to please let Mr. Bever know.

Mr. Bever noted that Ms. C. Betty Magness of the PUSH Coalition and Ms. Helene Gabelnick of the League of Women Voters of Chicago were attending this meeting and stated that he appreciates the opportunity to speak at their meeting on Saturday, too. He also thanked Ms. Magness for her lovely introduction. Mr. Bever also stated that he looks forward to continuing to work with them.

The Chair asked Ms. Aspera about the number of Election Judges, specifically, how many do we have and how many more do we need? Ms. Aspera provided that 7,443 Judges were assigned with a goal of 10,000, so we need around 2,600.

Commissioner Kresse asked Ms. Aspera about the number of Vote-by-Mail applications that we received to date, and how tracks with the 2020 election. Ms.

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Aspera stated that we are way down, maybe only 20-some percent. Both Commissioner Kresse and the Chair said that that was their perceptions, too. Discussions ensued.

**VI. Old Business**

- A. Infrastructure Projects and Changes in Election Administration:** Already reported earlier in this meeting.
- B. Electronic Poll Books:** Was reported on during the Assistant Executive Director's report.
- C. Voting Equipment:** Ms. Aspera mentioned that we're performing Pre-LAT at the Supersite today. Then starting tomorrow, at the warehouse, they're going to do the pre-LAT on the equipment for the other Early Voting locations.
- D. Legislation:** General Counsel Adam Lasker reported that the Illinois General Assembly is not in session and does not have their schedule posted, so he has nothing to report at this time on legislation.

**VII. New Business**

**A. Approval of an Attorney Contractor Agreement with Joan T. Agnew, Attorney at Law**

The Chair presented this item by stating that she knows for a fact that Attorney Joan T. Agnew has been at the Board far longer than the Chair, and this is the Chair's 16<sup>th</sup> year.

The Chair noted that Ms. Agnew has a wealth of information, and she has always provided the Board with great advice. The Chair really appreciates all the counsel Ms. Agnew has provided the Board on a variety of issues.

Ms. Agnew's contract expires at the end of this month.

Commissioner Kresse stated that as a Commissioner and before that as a Hearing Officer and as an attorney at Election Central, Ms. Agnew has always provided exceptional counsel and he gladly makes the motion to approve a contract with Joan Agnew as Board Counsel for the period June 1, 2022 through May 31, 2023 at the rate of \$265.00 per hour. Commissioner Brown stated that she has often sought Ms. Agnew's counsel and heartily seconds the motion for this contract. The motion passed by 3:0 vote of the Board.

**VIII. Legal Report**

General Counsel Adam Lasker provided the following Legal Report:

We are continuing to track some Electoral Board cases. Mr. Lasker thinks that there are 2 or 3 more for which there are not decisions yet.

There was a hearing yesterday in the 1<sup>st</sup> Congressional case, but Mr. Lasker has not heard a result from the Illinois State Board of Elections (ISBE) yet.

As Mr. Lasker notified the Board yesterday, the Circuit Court reversed the decision of the Cook County Officers Electoral Board in the County Sheriff race regarding candidate Carmen Navarro Gercone; so, her name has been placed back onto the ballot. So we will be moving forward accordingly.

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We attended some meetings with our paper ballot printers last week, and they had told us that this Thursday, May 26<sup>th</sup> is essentially the cut-off for us to finalize ballots and get it to them. So, if any changes are made to cases with candidates either coming back on or being taken off after that point it's questionable whether it would be too late to make the change, or even whether there's enough paper to reprint ballots if a whole second press run has to happen. As we all recall there is a national paper shortage. We do have adequate paper supply for the June Primary, but not necessarily 200% of what we need. We will continue to monitor. It might get to the point where, if anybody has to be removed from the ballot, rather than reprinting we might need to "notice them off" and suppress that candidate's votes, i.e., not count those votes. In the county-wide sheriff's case the *status quo* is that the candidate's name is on the ballot so we'll just continue moving forward that way.

IX. **Financial Report:** none.

X. **Public Comment:** none.

XI. **Executive Session:**

Mr. Lasker stated that we do have need for Executive Session. Pursuant to Section 2c-11 of the Open Meetings Act to discuss probable and imminent litigation.

Commissioner Brown moved to go into Executive Session under Section 2C-11 of the Open Meetings Act to discuss probable or imminent litigation. Commissioner Kresse seconded the motion. The Motion passed by unanimous vote.

The Chair let the public know that the Board conducted all of its business for today's meeting except for this Executive Session. She doesn't know pursuant to the Executive Session if we would have any motions relating to this issue of litigation, but if it does the Board will take that up in Open Session and then adjourn. The Chair further noted that the Board is going to move into Executive Session, and that anyone who wishes to stay on this particular web conference window can stay on until the Board returns when it is done with Executive Session.

Before the Board members went into Executive Session, attendee Ms. Betty Magness asked the Chair if she could speak. The Chair agreed and Ms. Magness stated that the Board's Director of Public Information Max Bever did an excellent presentation at the League of Women Voters; that he was absolutely awesome. The Chair thanked Ms. Magness and said that it's always nice to hear such compliments. The Chair also thanked Mr. Bever.

The Board entered into Executive Session at 10:26 a.m.

The Board returned to Open Session, from Executive Session, at 10:55 a.m.

The Chair stated that there was no action taken by the Commissioners in Executive Session. She polled the other Board members, the Executive Director and General Counsel as to whether there was any further business before the Board. All indicated that there was no further business.

**XII. Adjournment:**

Commissioner Kresse moved to adjourn to the next regularly scheduled Board meeting. Commissioner Brown seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous vote of the Board. The meeting was adjourned at 10:57 a.m.

Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "William J. Kresse". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Commissioner William J. Kresse  
Secretary