

STATE BOARD OF ELECTIONS  
Regular Meeting  
Monday, July 1, 2013

MINUTES

PRESENT: Jesse R. Smart, Chairman  
Charles W. Scholz, Vice Chairman  
Harold D. Byers, Member  
Betty J. Coffrin, Member  
Ernest L. Gowen, Member  
William M. McGuffage, Member  
Bryan A. Schneider, Member  
Casandra B. Watson, Member

ALSO PRESENT: Rupert Borgsmiller, Executive Director  
James Tenuto, Assistant Executive Director  
Steve Sandvoss, General Counsel  
Amy Calvin, Administrative Assistant II

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Chairman McGuffage opened the meeting by leading everyone in the pledge of allegiance at 10:40 a.m.

The Chairman noted that the swearing in of newly appointed and reappointed Members was the first order of business and introduced the Honorable Leslie Graves, Circuit Court Judge, to conduct the ceremony. Newly appointed Member Casandra B. Watson recited the oath along with reappointed Members Betty J. Coffrin, Ernest L. Gowen and Charles W. Scholz.

A roll call was taken and all Members were present in the Springfield office. The meeting was also connected via videoconference with the Chicago office.

Vice Chairman Smart recognized outgoing Chairman McGuffage and said he was privileged to present a gavel commemorating his term as Chairman. The Vice Chairman thanked him for his outstanding service and noted that he also served as an employee from 1974 to 1983 before his appointment to the Board in 1998. Chairman McGuffage thanked everyone for the opportunity and the Vice Chairman's kind words.

The next order of business was presentation of a resolution to Dianne Felts who recently retired. Chairman McGuffage recited the language from the resolution and noted that Ms. Felts began employment in the Division of Campaign Disclosure and worked her way up to the Director of Voting Systems and Standards. He thanked her for her many years of outstanding service and said she would be missed. The Executive Director also commented that Ms. Felts is considered one of the leading experts in her field throughout the nation and did everything in her power to ensure voting systems in Illinois performed accurately. Ms. Felts thanked everyone for the resolution and said that she is grateful for the opportunities the Agency has given her and also for having such a wonderful staff throughout the years.

The next order of business was the election of new Board officers for the two year term beginning July 1, 2013 to June 30, 2015. Chairman McGuffage nominated Jesse Smart to serve as Chairman and moved that the nominations cease and a unanimous ballot be cast for Mr. Smart. Member Schneider seconded the motion which passed by roll call vote of 8-0. Chairman Smart

nominated Charles Scholz to serve as Vice Chairman and moved that the nominations cease and a unanimous ballot be cast for Mr. Scholz. Member Schneider seconded the motion which passed by roll call vote of 8-0. At this time the Board took a short break to take a group photo.

Member Byers moved to approve the minutes from the June 18 meeting as presented. Member Coffrin seconded the motion which passed by roll call vote of 8-0.

The General Counsel presented the following appeals of campaign disclosure fines where he concurred with the hearing officer recommendation to grant the appeals for Agenda items 7.a.1-2: *SBE v. The Committee to Elect Orland Township Independence Party*, 24380, 13DQ169; and *SBE v. Deb Skillrud for Township Supervisor*, 24779, 13AD050. No one was present on behalf of the respondent committees. Vice Chairman Scholz moved to accept the recommendation of the General Counsel. Member Coffrin seconded the motion which passed by roll call vote of 8-0.

The General Counsel presented Agenda item 7.a.4, *SBE v. Richland County Democrat Women's Organization*, 5682, 13MQ022 and concurred with the hearing officer recommendation to deny the appeal. No one was present on behalf of the respondent committee. The General Counsel noted that communication from the committee was received offering a settlement of 50% and then the committee would dissolve itself. Member Byers moved to accept the recommendation of the General Counsel and the settlement offer of \$287.50. Member Coffrin seconded the motion which passed by roll call vote of 8-0.

The General Counsel presented the following appeals of campaign disclosure fines where he concurred with the hearing officer recommendation to deny the appeals for Agenda items 7.a.3 & 5: *SBE v. Norwood Park Township Democratic Organization*, 566, 13DQ007; and *SBE v. Friends of Weeks*, 21652, 12SQ209. No one was present on behalf of the respondent committees. Vice Chairman Scholz moved to accept the recommendation of the General Counsel. Member Coffrin seconded the motion which passed by roll call vote of 8-0.

A listing of civil penalty payments was presented for informational purposes.

The Executive Director began his report with the legislative update and asked Cris Cray to continue. Ms. Cray indicated there was nothing new to report since the meeting two weeks ago but did note that a legislative session is scheduled for Monday and Tuesday. The two bills of interest are the omnibus bill and the SBE budget bill and staff is hopeful those will be signed by the Governor next week. Ms. Cray discussed the online voter registration legislation and indicated the system is required to be deployed by July 1, 2014 and felt confident that staff would meet that deadline. It was agreed by all that an online voter registration update will be placed on future Board Meeting Agendas.

The Executive Director discussed the recent Campaign Finance Reform Task Force Meeting and said that a report that was due by March 1 has not been drafted because the Task Force has requested additional information and additional time to prepare the report. Furthermore the Task Force asked the SBE about its concerns with the seven day calendar and if the SBE had proposed language to address the issue. The Board indicated that they would like to hear from the staff at the August meeting with proposals to address this problem.

The IVRS update, census data versus registered voters and two year plan of staff activity were presented for informational purposes. The Executive Director noted that the City of East St. Louis is scheduled to conduct their voter purge this month.

The Chairman asked Member Watson to give a brief personal history and she said she graduated from University of Illinois Chicago in 1972 and DePaul University College of Law in 1976. She began employment at the Cook County State's Attorney's office and also served as a hearing officer for the Chicago Board of Election Commissioners. Ms. Watson has primarily been a sole practitioner in the areas of criminal and election law and currently serves as an Administrative Law Judge with Cook County Department of Administrative Hearings. On behalf of the Board, the Chairman welcomed Ms. Watson to her position as a Member of the SBE.

The General Counsel indicated the only item on the executive session Agenda was approval of the minutes and those could be done in open session. Member Byers moved to approve the executive session minutes from the June 18 meeting as presented. Vice Chairman Scholz seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

The Executive Director noted there is a need to conduct a special meeting to consider a voting systems approval. It was agreed by all to schedule the meeting for August 1, 2013 at 3:00 p.m.

With there being no further business before the Board Member Byers moved to adjourn until 3:00 p.m. on Thursday, August 1, 2013 in Chicago and Springfield. Member Coffrin seconded the motion which passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 11:24 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



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Amy Calvin, Administrative Assistant II



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Rupert T. Borgsmiller, Executive Director