

STATE OFFICERS ELECTORAL BOARD
Regular Meeting
Monday, September 19, 2016

MINUTES

PRESENT:	Charles W. Scholz, Chairman Ernest L. Gowen, Vice Chairman William J. Cadigan, Member Andrew K. Carruthers, Member John R. Keith, Member Casandra B. Watson, Member
ABSENT:	Betty J. Coffrin, Member William M. McGuffage, Member
ALSO PRESENT:	Steven S. Sandvoss, Executive Director James Tenuto, Assistant Executive Director Kenneth R. Menzel, General Counsel Amy L. Calvin, Administrative Assistant II

The meeting of the State Officers Electoral Board was called to order via videoconference at 10:30 a.m. six Members present. Chairman Scholz, Vice Chairman Gowen and Members Carruthers and Keith were present in Springfield. Members Cadigan and Watson were present in Chicago. Members Coffrin and McGuffage were absent and Vice Chairman Gowen and Member Watson held their proxies respectively.

Member Carruthers moved to approve the August 26 meeting minutes as presented. Vice Chairman Gowen seconded the motion which passed by roll call vote of 8-0.

The General Counsel presented Agenda item 2.1, *Stocks v. Gill*, 16SOEBGE109 and noted that late last night the candidate filed a motion for recusal of electoral board members due to unacceptable risk of bias. He suggested the board consider this motion first and recommended it be denied. At the last meeting, the General Counsel recommended the candidate's name not be certified to the ballot but that the Board order be stayed under the federal court order. The board returned the matter to the hearing officer to conduct further proceedings on items that would have been moot, but might be relevant if the statutory signature requirement was unenforceable. John Fogarty was present on behalf of the objector and Sam Cahnman was present for the candidate. Mr. Cahnman said the motion was filed as quickly as possible and prior to the start of the meeting. Mr. Fogarty felt the motion should be denied because it was filed after the deadline and it lacked merit. Member Keith moved to deny the motion because it was not timely filed and contains no new information. Vice Chairman Gowen seconded the motion which passed by roll call vote of 8-0.

The General Counsel reviewed the objection and said it alleges a line by line challenge, pagination issues and circulator misconduct. The records examination found 2,755 of the 11,348 signatures submitted to be invalid, leaving the candidate with 8,953 valid signatures, which is 2,161 less than the minimum required. A hearing was conducted and the hearing officer found the pagination errors to be sufficiently minor. He also found that petition sheets circulated by Floyd Brown demonstrate a pattern of fraud and that all of those sheets be stricken. Furthermore, the General Counsel concurred with the hearing officer's supplemental recommendation that the

objection be sustained and the candidate's name not be certified to the general election ballot. Mr. Fogarty agreed and asked that the recommendation of the hearing officer and General Counsel be adopted. Mr. Cahnman said there was no evidence that a pattern of fraud existed and that the person who reviewed the signatures was not a handwriting expert. He asked the board to reject that portion of the supplemental recommendation and accept it on the other matters. Member Watson moved to adopt the supplemental recommendation of the hearing officer and General Counsel. Vice Chairman Gowen seconded the motion which passed by roll call vote of 8-0. Consistent with board past practice, Member Cadigan moved to refer the matter to the appropriate State's Attorneys. Member Carruthers seconded the motion which passed by roll call vote of 8-0.

The General Counsel presented Agenda item 2.2, *Wicklund v. Gill*, 16SOEBGE106 and reviewed the objection. He said that this matter was similar to the previous matter in its substance and suggested it be dismissed. Member Keith moved to consider the matter moot based on the finding in *Stocks v. Gill* and dismiss the objection. Member Carruthers seconded the motion which passed by roll call vote of 8-0.

With there being no further business before the State Officers Electoral Board, Member Carruthers moved to recess until Tuesday, October 18, 2016 in Chicago. Member Keith seconded the motion which passed by roll call vote of 8-0. The meeting recessed at 11:07 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Amy L. Calvin, Administrative Assistant II



Steven S. Sandvoss, Executive Director