



WASHTENAW COUNTY ELECTION COMMISSION

February 27, 2025

MINUTES

A meeting of the Washtenaw County Election Commission was held in-person in the lower-level large conference room at 200 N. Main Street, Ann Arbor, MI 48104.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Latitia Lamelle Sharp, Treasurer
Lawrence Kestenbaum, Clerk/Register
Judge Darlene O'Brien

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

OTHERS PRESENT: Rena Basch, Director of Elections; Bryce Allmacher, (Outgoing) Deputy Clerk/Elections Program Manager; James Allen, (Incoming) Deputy Clerk/Elections Program Manager

CALL TO ORDER

Darlene O'Brien called the meeting to order at 3:31 p.m.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None.

APPROVAL OF THE OCTOBER 17, 2024 MEETING MINUTES

Lawrence Kestenbaum, supported by Latitia Sharp, moved to approve the minutes of the October 17, 2024 meeting.

Vote on the motion:

2 Yeas 0 Nays 0 Absent 1 Abstention. Darlene O'Brien advised she was not at the meeting and would abstain. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF TEMPORARY PRECINCT CONSOLIDATIONS WITHIN JURISDICTIONS THAT ARE CONDUCTING A SPECIAL SCHOOL BOARD ELECTION ON BEHALF OF THE DEXTER COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

Lawrence Kestenbaum, supported by Latitia Sharp, moved to approve the temporary precinct consolidations within jurisdictions that are conducting a special school proposal election on behalf of the Dexter Community Schools.

Mr. Kestenbaum explained the purpose of the precinct consolidations and advised there would have been more consolidations had it not been for the limits of precinct sizes of 5,000 registered voters. Due to some precincts having as few as five eligible

voters, it was advisable to combine some precincts in order to save on costs of administering an election. Ms. Basch clarified that some school districts overlap with municipalities, so some communities have multiple school districts.

Vote on the motion:

3 Yeas 0 Nays 0 Absent. Motion Carried.

APPROVE BALLOTS FOR MAY 6, 2025 SPECIAL ELECTION

The Commission discussed some of the formatting differences between the ballot language on the ballots and on the website. Judge O'Brien observed formatting differences between what was written on the ballot and what was posted to the County's website. Ms. Basch advised that the italicizing can't be done on the ballot programming software.

Additionally, minor grammatical changes were suggested and made. Judge O'Brien observed the last sentence of the fifth paragraph and first sentence in the sixth paragraph were identical, and the former should be deleted. Additionally, she recommended the freestanding sentence "If approved by the voters" should be placed in the following paragraph.

Lawrence Kestenbaum, supported by Latitia Sharp, moved to approve the ballots for May 6, 2025 Special Election.

Vote on the motion:

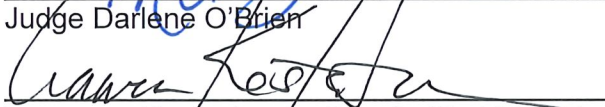
3 Yeas 0 Nays 0 Absent. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

Ms. Basch discussed the County's agreement with the local governments regarding Early Voting and the State Constitution. The concern was that if the locals *may* offer Early Voting for a special election, and if so, the constitution requires them to hold it for nine days. Additionally, the County is in an agreement with them to administer Early Voting. The Clerks and the Dexter Schools agreed to amend the contract to not offer Early Voting for May 2025.

ADJOURNMENT



Judge Darlene O'Brien

Lawrence Kestenbaum, County Clerk/Register

James Allen, Program Manager

Approved: 5/29/2025