

Tippecanoe County Election Board Meeting & Hearing
Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, February 15th at 11:00 AM
Tippecanoe County Office Building-1st Floor

Present: County Board of Elections and Registration: Randall L. Vonderheide, E. Kent Moore, Julie Roush; Deputy Election Commissioners: Ryan Munden & Joe Bumbleburg; Voter Registration Board Staff, Germany Harris, Mike Smith, Jadah Horace, and Juan Ramirez; Democratic Chairman Jacque Chosnek; Commissioner Tracy Brown; County Councilor Lisa Dullum; and members of the public/press.

Meeting Called to Order: At 11:00 AM, Chairman Vonderheide called the meeting to order and invited Jadah Horace to open the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Notice of meeting was posted on Friday, February 10th, 2023 according to Indiana's Open Door Law.

Approval of Minutes: The minutes from the January 12th, 2023 meeting were presented. ***A motion to approve was made by Moore and seconded by Vonderheide. The minutes were approved unanimously and without correction.***

Vonderheide called for a **moment of silence** in recognition of David Heath, who passed away on Monday, for his years of public service to Tippecanoe County and Indiana – Former Lafayette Mayor, former Republican Chairman, former Sheriff, and served the state as Chairman of the Indiana Alcohol and Tobacco Commission.

Hearing concerning candidate filing challenge: The Board took up an objection that was filed by Jacque Chosnek, Tippecanoe County Democratic Chairman, against the candidacy of Derek Reuter for the office of Lafayette City Council at-large. Ms. Chosnek and Mr. Reuter were duly sworn. Testimony was heard. It was found that Derek Reuter was convicted of a felony in Allen County, Cause No. 02D04-0410-FD-730 on 1/27/2005 and therefore is ineligible to be a candidate for this office. ***A motion to uphold the challenge and disallow Mr Reuter's candidacy was made by Vonderheide, seconded by Moore, and carried unanimously.***

Vote Center Amendment: A Vote Center Amendment was proposed (see attached list). ***A motion to approve the amendment was made by Vonderheide and seconded by Moore. The Vote Center Amendment was approved unanimously.***

Resolution under 3-11-10-26.5 to Temporarily Reduce Satellite Voting: Resolution will temporarily reduce early voting from 28 days to 14 days for the 2023 Primary Election. Democratic Chairman Jacque Chosnek had no issues with proposal. ***A motion to adopt the resolution was made by Vonderheide and seconded by Moore. The resolution was approved unanimously.***

Resolution under IC 3-11.5-4-11 to provide for the processing and counting of absentee ballots at 6 AM on election day: Absentee mail-in ballots will be processed at the County Building by the Board. ***A motion to adopt the resolution was made by Vonderheide and seconded by Moore. The resolution was approved unanimously.***

Resolution under IC 3-6-6-39 to Implement Qualified Students as Election Officers: A unanimous vote will allow students to work the polls. 16 & 17-year-old (not registered voters) may be appointed as an absentee voter board member to help with mail and in-person voting. **A motion to adopt the resolution was made by Vonderheide and seconded by Moore. The resolution was approved unanimously.**

Poll Worker Contract: Smith presented the Poll Worker Contract & Oath. There are a few changes from last year. Most notably, commencing with this election, the Democrats and Republicans trade positions (Supervisor/Lead Judge). **A motion to approve the Poll Worker Contract was made by Moore and seconded by Vonderheide. The contract was approved unanimously.**

Smith shared with the Board that the Indiana Election Commission in its order of January 31, 2023, granted and approved all precinct proposals submitted by our county. Most of these were made to accommodate West Lafayette councilmanic districts. A copy of IEC Order 2023-9 was submitted for the record.

Announcements:

- Campaign Finance Reports for Regular Party due March 1st at noon with IED
- Campaign Finance pre-primary report due April 14th at noon
- Absentee by mail release deadline March 18th
- Voter Registration Closes April 3rd
- Machine Public Test must be conducted by April 3rd

Unfinished/New Business: Tentative date for the public test is Friday, March 24th at 10 AM. Backup date will be Thursday, March 23rd at 10 AM.

Adjournment: With no further business before the board, *Vonderheide made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Moore. Motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 11:42 AM.*

Minutes respectfully submitted by Julie Roush, Secretary.

County Election Board:



Randall L. Vonderheide
Chairman of the board



E. Kent Moore
Board Member



Julie A. Roush
Tippecanoe County Clerk