

**Butler County Board of Elections
Board Meeting Minutes
January 20, 2015**

The Butler County Board of Elections met on Tuesday, January 20, 2015, at 9:00 a.m. for a regular meeting. Roll call was taken and present were Chairman Frank Cloud, Member Bruce Carter, Member Judy Shelton, Deputy Director Jocelyn Bucaro and Administrative Coordinator Donna DeFazio. Also present were Secretary of State Regional Liaison Cameron Sagester, Ryan Montgomery City of Trenton and staff member Joe Andrews.

Chairman Cloud submitted the minutes for December 15th for approval. Member Carter moved to approve the minutes for December 15th; seconded by Member Shelton. Roll call:

Chairman Cloud	yea
Member Carter	yea
Member Shelton	yea
Member Hall	absent

All in favor; motion carried.

Deputy Director Bucaro acknowledged the receipt of the follow Directives from the Secretary of State;

Directives

12/23/2014	2014-38	2014 Annual Report of Expenses of the Board
01/14/2015	2015-01	Allegations of Voter Suppression or Voter Fraud

Advisory **None**

Memorandum **None**

Under Election Business, Deputy Director Bucaro stated that there are five precincts in the February 3, 2015 Special Election. Early voting has had no in person voting but there have been 12 early voting ballots by mail. Three have been returned but one has an issue with the date of birth missing. Chairman Cloud asked about the number of voters in the election. Deputy Director Bucaro

stated there are about 5,500 voters. She also stated that there will be a county-wide election in May. Both libraries according to the Prosecutor's Office are preparing resolutions. Fairfield Township is also preparing a resolution to go on the ballot. She stated that the law allows the Board to appoint two precinct election officials per precinct in a Special Election. Member Carter moved to appoint two precinct election officials per precinct for multi-precinct locations for the May Special Election; seconded by Member Shelton. Roll call:

Chairman Cloud	yea
Member Carter	yea
Member Shelton	yea
Member Hall	absent

All in favor; motion carried.

Under Old Business, Deputy Director Bucaro reviewed the chargebacks from the November 4, 2014 Election totaling \$6,705.36. Member Carter moved to accept the chargebacks; seconded by Member Shelton. Roll call:

Chairman Cloud	yea
Member Carter	yea
Member Shelton	yea
Member Hall	absent

All in favor; motion carried.

Under New Business, Deputy Director Bucaro reviewed the proposal to change precinct boundaries in Hanover Township, Fairfield City, Middletown City, and Oxford City. Some of the benefits of reducing precincts are saving money, reducing overtime, and distributing voters evenly and reducing waste. We currently have 283 precincts and need a minimum of 1,132 workers. The proposal reduces the number of precincts to 252 with a minimum of 1,008 workers, saving \$20,212 per election. Training payroll costs would be reduced by about \$1,000. It would also reduce overtime costs. After the consolidation in 2013, staff was reduced by one in the poll worker department. It might enable us to deploy staff to other departments and thereby hire fewer temporary clerks. More voters are voting early so there are fewer voters voting on Election Day. We have nearly 10 months before the November election to provide sufficient

time to update our voter registration system, proof new districts, and notify voters. We have seven months before the filing deadline for the November election, which would provide plenty of time for Local Option petitioners who may be impacted.

Some of the concerns are that the county's population is growing. Precincts were drawn using active and inactive voters. State law only requires active workers be considered. The average proposed precinct size after consolidation is 943 registered voters, including both active and inactive, leaving ample room for growth. The maximum number of voters allowed in a precinct in state law is 1,400 so we will have room to grow. Numerous other counties have looked to consolidate precincts since 2008. Butler County has approximately 236,000 voters and is similar in size to Stark County with approximately 260,000 voters. They reduced precincts from 364 to 284 with an average of 915 voters per precinct. Since 2008, we have reduced our voter roll from 260,000 to 240,000 in 2012 by cleaning the rolls of inactive voters and those who have moved out of the county. In 2013, we consolidated from 299 precincts to 283 precincts with an average size of 840 registered voters per precinct.

The proposed consolidation will include the areas of Fairfield, Hanover Township, Middletown, and Oxford, which were not included in the 2013 consolidation. Fairfield has 28,607 registered voters with 38 precincts. The proposal would reduce the precincts by 12 to 26 precincts. Middletown has 27,753 registered voters with 36 precincts. The proposal would reduce the precincts by 11 to 25 precincts. Hanover Township has 5,663 registered voters with 10 precincts. The proposal would reduce the precincts by 2 to 8 precincts. Oxford has 7,714 registered voters with 13 precincts. The proposal would reduce the precincts by six to seven precincts. If all of the proposed changes are done, we would have 252 total precincts. Chairman Cloud asked about handling voters at the polls in a Presidential Election. Deputy Director Bucaro stated that we can prepare for higher turnout elections by deploying extra poll workers and equipment. She

further noted that more and more voters are voting early, easing the burden on Election Day and making consolidation more feasible.

Under the Deputy Director's Report, Deputy Director Bucaro stated that the Commissioners approved the 2015 Budget. We received all the money requested except for \$5,000 in salaries. Commissioners allocated an across-the-board two percent increase in salaries for 2015. Deputy Director Bucaro stated she would recommend waiting to address salaries until performance reviews are completed.

With no further business, Member Shelton moved to adjourn; seconded by

Member Carter. Roll call:

Chairman Cloud	yea
Member Carter	yea
Member Shelton	yea
Member Hall	absent

All in favor; motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:25 a.m.

Frank Cloud, Chairman

Lynn Edward Kinkaid, Director

ABSENT

Todd Hall, Member

Judith A. Shelton, Member

Bruce Carter, Member