

Butler County Board of Elections
Board Meeting Minutes
November 4, 2024 and November 5, 2024

The Butler County Board of Elections met on Monday, November 4, 2024, at 1:00 p.m., for the General Election. Roll call was taken, and present were Chairman Frank Cloud, Member mariann penska, Member Todd Hall, Member Chris Wunnenberg III, Director Nicole Unzicker, Deputy Director Eric Corbin and Steve Chaffin.

Member Hall lead the pledge of allegiance.

Chairman Cloud stated this is a special meeting and started discussion on the first item of business. Director Unzicker said Document 1 is in regard to a Correction of Registration List form 275 filing. She explained that the forms were filed on October 4th and 7th and the voters on these lists were inadvertently left off the board meeting documents on October 15th. The voters on List 1A have a notation in the notes field as to whether the records were able to be resolved or that there was no match and the record could not be resolved. She clarified that the research and any required changes were already made along with the other voter records that were submitted on October 4th and 7th.

Deputy Director Corbin provided more background to the Board Members about what was taking place around the time the 257 forms were filed. He said the office had more than 4 staff members including the Director and himself who were hand typing the individual information provided from the paper challenges onto a spreadsheet and researching each one to allow for clear and transparent information for the Board Members and the public to view. The last 257 forms were filed consecutively and processed within a few days during the time when the staff was working to finalize the preparations for early voting. The same duplication process the office was currently adhering to as directed by the Secretary of State Directive. While multiple staff members were working to resolve duplicates as required by the state not only throughout the year but in the days leading up to the registration deadline, in addition to that current process, four full-time staff members were pulled from their assigned duties to research duplicate voters which were often already researched and resolved by other staff members who were completing the normal process for duplicate registrations, creating additional steps to confirm the information because many records had changed since the filing. The staff had a lot of work with the thousands of duplicate records between the eighty-eight counties prior to the registration deadline to resolve, and although there was an additional workload and fewer people to help, our staff was able to meet the required deadline by the State.

Member Hall moved to grant the Correction of Registration List 1A; seconded by Member penska. Roll Call.

Chairman Cloud	yea
Member penska	yea
Member Hall	yea
Member Wunnenberg	yea

Member Hall noted that the voters on List 1A that were resolved were indicated by, "cancelled," "merged" or "kept."

Member penska moved to deny the Correction of Registration List 1A with no match; seconded by Member penska. Roll Call.

Chairman Cloud	yea
Member penska	yea
Member Hall	yea
Member Wunnenberg	yea

Director Unzicker introduced List 1B which contained one voter who was a “potential duplicate” that was not able to be matched. Member penska moved to deny the Correction of Registration List 1B with no match; seconded by Member Hall. Roll Call.

Chairman Cloud	yea
Member penska	yea
Member Hall	yea
Member Wunnenberg	yea



Challenge of Right to Vote and Correction of Registration List November 4, 2024

Challenges Filed Pursuant to R.C. 3503.24

A qualified elector may file an application for correction or challenge either in person or by mail with the office of the board of elections. A challenger must 1) use Secretary of State Form 257, 2) file the application or challenge no later than 30 days before an election, 3) state the reasons for the application or challenge, and 4) sign under the penalty of election falsification.

ORC 3503.24, Application for correction of precinct registration list or challenge of right to vote.

(B) On receiving an application or challenge filed under this section, the board of elections promptly shall review the board's records. If the board is able to determine that an application or challenge should be granted or denied solely on the basis of the records maintained by the board, the board immediately shall vote to grant or deny that application or challenge.

If the board is not able to determine whether an application or challenge should be granted or denied solely on the basis of the records maintained by the board, the director shall promptly set a time and date for a hearing before the board. The hearing shall be held, and the application or challenge shall be decided, no later than ten days after the board receives the application or challenge. The director shall send written notice to any elector whose right to vote is challenged and to any person whose name is alleged to have been omitted from a registration list. The notice shall inform the person of the time and date of the hearing, and of the person's right to appear and testify, call witnesses, and be represented by counsel. The notice shall be sent by first class mail no later than three days before the day of any scheduled hearing. Except as otherwise provided in division (D) of this section, the director shall also provide the person who filed the application or challenge with such written notice of the date and time of the hearing.

(C) If the board decides that any such person is not entitled to have the person's name on the registration list, the person's name shall be removed from the list and the person's registration forms canceled. If the board decides that the name of any such person should appear on the registration list, it shall be added to the list, and the person's registration forms placed in the proper registration files. All such corrections and additions shall be made on a copy of the precinct lists, which shall constitute the poll lists, to be furnished to the respective precincts with other election supplies on the day preceding the election, to be used by the election officials in receiving the signatures of voters and in checking against the registration forms.

Required Board Action

(See next page)

Note:

The additional 106 records on list 1A and 1B were unintentionally excluded in the board meeting document when combining the separate lists reviewed from multiple staff members for the October 10th special meeting. That meeting included a total of 545 voter names listed. For clarification purposes, the research on the 106 individuals had already been completed along with the lists that were included for the October 10th meeting.

The registration deadline for the November 5, 2024 Presidential General Election was Monday, October 7, 2024. Boards of Elections in Ohio have until the 14th day before the election, Tuesday, October 22, 2024, to resolve duplicate registrations. We are very familiar with the duplicate process and deadlines. Additionally, per directive 2024-14 we are required to be at 0% on Friday, October 11, 2024, for the second round of absentee applications mailed from the Secretary of State. Our office has always met the deadlines and have reached the 0% duplicate requirement set by the Secretary of State in all previous elections and will continue meeting that requirement for this election as well. Some of the voters listed would have had their records resolved through the normal duplicate process which is currently ongoing as counties around the state are entering registrations that were received before the deadline but were not able to be entered on the same day.

Some of the "potential duplicate" records did share common attributes, such as the same first name, the same last name, and the same date of birth, but are completely different voters. For example, the voters listed in the table below do match on three data points but have different driver's licenses, Social Security Numbers, and Middle Name.

Voter Data Field	Voter 1	Voter 2	Match
County	BUTLER	FRANKLIN	No
ID Number	OH0021449006	OH0022538328	No
Last Name	MILLER	MILLER	Yes
First Name	KENNETH	KENNETH	Yes
Middle Name	ROBERT	JOSIAH	No
Date of Birth	03/04/1993	03/04/1993	Yes
Last 4 Social Security	****	****	No
Driver's License	*****	*****	No
Address	4116 ROOSEVELT BLVD	2406 BRIERS DR APT D	No
City, State Zip	MIDDLETOWN, OHIO 45044	COLUMBUS, OHIO 43209	No

Correction of Registration List 1A - 10/7/24 – Potential Duplicate Voters – Resolved
(noted as cancelled, merged or kept)

The voters listed on List 1A have been resolved with other Ohio counties in accordance with our duplicate process as stated in the Ohio Elections Official Manual and are no longer duplicate records.

Grant Correction of Registration List (Recommended)

- (C) If the board decides that any such person is not entitled to have the person's name on the registration list, the person's name shall be removed from the list and the person's registration forms canceled.

Deny Correction of Registration List

- No Action

Correction of Registration List 1A - 10/7/24 – Potential Duplicate Voters – No Match

The voters listed on List 1A are unable to be resolved with the records maintained by the Board of Elections. These records did not match on at least one to three data points including PII. (noted as no match)

Grant Correction of Registration List _____

- (C) If the board decides that any such person is not entitled to have the person's name on the registration list, the person's name shall be removed from the list and the person's registration forms canceled.

Deny Correction of Registration List (Recommended)

- No Action – The voter identification provided by the voter and maintained by the Butler County Board of Elections did not match the records on file with the other Board of Elections.

Correction of Registration List 1B - 10/4/24 – Potential Duplicate Voters – No Match

The voter listed on List 1B are unable to be resolved with the records maintained by the Board of Elections. These records did not match on at least one to three data points including PII.

Grant Correction of Registration List _____

- (C) If the board decides that any such person is not entitled to have the person's name on the registration list, the person's name shall be removed from the list and the person's registration forms canceled.

Deny Correction of Registration List (Recommended)

- No Action – The voter identification provided by the voter and maintained by the Butler County Board of Elections did not match the records on file with the other Board of Elections.

Key

Cancelled – Butler County Merged to another Ohio County

No Match – Two voters listed did not have matching information on one or multiple identifiers

Kept – Butler merged to another Butler record and kept only one record

Waiting on OC to Merge – Butler County cannot keep a record until the other county has merged theirs

Merged- Butler County Merged record to another Ohio County

Director Unzicker introduced Document 2, Review and Approve Manually Remade Ballots as Needed. She explained that when UOCAVA ballots are sent to military or overseas voters they are often emailed to the voter. Voters are then required to print the ballot on paper and return a hard copy of their voted ballot to the Board of Elections by using the United State Postal Service or a private delivery company. Since the voters do not have access to paper with the same specifications used for domestic absentee ballots, the returned ballots must be remade by a bipartisan team of election officials so they can be scanned, uploaded and counted by the tabulation system. Chairman Cloud pointed out that the total on Document 2 was calculated incorrectly. The directors left the room to correct the document. Member penska moved to approve the remade ballots listed on the updated Document 2; seconded by Member Hall. Roll Call.


Chairman Cloud	yea
Member penska	yea
Member Hall	yea
Member Wunnenberg	yea

Manually Remade Ballots

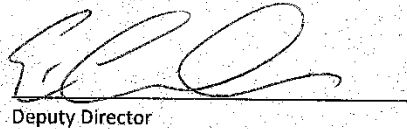
Below is a count of each type of ballot remake that must be approved by the Board as of November 4, 2024, at 1:00 p.m.

Ballot Type	Count
UOCAVA	293
Other Absentee Ballots	11
Total	304

The Director and Deputy Director verified on a bipartisan basis that original ballots which were unable to be scanned, were remade in accordance with Ohio Secretary of State Directive 2023-30.



Director



Deputy Director

Required Action

Board motion to approve remakes for tabulation.

Member penska moved to go into recess; seconded by Member Wunnenberg. Roll Call:

Chairman Cloud yea
 Member penska yea
 Member Hall yea
 Member Wunnenberg yea
 All in favor; motion carried.

On Tuesday, November 5, 2024, at 7:00 p.m. Chairman Cloud stated the Board is back in session. Roll call was taken, and present were Chairman Frank Cloud, Member mariann penska, Member Todd Hall, Member Chris Wunnenberg III, Director Nicole Unzicker, Deputy Director Eric Corbin and Deputy Farthing.

The Board reconvened to observe the pre-tabulation test of the server and the unofficial canvass. Director Unzicker presented the opening zero report of the pre-tabulation test for the Board Members to sign. They also signed the summary report, which matched the expected results. Then, they signed the closing zero report on the pre-test and the opening zero report of the unofficial canvass showing zero votes on the tabulation server.

Director Unzicker presented the Manually Remade Ballots Document 3. Director Unzicker stated there are an additional fifty-four UOCAVA voter ballots that were remade and four other ballots that needed to be remade. Member Hall moved to approve the remade ballots for tabulation, seconded by Member penska. Roll Call:

Chairman Cloud yea
Member penska yea
Member Hall yea
Member Wunnenberg yea
All in favor; motion carried.



Remade Ballots
November 5, 2024 Presidential General Election

Manually Remade Ballots

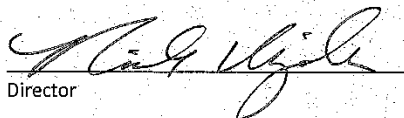
Below is a count of each type of ballot remake that must be approved by the Board since the previous approval at 1:00pm on Monday, November 4, 2024.

Ballot Type	Count
UOCAVA	54
Other Absentee Ballots	4
Total	58

Remakes previously voted on 11/4/2024	304
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Grand Total	362
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The Director and Deputy Director verified on a bipartisan basis that original ballots which were unable to be scanned, were remade in accordance with Ohio Secretary of State Directive 2022-14.


Director


Deputy Director

Required Action:

Board motion to approve additional remakes for tabulation.

Director Unzicker said the next item of business is to review a ballot for voter intent on the presidential race. The Board members passed the ballot around the table and discussed what the voter's intent could be. Member Hall said his opinion was that the voter marked three candidates for president and X'd out three. The Board members had a short discussion and concluded that the voter meant to cast their vote for Donald J. Trump. Member Hall moved to count the ballot's presidential race for Donald J. Trump; seconded by Member penska. Roll Call.

Chairman Cloud	yea
Member penska	yea
Member Hall	yea
Member Wunnenberg	yea



Voter Intent for Board Review
November 5, 2024

EOM Directive 2023-30 Chapter 10

After a majority of board members determine voter intent, the board shall follow the procedures for remaking the optical scan ballot set forth in this chapter. If three of the board members do not agree as to how any part of the ballot shall be counted, only that part of the ballot on which three board members do agree shall be counted.

Monroe 9 – Pg 1 and 2

Presidential Race

Board Adjudication: Donald J. Trump

Voter Intent Board Review - 1

At 11:19 p.m. Chairman Cloud stated the Board is back in session. Roll call was taken, and present were Chairman Frank Cloud, Member mariann penska, Member Todd Hall, Member Chris Wunnenberg III, Director Nicole Unzicker, Deputy Director Eric Corbin, Major Craft and Captain Bucheit.

Director Unzicker provided the board members with the unofficial summary results with all precincts reporting. With no further business, Member Wunnenberg moved to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Member penska. Roll call:

Chairman Cloud	yea
Member penska	yea
Member Hall	yea
Member Wunnenberg	yea

All in favor; motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 11:59 p.m.

Frank Cloud, Chairman

Nicole Unzicker, Director

Todd Hall, Member

Chris Wunnenberg III, Member

mariann penska, Member