

MEETING OF THE COMMISSIONERS OF ELECTIONS
IN THE CITY OF NEW YORK
HELD ON TUESDAY, APRIL 12, 2016
AT 1:30 P.M.
42 BROADWAY, 6th FLOOR, COMMISSIONERS' HEARING ROOM
NEW YORK, NY 10004

PRESENT: President Bianka Perez
 Secretary Frederic M. Umane

Commissioners Jose Araujo, John Flateau, Lisa Grey, Michael Michel,
Michael Rendino, Alan Schulkin, Simon Shamoun

Michael J. Ryan, Executive Director
Dawn Sandow, Deputy Executive Director
Pamela Perkins, Administrative Manager
Georgea Kontzamanis, Operations Manager
Steven H. Richman, General Counsel
Raphael Savino, Deputy General Counsel
Valerie Vazquez, Director, Communications & Public Affairs
Nina M. Crispino, Director, Personnel
Steven B. Denkberg, Counsel to the Commissioners

GUEST: Kate Doran, LWV NYC
 Katharine Loving, NYC CFB

Secretary Umane called the meeting to order at 1:38 P.M.

Commissioner Araujo moved to approve the minutes for the April 5, 2016 meeting. Commissioner Flateau seconded the motion, with Secretary Umane and Commissioner Rendino abstaining. The motion was adopted.

Mr. Richman requested the designation of a Cover Sheet Review Committee for Weeks #1 and #2 for the Federal Office Designating Petition Filing Period. The following schedule was designated by the Commissioners:

- Thursday, April 14, 2016 at 3:30 P.M.
 - Commissioners Schulkin and Grey
- Monday, April 18, 2016 at 3:30 P.M.
 - Commissioners Schulkin and Rendino
- Thursday, April 21, 2016 at 3:30 P.M.
 - Commissioners Araujo and Michel

Public notice of the schedule will be posted at the Board and on the Board's website. In the event there are no matters for review by the Committee at a scheduled meeting, the General Counsel's office will notify the designated Commissioners by 12:00 P.M. and ensure that appropriate public notice is posted.

Commissioner Flateau inquired if the Board is prepared for the April 19, 2016 Presidential Primary Election. Mr. Ryan reported that the Board is prepared and noted that there was a staff meeting yesterday with the affected Departments to discuss last minute details for the election. It was noted that there was a vendor printing error concerning a set of Poll List Books for the Bronx which has been corrected. If any issues arise,

Executive Management will communicate to the Executive Committee or the respective Borough Commissioners, if necessary.

Secretary Umane reported that there is an issue with a batch of voter registrations citywide that were post marked on a timely basis, but delivered late to the Board. The U.S. Post Office made an error and held onto a bin of Board mail which contained a total of 623 voter registration forms. A Board employee went to the Post Office to update the Board's account and was given this bin of mail which contained approximately 5,000 pieces of mail. A total of 469 voter registrations were post marked timely, and a total of 154 voter registrations had no post mark. According to the New York State Election Law, voter registrations have to be post marked twenty-five (25) days before the election and received at the Board twenty (20) days before the election in order to be processed timely for the election. The New York State Election Law allows the Commissioners' discretion in the event of an administrative/governmental error. Secretary Umane recommended processing this batch of voter registrations due to the governmental error by the U.S. Post Office. After processing, the eligible voters' names would be printed in emergency supplemental Poll List Books in-house. Commissioner Araujo also recommended processing these voter registrations. Commissioner Shamoun raised concerns about

the voter registrations that are not post marked and are signed with a hand-written date past the voter registration's deadline (after March 25, 2016). Commissioner Schulkin moved to process the timely 469 post marked voter registrations as well as the 154 voter registrations that were not post marked, but are signed with a hand-written dated before the registration's deadline. The voter registrations that are not post marked and are signed with a hand-written date after the registration's deadline date will be processed, but they will not be eligible to vote in the Presidential Primary. Secretary Umane seconded the motion, which was unanimously adopted.

President Perez reported that a constituent in the Bronx was concerned that Bronx County will need more judges on Election Day to make decisions on whether a voter can vote or not on the machine. Mr. Richman reported that Deputy Chief Administrative Judge Fisher will provide adequate support staff, court officers, clerks, and court reporters in each Borough Office.

President Perez inquired if a voter should be given an affidavit ballot if they have an issue and are challenged by a poll worker or Coordinator in the poll site on Primary Day. Mr. Richman reported that the poll worker or

Coordinator challenging the voter will give them a Challenge Oath and then the voter can vote as any other voter. If the voter's name is not listed in the Poll List Book, then the voter will have the choice to vote either on an affidavit ballot or to see a Judge to obtain a Court Order to vote on the machines. Commissioner Rendino inquired about invalid affidavit ballot voters. According to the New York State Election Law, a member of the public who votes by affidavit ballot, but was not eligible to vote and was deemed invalid, will receive a notice from the Board. Voters are not notified by the Board if their vote was deemed valid.

President Perez recognized Kate Doran, a representative of the League of Women Voters and a Poll Site Coordinator, who inquired about the timeframe that an invalid affidavit ballot voter will receive a letter from the Board. In response, Mr. Ryan reported 4 – 6 weeks after the election certification process. Ms. Doran inquired about the "Change of Party Enrollment" effective date on the affidavit ballot envelope. In response, Mr. Ryan reported that the change would be effective one (1) week after the General Election. Mr. Doran inquired about the Board's Presidential Primary Election newspaper ads. In response, Mr. Ryan reported that the legal ads are printed half-page and full-page in numerous major and community newspapers and periodicals citywide, including newspapers in

the required covered languages, which is in accordance with Section 4-114 of the New York State Election Law. It was noted that the Board placed election ads in additional newspapers citywide to spread the word to the public. Ms. Vazquez provided Ms. Doran will the legal ads printed citywide.

Mr. Ryan reported on social media and public outreach. Based on the approval of the Commissioners, the Board soft-launched a new Facebook page to try and engage more voters. The Board's Facebook page received a total of 15,456 impressions since last Friday. A total of 23,646 impressions were made on all of the Board's social media outlets. Vanguard is currently refreshing the Board's social media outlets and campaigning to get the public to view them. It was noted that the Board's website contains a lot of governmental information and Vanguard is redesigning the layout to be more attractive and more user friendly. The website will be refreshed in the coming weeks.

Commissioner Araujo moved to convene Executive Session for purposes of personnel. President Perez seconded the motion, which was unanimously adopted.

Following Executive Session, the open public meeting resumed and Mr. Ryan reported that no action was taken in Executive Session.

The meeting was adjourned.

The next stated meeting of the Commissioners will be held on Tuesday, April 26, 2016 at 1:30 P.M.