

BOARD OF ELECTIONS
IN THE CITY OF NEW YORK

COMMISSIONERS' MEETING

42 Broadway - 6th floor
Commissioners' Hearing Room

New York, NY 10004

February 16, 2021

1:30 p.m. - 2:29 p.m.

February 16, 2021

PRESENT:

President Frederic Umane

Secretary Miguelina Camilo

Commissioner Jose Araujo

Commissioner Gino Marmorato

Commissioner Michael Michel

Commissioner Rodney Pepe-Souvenir

Commissioner Simon Shamoun

Commissioner Patricia Anne Taylor

Commissioner Tiffany Townsend

Commissioner John Wm. Zaccone

Michael J. Ryan, Executive Director

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2 (The meeting commenced at 1:36 p.m.)

3 MR. MICHAEL J. RYAN: Yes, thank you.
4 Today is Tuesday, February 16, 2021 at 1:30 p.m.
5 and it is the weekly meeting of Commissioners of
6 Elections for the City of New York. I will start
7 with the commissioner roll call, President Umane?

8 PRESIDENT FREDERIC UMANE: Present.

9 MR. RYAN: Secretary Camilo?

10 SECRETARY MIGUELINA CAMILO: Present.

11 MR. RYAN: Commissioner Araujo?

12 COMMISSIONER JOSE ARAUJO: Present.

13 MR. RYAN: Commissioner Marmorato?

14 COMMISSIONER GINO MARMORATO: Present.

15 MR. RYAN: Commissioner Michel?

16 Commissioner Michel? He may be muted.

17 Commissioner Souvenir, Pepe-Souvenir?

18 COMMISSIONER RODNEY PEPE-SOUVENIR:

19 Present, good afternoon everyone.

20 MR. RYAN: Good afternoon. Commissioner
21 Shamoun?

22 COMMISSIONER SIMON SHAMOUN: Present,
23 thank you.

24 MR. RYAN: Thank you. Commissioner

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2 Taylor?

3 COMMISSIONER MICHAEL MICHEL: Present.

4 COMMISSIONER PATRICIA ANNE TAYLOR:

5 Present.

6 MR. RYAN: And Commissioner Michel has
7 now answered as well, okay, so Commissioner
8 Taylor and Commissioner Michel, they have stepped
9 on each other a little bit, but they both
10 answered. Commissioner Townsend? Commissioner
11 Townsend? Maybe she's on mute. Commissioner
12 Zacccone?

13 COMMISSIONER JOHN WM. ZACCONE: Present,
14 and Commissioner Townsend is on mute.

15 MR. RYAN: Yes, okay. Alright. So, in
16 addition to the item that's on the agenda, will
17 we need executive session today?

18 COMMISSIONER ARAUJO: This is
19 Commissioner Araujo. Could we have executive
20 session for personnel please?

21 MR. RYAN: Okay. Alright. Commissioners,
22 I believe it occurred over the weekend. Governor
23 Cuomo signed an executive order extending the
24 time to change party enrollment from February

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2 14th to February 16th, which is today. Our board
3 was open on the 14th. There may have been some
4 confusion amongst other boards throughout the
5 state regarding the 14th and whether or not they
6 needed to be open or not, so it looks like the
7 governor remedied that by issuing an executive
8 order. In any event, we were open on both the
9 13th and the 14th. We received 13 registrations
10 on the 13th, 74 on Sunday the 14th, six yesterday
11 on the 15th and so there was a total so far of 93
12 walk-in registrations. All borough offices are
13 open today until 5:00 p.m. and the general office
14 will be open to midnight, as today also is the
15 last day to file the party calls. So we will
16 provide a further update next week once that's
17 all completed. We also are in the process --

18 PRESIDENT UMANE: I have a question --

19 MR. RYAN: Sure.

20 PRESIDENT UMANE: -- regarding party
21 call.

22 MR. RYAN: Yes.

23 PRESIDENT UMANE: Because the governor
24 apparently signed the legislation extending the

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2 time period for organization of county committees
3 for a year, is it necessary, do you know, or
4 maybe we can provide some guidance to the various
5 parties and counties, is it necessary to file for
6 the organizations if they have informally changed
7 and followed the new statute at this point, so
8 that the party call would then not need to
9 include all of the county positions for the
10 district, the district [unintelligible]
11 [00:10:03] and the ED assignments and all of that
12 sort of stuff.

13 Or, to be safe, would it be our
14 recommendation to file with all of those and then
15 adopt a resolution postponing that and then
16 requiring it again to be submitted next year?
17 Because I know that some of the counties and some
18 of the parties are confused as to what they need
19 to file today.

20 MR. RYAN: Right. So, I believe that the
21 governors or the statute allows the parties to
22 choose an option. One option is to continue
23 moving forward as if nothing happened and go
24 forward with proceeding with their county

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2 committee reorganizations. The other option is
3 that they could choose not to move forward with
4 their county reorganization and that the
5 legislation permits the executive committees of
6 the parties to take that action, I suppose to
7 reduce the amount of interaction amongst
8 individuals. So a lesser segment of the parties
9 can take that take that action. And then they
10 have to let us know that they've taken that
11 action by filing with the state and with the
12 city. So, now if they choose to move forward with
13 collecting signatures and reorganizing their
14 party this year, then they have to follow the
15 regular procedure and if they choose not to move
16 forward and to defer until next year, they have
17 to advise us of the fact that their executive
18 committees have acted.

19 Now, what I didn't see anywhere in the
20 legislation is any direction on what form that
21 advice or that notification is to take. And I
22 suppose, you know, a filing that confirms that
23 they took a resolution through the executive
24 committee would suffice. I mean we can certainly

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2 --

3 MS. KONTZAMANIS: Mr. Ryan?

4 MR. RYAN: Yes?

5 MS. KONTZAMANIS: I'm sorry, we have put
6 a call out to the State Board as the statute was
7 only signed a little while ago, and as soon as I
8 have the information, I'll pass it along to the
9 commissioners.

10 MR. RYAN: Well, thanks for jumping in
11 there, because that was exactly what I was going
12 to say anyway, which is we'll reach out to the
13 State Board and see if we get any further
14 direction on what exactly the county committees
15 should be filing.

16 MS. KONTZAMANIS: I'll see if we can get
17 that before the end of our meeting.

18 MR. RYAN: Okay. Thank you. But either
19 way, I mean they have two options, the parties
20 that are re-orging and it's an either/or
21 proposition. They'll either proceed as normal, or
22 take appropriate executive committee action and
23 defer until next year. But the one thing that
24 everyone should know is that even a deferral

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2 until next year will not change the scheduling of
3 when parties reorganize. So if somebody is due to
4 reorganize this year, if a party is due to
5 reorganize this year and they elect to defer 'til
6 next year, they will reorganize next year and the
7 following year. So it'll be reorganization in
8 back-to-back years to keep the schedule of party
9 reorganizations on track and this will not change
10 that portion of it.

11 PRESIDENT UMANE: Okay. Thank you.

12 MR. RYAN: Alright. Thanks. So, the
13 February 2nd election is drawing to a close and
14 we had a deadline of the 15th to be able to
15 accept military absentee ballots. It's a 13 day
16 deadline for general elections and for special
17 elections. So, it is my understanding that after
18 conferring with chief and deputy and the chiefs
19 and deputies have conferred with their
20 commissioners, that Queens will be conducting the
21 audit of the election tomorrow and stand ready to
22 certify the election on Thursday. Commissioner
23 Michel and Commissioner Araujo, my understanding
24 is correct, yes?

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2 COMMISSIONER ARAUJO: Yes, it is correct
3 and with that being said, I would ask that the
4 executive committee or the Board of Commissioners
5 designate three commissioners for the purposes of
6 certifying the election Thursday morning.

7 PRESIDENT UMANE: Alright. I would take
8 that as a motion and I second it that we
9 designate the two Queens commissioners to act as
10 a subcommittee for purposes of certifying the
11 election based on the voting tallies presented to
12 them and Mr. Ryan, I would ask you to call for
13 the vote.

14 MR. RYAN: Yes, well, there's a motion
15 and a second, are there any objections? Hearing
16 none, the motion carries. I do have a question
17 though, President Umane. If the designation has
18 not been given to carry out this certification of
19 the Queens commissioners, will that ultimately or
20 should that ultimately come back to the
21 commissioners for a ratification of the
22 certification, or is it with the full authority
23 to certify?

24 PRESIDENT UMANE: I think it's with the

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2 authority to certify.

3 MR. RYAN: Okay. So that's one practice
4 question I have, and then the other is with other
5 certifications, we have the president and
6 secretary and certify, you know, sign and then
7 the borough commissioners sign as well. Do we
8 need to do that for this go round?

9 PRESIDENT UMANE: Yeah, I will continue
10 to do that and perhaps you could send us either a
11 call or e-mail on Thursday to Commissioner Camilo
12 and myself and that we would then authorize the
13 use of our electronic signatures.

14 MR. RYAN: Right. Okay.

15 PRESIDENT UMANE: With Commissioner
16 Camilo, she's nodding her head.

17 MR. RYAN: Yes.

18 PRESIDENT UMANE: So I'm of the opinion
19 that that's okay.

20 MR. RYAN: Alright. So --

21 PRESIDENT UMANE: If that's okay with
22 everybody else.

23 MR. RYAN: Alright. So once the
24 documentation is gathered, we will send it and

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2 then I presume at the certification, Commissioner
3 Araujo and Commissioner Michel will then
4 authorize the use of their electronic signatures
5 as well. Okay.

6 COMMISSIONER ARAUJO: Mr. Ryan, what
7 time did you want to set the calendar for?

8 MR. RYAN: So, really at this point,
9 commissioner, that's up you and Commissioner
10 Michel. If the morning is preferable, that's
11 fine. I was going to suggest that we do it for
12 1:30, just in case there was any housekeeping
13 that needed to be done by the Queens office in
14 the morning and then that would give them a few
15 hours in the morning. But certainly anytime is
16 fine. I'm not anticipating any issues with the
17 Queens certification.

18 COMMISSIONER ARAUJO: I'm fine with 1:30
19 as long as Commissioner Michel is.

20 PRESIDENT UMANE: If you need us, could
21 you do 2:00 o'clock?

22 MR. RYAN: Sure.

23 PRESIDENT UMANE: Because I may be tied
24 up at 1:30.

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2 COMMISSIONER MICHEL: I could do 2:00
3 o'clock.

4 MR. RYAN: Okay. So 2:00 p.m., we'll
5 call it for 2:00 p.m. and then we'll put out the
6 notification that the certification is going to
7 occur so we take care of our public notice as
8 well. And that will be 2:00 p.m. on the 18th.
9 Okay. Alright. So that's taken care of. And then
10 since --

11 MS. DAWN SANDOW: Being that it's
12 certification, you need four commissioners to
13 certify.

14 MR. RYAN: Right. Okay. So, the --

15 MS. SANDOW: Because it's Board of
16 Canvassers, so it's four.

17 MR. RYAN: Right.

18 SECRETARY CAMILO: So if the executive
19 committee appoints four commissioners sufficient?

20 MR. RYAN: Yes. The executive committee
21 would be sufficient, and then that's -- or,
22 that's the other way, and that was kind of why I
23 was asking the question, I wasn't 100 percent
24 sure. The other way would be for the borough

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2 committee to certify and then to have
3 ratification the following Tuesday. But I
4 suppose, given Ms. Sandow's representation, if
5 all four commissioners are available, that being
6 the president, secretary and then the Queens
7 borough committee, if all four are available at
8 2:00 o'clock on Thursday, then the Board of
9 Canvassers will meet as fully constituted,
10 certify and then the certification is complete.
11 President Umane, is that okay with you?

12 PRESIDENT UMANE: Yes.

13 MR. RYAN: Alright. So then that's what
14 we'll plan on and this way here it's done and we
15 don't have any further questions. Alright. Okay.
16 So, then we get to Queens hitting the special
17 election lottery and they get to move right from
18 before certifying the 2nd, they're also in the
19 middle of conducting now the special election
20 that will be completed on Tuesday the 23rd. And
21 they've conducted early voting for that election.
22 There are 95,448 eligible voters to vote in the
23 31st Council District and so far, for the first
24 three-and-a-half days of early voting, we've had

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2 556 total voters as of 1:00 o'clock this
3 afternoon. And then early voting will continue
4 for the remainder of this week and then Saturday
5 and Sunday and then the election will occur on
6 the 23rd of February and then of course we still
7 have another 13 day period that we need to wait
8 for the military ballots as we did for this
9 election because it's a 13 day -- the statute
10 says 13 days post special and post general,
11 although it's shorter for primary elections.

12 So, that's where we're at presently with
13 the two special elections and if there are no
14 other questions, or issues that the commissioners
15 wish to discuss, we would then set the next
16 meeting date and also a motion to adjourn into
17 executive session.

18 PRESIDENT UMANE: I would move that we
19 meet next Tuesday at 1:30, our normal time and
20 then go into executive session for personnel.

21 SECRETARY CAMILO: Second.

22 MR. RYAN: Are there any objections?
23 Hearing none, the motion carries.

24 [OFF THE RECORD]

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[ON THE RECORD]

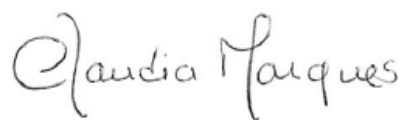
MR. RYAN: The next meeting of the Board of Commissioners of Elections in the City of New York will be February 23rd at 1:30 p.m. Any action taken on personnel matters will be reported in the minutes accordingly. The meeting stands adjourned. Thank you.

(The meeting concluded at 2:29 p.m.)

CERTIFICATE OF ACCURACY

I, Claudia Marques, certify that the foregoing transcript of the Board of Elections in The City of New York on February 16, 2021 was prepared using the required transcription equipment and is a true and accurate record of the proceedings.

Certified By



Date: June 23, 2021

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