

Monroe County Election Board Meeting – FINAL
Thursday, April 1, 2021, 1:00 p.m.
Meeting held via Zoom

I. CALL TO ORDER

The Monroe County Election Board meeting was called to order at 1:00 p.m. by Carolyn VandeWiele, Democratic representative & Chair. Also present: Hal Turner, Republican representative and Tree Martin, proxy for Nicole Browne (Secretary and Monroe County Clerk).

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Hal Turner made a motion to approve the minutes for Feb 4, 2021 Board meeting. Tree Martin seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

III. LATE CFA-4 REPORTS BY CANDIDATES

The Board addressed the remaining candidates who were late to file their required CFA-4 candidate paperwork. Multiple deadlines were reviewed.

Oct 16, 2020 Deadline - Pre-Election Report

<u>Candidate</u>	<u>Filing Status</u>	<u>Board Decision</u>
• Valerie Haughton	Filed on Nov 2, 2020	This candidate has filed, but this is the third late filing. Hal Turner made a motion to follow the general Board policy to assess 25% of the \$900 fine, or to fine this candidate \$225. Tree Martin seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Jan 15, 2020 Deadline – Annual Report

<u>Candidate</u>	<u>Filing Status</u>	<u>Board Decision</u>
• Ryan Maloney	Filed incomplete disbands report on March 5, 2020	On July 2, 2020, the Board assessed a fine of \$100 to this candidate. No record of payment is available. Carolyn will draft a letter to Ryan to address payment of this fine and provide the letter to the Election Office within a week for processing.

Candidates are responsible for completing their required candidate filings. As a courtesy, the Election Office tries to remind candidates via email of approaching deadlines. The Board also regularly reminds candidates that they are responsible for the filings by their candidacy. Political party chairs could also remind candidates of these responsibilities. Relatedly, it is important to update campaign records at the Election Office of any changes in emails, addresses, phone numbers or campaign staffing. Candidates are welcome to call the Election Office with any questions (phone: 812-349-2690).

The Board understands that fines paid by candidates are paid in the Clerk’s Office and those funds go into the Election Fund, not the Monroe County General Fund. Tree Martin will confirm this with the Auditor.

IV. ELECTIONEERING COMPLAINT FOLLOW-UP

Hal Turner updated the Board regarding the electioneering incident in the 2020 General Election. Hal reached out to all election workers at early voting. While the incident is recalled and was witnessed, the name of the individual violating election law remains unknown. Thus, no action is possible on this law violation.

Hal Turner proposes that the Board draft a standard form to document electioneering in the future. The form should be vetted by County Attorneys to contain details needed for prosecution. With this form, there should be a zero tolerance policy on electioneering. Sherry Morris recommends including a statement to be read verbatim to individuals who are electioneering. A verbatim will ensure violators receive consistent information and may encourage the electioneering to stop. If the violation continues, the form would be completed by the one in charge at the voting site and Election Central would be notified. Assuming reasonable behavior, the violator would then be allowed to vote. Carolyn VandeWiele reminds that HB1485 in the Indiana Legislature may impact this effort.

V. NAT U HILL ROOM UPGRADE

Carolyn VandeWiele shared that the Nat U Hill meeting room on the 3rd floor of the Courthouse is being upgraded to provide Zoom for meetings. This welcome upgrade has been requested by the public and the Election Board looks forward to continuing with Zoom meetings and the real-time contributions by the public once in-person meetings occur again.

VI. NEW INDIANA SECRETARY OF STATE

Monroe County has not yet had any interaction with Indiana's new Secretary of State, Holli Sullivan, but the Election Team welcomes this new appointment and anticipates valuable input on elections in the future.

VII. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

These are six active bills in the Indiana Legislature that could potentially impact elections.

View bill updates at the 2021 Indiana General Assembly website (iga.in.gov, choose LEGISLATION, choose BILLS). One can view bill summaries, authors & bill activities.

Election-related Bills initiated in Indiana House of Representatives

HB1365 HB1479 HB1485

Election-related Bills initiated in Indiana Senate

SB260 SB353 SB398

In addition, the Federal Bill HR1, which includes several proposals impacting Elections, has passed the House of Representatives and has moved to the Senate.

Follow bill at congress.gov, choose LEGISLATION, search for HR1.

VIII. SALT CREEK TOWNSHIP BOARD INCOMPLETE PAPERWORK

Karen Wheeler has heard that Guy Cunningham may have resigned from the Salt Creek Board to be replaced by Joe Hickman. The Elections Office has no resignation papers and only partial papers (the CAN-12-only and no Oath) from Joe Hickman. Carolyn VandeWiele will follow-up to confirm the status and encourage completion of all required paperwork.

IX. CENSUS INFORMATION NOT YET AVAILABLE

Karen Wheeler anticipates census information around September 2021. While reviewing precinct details, Richland 9 will be studied and the unused MCCSC school board splits will be discussed for elimination.

X. PUBLIC COMMENT

Ralf Shaw

Ralf asked the Board for clarification regarding registering to vote at the Bureau of Motor Vehicles (BMV). Ralf is aware of several individuals who thought they registered at the BMV yet discovered later that they were not registered.

Election Team

The County Elections Office cannot do much because the BMV is responsible to input the new registration info into the Indiana Voter Registration database. Those managing their registration with the BMV should receive a notice/a receipt of their registration activity. It typically takes about 14 days for a BMV registration to be in the State database.

All voters are encouraged to check their registration record early before every election (at indianavoters.in.gov, click CHECK VOTING STATUS).

If a BMV registration is not showing up after 14 days, these options are available:

- ✓ If the voter has a BMV receipt: Come to the Elections Office with the receipt so the staff can find your registration. The office is at 400 W 7th St, Suite 100, Bloomington, 47404. Appointments can be made by calling 812-349-2690.
- ✓ If the voter has no BMV receipt and is registering for the first time in Indiana: One can either come to the Elections Office to register or register on-line. On-line: go to indianavoters.in.gov, click REGISTER TO VOTE.
- ✓ If the voter has no BMV receipt and wants to update their existing registration: One can either come to the Elections Office or update their info on-line. On-line: go to indianavoters.gov, click CHECK VOTING STATUS, click CONTINUE, then PROCEED TO PORTAL and click UPDATE VOTER INFO.

It is important to register/update registration early. There is a deadline 30 days before each election to register. If a voter registers/updates registration after the deadline, the data will not be processed by the State of Indiana until after the election.

XI. NEXT COUNTY ELECTION BOARD MEETING

Date: Thursday, May 6, 2021 (will be confirmed with a public announcement)
1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. (*Likely meet via Zoom, using ID# 815 4841 8306, password 552782*)

XII. ADJOURNMENT

Hal Turner made a motion to adjourn this meeting. Tree Martin seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 1:44 p.m.

A recording of this meeting is provided by Community Access Television Service (CATS). At <http://catstv.net>, click VIDEO ARCHIVE then MONROE COUNTY MEETINGS & select ELECTION BOARD 4/1/2021 to view this meeting.