



BURTON, MICHIGAN
BURTON ELECTION COMMISSION MEETING
OCTOBER 17, 2022
MINUTES

Community Room

Regular

11:00 AM

4303 S. CENTER ROAD
BURTON, MI 48519

This meeting was opened by Clerk Racheal Boggs at 11:00 AM.

A. ROLL CALL

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
Carl Gusie	Commissioner	Absent	
Bonnie Hoffmeyer	Commissioner	Absent	
James Craig	Commissioner	Present	
Deborah K Walton	Commissioner	Present	
Racheal Boggs	Clerk	Present	

B. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

Councilman Greg Fenner was in attendance and posed questions to the Clerk and Election Commission.

C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Election Commission - Regular - Jul 11, 2022 11:00 AM
No action taken.

D. NEW BUSINESS

1. Approve and Authorize the Performance of the Public Logic and Accuracy Testing on Tuesday, November 1, 2022 at 10:00 AM for Voting Equipment to be used in the November 8, 2022 General Election.

The Public Accuracy Test is being conducted on Tuesday, November 1, 2022 at 10:00 AM in the Clerk's Office. The test is for the programming and ballots to be used in the November 8th election. This information was posted on the City Clerk Website and by the County Clerk's Office in the local papers. This is open to the public and participation from the public is encouraged.

Mr. Fenner stated he is going to attend and will be challenging the other council members to participate.

RESULT:	CARRIED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Deborah K Walton, Commissioner
SECONDER:	James Craig, Commissioner
AYES:	Craig, Walton, Boggs

2. Approve and Authorize the Appointment of Election Workers and Alternate Election Workers for the November 8, 2022 General Election as Presented by the City Clerk.

Ms. Boggs stated the election worker list is being updated to accommodate the workflow, worker needs, and absenteeism. If changes are made, I will communicate that with this board. Blessed Sacrament has specific challenges relating to campaign workers pushing limits to campaign laws and other concerns that have been reported by election workers, so we are shifting some of the poll workers around to help the situation.

Discussion continued regarding specific issues that have continued to take place at Blessed Sacrament on Election Day.

Mrs. Walton asked if it would be appropriate to have a Police Officer or security guard on site near the end of the shift.

Ms. Boggs replied that she does not want the voters to feel intimidated, but we could see about a plain-clothes officer visiting the site. Lindsey Bice has offered to work the election and we may use her at Blessed Sacrament to help keep this location under control and address questions and concerns. We are currently in need of a few more Absentee Counting Board workers. I have reached out to the state through the Democracy MVP program to recruit workers. These workers are uncertified. We have added one more Election Inspector Certification Class on October 25th at 5:30PM, so we can fill these positions and to ensure there is better a mix of Republicans and Democrats as required by law. I will keep this board updated as things progress or change. Does anyone have issues with the proposed Election Worker List?

Discussion regarding Election Inspector Certification, Genesee County not providing training, and the Democracy MVP program.

The Election Commission reported no issues with the proposed Election Worker List.

RESULT:	CARRIED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Deborah K Walton, Commissioner
SECONDER:	James Craig, Commissioner
AYES:	Craig, Walton, Boggs

3. Approve and Authorize the Printing and Use of the Election Day Ballots for the November 8, 2022 General Election.

Ms. Boggs stated sample ballots are available in the Clerk's Office and I have provided them today. All ballots have been printed and delivered. Preliminary testing is complete and there were no issues with the ballots. The absentee ballot drop box is being utilized and is under 24-hour surveillance. Light bulbs in the parking lot have been replaced to increase visibility. The state has some new drop box restrictions and requirements that are being implemented. The City of Burton has already been practicing these stipulations but will add an additional camera near the ballot box for added safety. I have received a quote from our IT Director and had discussions with the Mayor regarding this so there should be movement very soon. New legislation was passed last week that allows Clerks to begin pre-processing absentee ballots a few days before the election. Our election structure was established several weeks ago and as part of that, I decided to conduct four Absentee Counting Boards for this election. For this reason and the fact that the legislation was passed in the 11th hour, Burton will not be participating in the pre-processing. I will reevaluate this next year.

Discussion ensued regarding new legislation related to pre-processing absentee

ballots and new restrictions on ballot drop boxes.

Mr. Craig posed questions regarding write-in candidates.

Ms. Boggs stated write-ins have to file to be considered valid candidates. The deadline to file as a write-in is October 22nd at 4:00PM. Anyone who would like to know the names of valid write-ins can contact me or a member of my staff after October 22nd. This information will not be provided at the polling locations because Election Workers are not authorized to provide the names of write-ins to voters.

RESULT:	CARRIED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	James Craig, Commissioner
SECONDER:	Deborah K Walton, Commissioner
AYES:	Craig, Walton, Boggs

Meeting was adjourned at 12:13 PM.



BURTON, MICHIGAN

BURTON ELECTION COMMISSION MEETING

JULY 11, 2022

MINUTES

Council Chambers
Regular
11:00 AM

**4303 S. CENTER ROAD
BURTON, MI 48519**

This meeting was opened by Clerk Racheal Boggs at 11:00 AM.

A. ROLL CALL

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
Carl Gusie	Commissioner	Absent	
Bonnie Hoffmeyer	Commissioner	Absent	
James Craig	Commissioner	Present	
Deborah K Walton	Commissioner	Present	
Racheal Boggs	Clerk	Present	

B. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

No audience participation.

C. APPROVAL MINUTES

1. Election Commission - Regular - Mar 30, 2022 11:00 AM

RESULT:	ACCEPTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Deborah K Walton, Commissioner
SECONDER:	Racheal Boggs, Clerk
AYES:	Craig, Walton, Boggs
ABSENT:	Gusie, Hoffmeyer

D. AGENDA ITEMS

1. Approve and Authorize the Printing and Use of the Election Day Ballots for the August 2, 2022 Primary Election.

Ms. Boggs presented the ballots for the August 2, 2022 Primary Election to the Board.

Discussion regarding Precinct Delegates, splitting tickets, voter education, and the Precinct 3 district change that caused 120 voters to be in a different House District and two ballot styles in Precinct 3.

Ms. Boggs informed the board that the Clerk's Office has done all the testing of our tabulators and the programming was accurate. Therefore, we have sent out the absentee ballots to the permanent list.

Discussion regarding where voters can find information regarding who is on the ballot.

Ms. Boggs stated for every election, there is a link to the Michigan Voter Information Center (MVIC) the Clerk's Office web page at www.burtonmi.gov.

RESULT:	CARRIED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	James Craig, Commissioner
SECONDER:	Deborah K Walton, Commissioner
AYES:	Craig, Walton, Boggs
ABSENT:	Gusie, Hoffmeyer

2. Approve and Authorize the Appointment of Election Workers and Alternate Election Workers for the August 2, 2022 Primary Election as Presented by the City Clerk.

Ms. Boggs presented the Election Inspector Worker List to the Board. We are still in need of a couple people to work. We need a Coordinator at Atherton and approximately three other workers. The Receiving Board appointments will take place when we receive the overtime list.

Mr. Craig inquired as to the times the receiving board usually works and if they are usually employees.

Ms. Boggs stated that they are generally employees but can be Election Inspectors as well. We typically have them arrive at 7PM, just before close of polls to go over the duties. Depending on the election, Receiving Board Members can expect to be there anywhere from a couple hours to several hours. They are here until every precinct has returned to City Hall with election documents.

Discussion ensued regarding transmitting results.

Mr. Craig stated that he did not see anyone that is on the ballot working or their immediate family member.

Ms. Boggs stated that is correct. There is one person running for a Precinct Delegate position that is working, however, she is not working in her Precinct or at the location in which her Precinct is located per the law.

RESULT:	CARRIED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	James Craig, Commissioner
SECONDER:	Deborah K Walton, Commissioner
AYES:	Craig, Walton, Boggs
ABSENT:	Gusie, Hoffmeyer

3. Approve and Authorize the Performance of the Public Logic and Accuracy Testing on Tuesday, July 26, 2022 at 10:00 AM for Voting Equipment to be used in the August 2, 2022 Primary Election.

Ms. Boggs presented the Public Accuracy Testing notice and stated where it is posted, along with the ad in the newspaper. Public Accuracy Testing will take place on Tuesday July 26, 2022 at 10AM. You are welcome to come and participate.

Minutes Acceptance: Minutes of Jul 11, 2022 11:00 AM (Approval of Minutes)

RESULT:	CARRIED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Deborah K Walton, Commissioner
SECONDER:	James Craig, Commissioner
AYES:	Craig, Walton, Boggs
ABSENT:	Gusie, Hoffmeyer

4. Motion in Support of the City Clerk's position to keep the Absentee Ballot Drop Box in place at Burton City Hall in the South parking lot.

Ms. Boggs asked for opinions on information presented to the board regarding Absentee Ballot Drop boxes and the recent discussions that have taken place at City Council Meetings. One Council Member stated, "I don't like them because people can stuff them." At that same meeting, two people who are the leaders of a major political party spoke during audience participation regarding the ballot drop box, election integrity and the movie 2,000 Mules. Some council members agreed, and council asked the City Attorney to do research on the council's authority to remove the ballot drop box.

Mrs. Walton presented the City Charter, specifically section 12.6.

Ms. Boggs summarized section 12.6 of the City Charter and provided a document to the commission regarding the particulars of the absentee ballot drop box and voting statistics. Putting the drop boxes up was my decision as City Clerk with guidance by the state. I believe it is within my authority and the authority of this commission. Legislation was put in place governing the drop boxes and they are highly recommended by the State of Michigan. The idea behind drop boxes is to make it easier for people to vote. The original box that was installed was temporary. Because of the large number of voters who continued to use it even after COVID, I decided to put in a permanent box.

Mrs. Walton asked if anyone has ever tried to tamper with the drop box.

Ms. Boggs said, never.

Mrs. Walton stated during her time volunteering at City Hall, she has heard many residents express gratitude for the drop box.

Mr. Craig stated I am looking at the statistics, I do not see that having the drop box has affected the off-term elections.

Ms. Boggs stated the most astounding thing to me is the age of our absentee voters. Those are the ones I am most concerned with. They are using the drop box and they need it.

Mr. Craig asked, what is the concern of the council and other people who do not like the drop boxes?

Ms. Boggs explained the comments made at the council meeting. Some stated they believe drop boxes can be stuffed with fake ballots. They simply do not understand the process or the law.

Mr. Craig asked how do you know that the ballot you receive is a real ballot?

Ms. Boggs stated the process is intricate with lots of checks and balances. The

allegations that ballot boxes can be stuffed is ridiculous. A person would have to be able to successfully duplicate not only the ballots with numbering and barcodes, but the envelopes, specific labels with barcodes as well as signatures of each voter. First, we mail an application to the voters' home address, and this piece of mail is unable to be forwarded, like all election mail. The voter signs that application and mails or drops it off to the Clerk's Office. We scan the barcode that is on the application, each voter is assigned their own unique barcode. We compare their signature on the application to the one that is on their voter file. If the signature is a match, they are issued a ballot, which again is mailed to the voters' home address and cannot be forwarded. The voter votes their ballot, seals it in the envelope, signs that envelope and can either drop it off or mail it to the Clerk's Office. This envelope, again, contains the unique barcode assigned to that specific voter. Once the ballot is received and scanned in, the signature on the ballot envelope is again verified that it matches the voter file. Each voter is assigned only one ballot; the voter file will only issue one ballot and receive one ballot. The voter file can only receive the ballot number we sent to that voter. We have heard the argument from a council member of 'how do you know it's me?' when they drop their ballot in the outside drop box. It is their belief that because I see them putting the ballot in the box in my office, I know it is their ballot. However, this could not be further from the truth. We do not verify who is delivering a ballot, it is not a requirement by law nor is it possible. Many voters mail their ballots in, we do not stand at their driveway watching them put the ballot in their mailbox. We also do not verify that the ballot being dropped in the inside box belongs to that voter as they are putting it in. Again, being in possession, unauthorized, of someone else's ballot is a felony. We verify ballots by unique barcodes, ballot numbering and matching the signatures in the voter file. Period.

Mrs. Walton asked about cameras on the outside drop box.

Ms. Boggs stated council just added \$4,000 to the IT budget for cameras to be placed directly on the drop box. There are currently cameras monitoring the entire parking lot and drop box area.

Mrs. Walton stated it is my understanding that lighting will be repaired, also.

Mr. Craig asked, how big is the slot? I am trying to understand their argument.

Ms. Boggs stated it is just big enough to get a ballot in.

Discussion ensued regarding the laws relating to tampering with ballots and ballot boxes.

Ms. Boggs stated ballot tampering in anyway, is a felony.

Mr. Craig stated if you have elected officials dictating how an election should be run, that is a problem.

Ms. Boggs stated that is my stance, exactly. I am here to protect the voters of Burton and I swore an oath to do so. I am required to keep my personal feelings aside, as always. This shouldn't be about political beliefs; it is about doing what is right for Burton voters. I do not intend to take the drop box down. I installed the drop box based on the statistics you have in front of you. At the last Council Meeting, 6-7 voters submitted letters in support of keeping the drop box. I have had conversations with the League of Women's Voters, The Michigan Bureau of Elections, and the Michigan Association of Municipal Clerks who have all taken the same

position as me. The City Attorney was asked to submit an opinion on the matter, I have not seen an official written opinion. Council is expected to discuss this further at a future meeting.

Mrs. Walton made a motion in support of the City Clerk's position of keeping the absentee ballot drop box in place at Burton City Hall in the south parking lot.

RESULT:	CARRIED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Deborah K Walton, Commissioner
SECONDER:	James Craig, Commissioner
AYES:	Craig, Walton, Boggs
ABSENT:	Gusie, Hoffmeyer

Meeting was adjourned at 12:00 PM.

Minutes Acceptance: Minutes of Jul 11, 2022 11:00 AM (Approval of Minutes)



ADOPTED

AGENDA ITEM (ID # 5524)

DOC ID: 5524

Approve and Authorize the Performance of the Public Logic and Accuracy Testing on Tuesday, November 1, 2022 at 10:00 AM for Voting Equipment to be used in the November 8, 2022 General Election.

COMMENTS - Current Meeting:

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Mr. Fenner stated he is going to attend and will be challenging the other council members to participate.

RESULT:	CARRIED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Deborah K Walton, Commissioner
SECONDER:	James Craig, Commissioner
AYES:	James Craig, Deborah K Walton, Racheal Boggs



ADOPTED

AGENDA ITEM (ID # 5525)

DOC ID: 5525

Approve and Authorize the Appointment of Election Workers and Alternate Election Workers for the November 8, 2022 General Election as Presented by the City Clerk.

COMMENTS - Current Meeting:

Ms. Boggs stated the election worker list is being updated to accommodate the workflow, worker needs, and absenteeism. If changes are made, I will communicate that with this board. Blessed Sacrament has specific challenges relating to campaign workers pushing limits to campaign laws and other concerns that have been reported by election workers, so we are shifting some of the poll workers around to help the situation.

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Ms. Boggs replied that she does not want the voters to feel intimidated, but we could see about a plain-clothes officer visiting the site. Lindsey Bice has offered to work the election and we may use her at Blessed Sacrament to help keep this location under control and address questions and concerns. We are currently in need of a few more Absentee Counting Board workers. I have reached out to the state through the Democracy MVP program to recruit workers. These workers are uncertified. We have added one more Election Inspector Certification Class on October 25th at 5:30PM, so we can fill these positions and to ensure there is better a mix of Republicans and Democrats as required by law. I will keep this board updated as things progress or change. Does anyone have issues with the proposed Election Worker List?

Discussion regarding Election Inspector Certification, Genesee County not providing training, and the Democracy MVP program.

The Election Commission reported no issues with the proposed Election Worker List.

RESULT:	CARRIED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Deborah K Walton, Commissioner
SECONDER:	James Craig, Commissioner
AYES:	James Craig, Deborah K Walton, Racheal Boggs



ADOPTED

AGENDA ITEM (ID # 5526)

DOC ID: 5526

Approve and Authorize the Printing and Use of the Election Day Ballots for the November 8, 2022 General Election.

COMMENTS - Current Meeting:

Ms. Boggs stated sample ballots are available in the Clerk's Office and I have provided them today. All ballots have been printed and delivered. Preliminary testing is complete and there were no issues with the ballots. The absentee ballot drop box is being utilized and is under 24-hour surveillance. Light bulbs in the parking lot have been replaced to increase visibility. The state has some new drop box restrictions and requirements that are being implemented. The City of Burton has already been practicing these stipulations but will add an additional camera near the ballot box for added safety. I have received a quote from our IT Director and had discussions with the Mayor regarding this so there should be movement very soon. New legislation was passed last week that allows Clerks to begin pre-processing absentee ballots a few days before the election. Our election structure was established several weeks ago and as part of that, I decided to conduct four Absentee Counting Boards for this election. For this reason and the fact that the legislation was passed in the 11th hour, Burton will not be participating in the pre-processing. I will reevaluate this next year.

Discussion ensued regarding new legislation related to pre-processing absentee ballots and new restrictions on ballot drop boxes.

Mr. Craig posed questions regarding write-in candidates.

Ms. Boggs stated write-ins have to file to be considered valid candidates. The deadline to file as a write-in is October 22nd at 4:00PM. Anyone who would like to know the names of valid write-ins can contact me or a member of my staff after October 22nd. This information will not be provided at the polling locations because Election Workers are not authorized to provide the names of write-ins to voters.

RESULT:	CARRIED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	James Craig, Commissioner
SECONDER:	Deborah K Walton, Commissioner
AYES:	James Craig, Deborah K Walton, Racheal Boggs