

MEETING OF THE
COMMISSIONERS OF ELECTIONS
IN THE CITY OF NEW YORK
HELD ON TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2015
AT 1:30 P.M.
42 BROADWAY, 6th FLOOR, COMMISSIONERS' HEARING ROOM
NEW YORK, NY 10004

PRESENT: President Michael Michel
 Secretary Bianka Perez

Commissioners Jose Miguel Araujo, Ronald Castorina, John Fleteau,
Maria R. Guastella, Michael Rendino, Alan Schulkin, Simon Shamoun,
Frederic M. Umane

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
Kenneth Moltner, Counsel to the Commissioners
Steven B. Denkberg, Counsel to the Commissioners

GUEST: Anna-Maria Thomas
 Kate Doran, LWV
 Katharine Loving, CFB
 Laurie Wen, City Council
 Cathy Gray
 Rachel Fauss, Citizens Union
 John D. Smith
 Alan Flacks, Member of NY County Democratic Committee

President Michel called the meeting to order at 1:39 P.M.

Commissioner Araujo moved to adopt the minutes for the January 20, 2015 meeting. Commissioner Rendino seconded the motion, which was unanimously adopted.

Mr. Ryan reported on the Election Commissioners' Association Winter Conference which was held from January 12, 2015 through January 15, 2015 in Albany, NY. In attendance were Mr. Ryan, Mr. Richman, Mr. Savino, Ms. Fossella, Mr. O'Grady, Mr. Naudus, Mr. Ferguson, and Commissioners Schulkin and Flateau. Mr. Richman was a moderator of the "Violations of the Electoral Franchise and Campaign Finance and Enforcement" panel. Risa Sugarman, the new Chief Enforcement Counsel for the State Board, introduced herself and described the new changes that the budget of 2014/2015 made setting up the independent enforcement unit, and the role and interrelationship with the local boards of elections. Ms. Sugarman's PowerPoint presentation and a guidance memo outlining responsibilities from the expanded State Board's counsel unit will be emailed to the Board. Mr. Ryan reported that they also discussed poll site privacy issues, voter registration list maintenance, NCOA (Change of Address), and the ES&S user group. The State Board is scheduled to vote on the new Voter Registration form

on February 19, 2015. If adopted, the new form will then be translated into the required languages.

Mr. Ryan reported on the New York Law School Presentation concerning “Prospects for Election Reform in the Digital Age: One Year After the Presidential Commission on Election Administration” which was held on January 28, 2015. In attendance were Mr. Ryan, Mr. Ferguson, Mr. Savino, and Commissioner Schulkin. Mr. Ryan provided a Board statement concerning updates moving forward discussing the tablet pilot program, voter list maintenance issues, and online voter registration. He clarified that online voter registration is not automatic voter registration. A person would fill out the electronic PDF voter registration application online, print the application, sign it with their “wet” signature, and then mail it to the Board. When the application is received at the Board, a bipartisan team reviews it before it is imported and processed in the system. The electronic voter registration application will help with issues of handwriting allowing the applications to be processed quicker.

On behalf of the Commissioners, Commissioner Shamoun welcomed Georgea Kontzamanis, the new Operations Manager.

President Michel recognized Kate Doran, a member of the public, who inquired where the Commissioners' Committee Meeting notices will be posted on the Board's website. Ms. Vazquez reported that public notice will be posted on the Homepage.

President Michel recognized Alan Flacks, a member of the public, who stated that all write-in votes, including the unattributable, should be recorded.

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

Following Executive Session, the public meeting resumed and Mr. Ryan reported the following actions taken in Executive Session:

- I. The Commissioners unanimously voted to make \$20,000 available on an annualized basis to each Commissioner each year to be used at their discretion for merit pay for employees of the Board;
- II. Pursuant to the New York State Election Law, Section 3-218 (2), the Commissioners unanimously voted to grant

Nina Crispino and Amanda Berinato the authority to administer oaths on behalf of the Board limited to their official capacity in the Office of Personnel.

Commissioner Umane moved to adjourn the meeting. President Michel seconded the motion, which was unanimously adopted.

The next stated meeting of the Commissioners will be held on Tuesday, February 17, 2015 at 1:30 P.M.