

MEETING OF THE COMMISSIONERS OF ELECTIONS  
IN THE CITY OF NEW YORK  
HELD ON TUESDAY, JANUARY 16, 2018 AT 1:30 P.M.  
42 BROADWAY, 6<sup>th</sup> FLOOR, COMMISSIONERS' HEARING ROOM  
NEW YORK, NY 10004

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PRESENT:       President Rosanna Vargas  
                  Secretary John Wm. Zaccone

Commissioners Jose Araujo, John Flateau, Alan Schulkin, Simon  
Shamoun, Robert Siano, 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  
Steven Guglielmi, Director, Personnel  
Valerie Vazquez, Director, Communications and Public Affairs  
Steven B. Denkberg, Counsel to the Commissioners

GUEST:       Kate Doran, LWVNYC  
                  Amanda Melillo, CFB  
                  Wendy Byrne, LWVNYC  
                  Catherine Gray, LWVNYC  
                  Katharine Loving, NYC Campaign Finance Board  
                  Alan Flacks, Member of NY County Democratic Committee

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President Vargas called the meeting to order at 1:44 P.M.

Commissioner Flateau moved to adopt the minutes for the January 9, 2018 meeting. Commissioner Siano seconded the motion, which was unanimously adopted.

Mr. Richman presented the Draft Independent Nominating Petition Rules for 2018. Draft copies were previously distributed to the Commissioners for their review. Mr. Richman reported that these Rules will be utilized in any Special Elections called in 2018 as well as for the 2018 General Election. He provided a brief summary of the changes from the adopted 2017 Independent Nominating and Designating/OTB Rules as outlined in his memorandum. The following changes were made to the 2018 Independent Nominating Petition Rules:

- Secretary Zaccone recommended changing the language in Rule C3 to require that an amended cover sheet must clearly state “amended”. After discussion, Secretary Zaccone moved to adopt the following underlined language in Rule C3, “An amended cover sheet must clearly state on the first page that it is an amended cover sheet, and shall clearly identify the original cover sheet, which it is amending, by attaching a copy of the original cover sheet or by attaching a copy of the notice

of non-compliance to the amended cover sheet.” The motion was seconded, and unanimously adopted;

- Commissioner Umame recalled that there was discussion in the past regarding Rule C2 (b) which concerns the requirement of apartment numbers on cover sheets. After discussion, Commissioner Umame moved to adopt the following underlined language in Rule C2 (b), “The name and complete residence address of each candidate [for these Rules, a complete resident address includes the house number, street name, the city, state, and zip code for the address. An apartment number is recommended, but not required.” Commissioner Flateau seconded the motion, which was unanimously adopted. Commissioner Araujo recalled that the court system will make a final determination if an issue arises concerning an apartment number as the courts have done in the past;

- Commissioner Schulkin recommended adding an email address line to Rule I2. After discussion, Commissioner Schulkin moved to adopt the following language for Rule I2, “As soon as the borough office has prepared the report to the Commissioners, the borough office shall fax or email copies of the summary report (without the line-by-line rulings) to the

contact persons designation on the petition cover sheet and on the specifications to receive notices at the fax number or email address indicated...” The motion was seconded, and unanimously adopted. It was noted that staff can print out the sent email message and/or read receipt for the petition hearings. Mr. Richman reported that the Board’s Specifications of Objection form and General Objection form will be revised to include an email address line as well;

- Secretary Zaccone moved to amend Rule C2 (f) to include the following underlined language, “A place for the optional designation of a contact person to be notified to correct noncompliance with the Rules. (A cover sheet may include an email address for the contact person to receive notice from the Board.) Commissioner Umame seconded the motion, which was unanimously adopted.

Commissioner Araujo inquired about the sample forms that are included in the Board’s Rule booklet. Mr. Richman reported that some of the sample forms are from the State Board and have been provided in the booklet as a public service in previous years. He noted that there has not been any change to the State Board’s sample forms since 2001. President

Vargas requested for the Office of the General Counsel to ensure all State Board sample forms are kept up to date in the booklets in case there are any revisions. Mr. Richman noted that if there are any changes to the sample forms, a page insert will go into all printed Rule booklets as done in the past.

President Vargas recognized Katharine Loving, a representative of the New York City Campaign Finance Board, who requested for the Draft Rules with proposed changes to be posted on the Board's website along with the adopted Rules.

Commissioner Umame moved to adopt the Independent Nominating Petition Rules for 2018 as amended. Commissioner Araujo seconded the motion, which was unanimously adopted. Mr. Richman reported that the adopted Rules will be posted on the Board's website and will be printed and distributed to all Front Counters.

Commissioner Flateau inquired about the vacancies for the 2018 Special Elections. Mr. Richman reported that there are a total of five (5) vacancies.

Commissioner Araujo inquired if there has been any communication about the upcoming election dates. Mr. Ryan reported that he believes the dates will be set by the Governor by April 1<sup>st</sup> after the budget is concluded.

President Vargas moved to table the designation of Committee Members for 2018 for one (1) week due to the absence of two (2) Commissioners. Secretary Zaccone seconded the motion, which was unanimously adopted.

President Vargas recognized Alan Flacks, a member of the public, who inquired about the Consent Decree and requested for the list of new positions that was announced at the previous meeting.

President Vargas moved to convene an Executive Session for personnel matters. The motion was seconded, and unanimously adopted.

Following Executive Session, the open public meeting resumed and Mr. Ryan reported the following action that was taken in Executive Session:

- I. The Commissioners granted 210 hours Discretionary Advance of Time to Mitchell Partnow, a Project Coordinator in the General Office, commencing on February 5, 2018, and is to be

paid back. Mr. Partnow's agency start date is October 22, 2017. Commissioner Shamoun did not participate in Executive Session.

President Vargas moved to adjourn the meeting. Secretary Zaccone seconded the motion, which was unanimously adopted.

The next stated meeting of the Commissioners will be held on Tuesday, January 23, 2018 at 1:30 P.M.