

BOARD FOR REGISTRATION OF VOTERS

MEET: July 2nd, 2024 at 6:00pm

Where: Sharon Bushor Conference Room, 1st Floor City Hall and remotely via Zoom

Present: Grace Grundhauser, Karen Rowell, Mike McGarghan, Michelle Lefkowitz, Alex Demoly, Lesley Gendron, Lauren Ebersol, Olga Bravo, Colleen Montgomery, Jeanne Keller, Youth Member Will Cunningham

Absent: Alison Harte, Annie Schneider

Also Present: Sarah Montgomery, Assistant City Clerk

Meeting called to order by Chair Grace Grundhauser at 6:03pm

Agenda: Lesley Gendron asked if discussion about the outreach poster could be added to New Business. Lauren Ebersol made a motion to accept. Seconded by Michelle Lefkowitz. Approved unanimously.

Meeting Length: Set for one hour.

Welcome New Members: The new board members, Colleen Montgomery and Jeanne Keller, introduced themselves. Jeanne Keller said she has been involved in elections for a long time and is really pleased to become involved in this way now. Colleen Montgomery shared that she has a recent background as a CPA. She is currently in the process of retiring, and is really excited to get involved in this work. The remainder of the board members introduced themselves.

Chair and Vice-Chair Elections:

Chair: Michelle Lefkowitz nominated Grace Grundhauser for Chair. Seconded by Karen Rowell. Mike McGarghan nominated Karen Rowell. Karen Rowell declined the nomination. The vote was called. Grace Grundhauser was unanimously elected as Chair.

Vice-Chair: Olga Bravo nominated Michelle Lefkowitz. Seconded by Grace Grundhauser. Michelle Lefkowitz nominated Lesley Gendron. She declined the nomination. Michelle Lefkowitz nominated Lauren Ebersol. She declined the nomination. Mike McGarghan commented that while there is not anything wrong with electing the same people, it would also be beneficial to have new people fill the roles and broaden experience. Vote called for Michelle Lefkowitz. Approved unanimously.

Adopt Minutes: Mike McGarghan asked how wards are designated for homeless voters. Sarah Montgomery explained that their ward/district is designated by where they spend most of their time, and the mailing address can be any mailing address where they can collect mail, including General Delivery at the post office. Michelle Lefkowitz asked if we are actually mailing ballots to people who have General Delivery listed at their mailing address. Sarah Montgomery answered yes. Jeanne Keller added that people can pick up General Delivery mail at the post office by showing their ID. Mike McGarghan said it seems strange that residents need to show an ID for this at the post office when we

can't ask voters for an ID. Jeanne Keller noted that is a post office rule for General Delivery. Mike McGarghan said it would be helpful to have consistent processes in government. Olga Bravo noted that other states do require ID for voting. Mike McGarghan said that it is inconsistent around the country, but it shouldn't be. Grace Grundhauser shared that, as has been previously discussed at board meetings, this is not the board's discretion, it is Vermont state law that prevents asking voters for ID. Olga Bravo said that if IDs were required, people would not have an issue with showing them.

Michelle Lefkowitz made a motion to approve the minutes. Seconded by Lauren Ebersol. Approved unanimously.

Public Comments: No members of the public were present.

Clerk's Report:

Sarah Montgomery reported that there are currently 32,253 registered voters in Burlington. Out of these, 9,003 are challenged. In June, there were 185 new voter registrations, 133 voters were transferred out of Burlington into other Vermont towns, and 304 voters were removed from the checklist. Mike McGarghan asked how our number of challenged voters compares to other towns in Vermont and nationally. Sarah Montgomery answered that she is unsure, but that she can look into it.

Sarah Montgomery reported that early voting is open for the August 13th State Primary Election and Ward 3 Special Election. For the State Primary, 1,363 ballots have been issued and 18 voted ballots have been returned. Ballots for this election are mailed to voters by request only. For the Ward 3 Special Election, 2,746 ballots have been issued and 7 voted ballots have been returned. Ballots for this election were automatically mailed to all active registered voters in ward 3.

Final Annual Report to City Council

Board members briefly reviewed the final annual report and signed it for final submission.

August Election Prep

Grace reminded the board that there will be a regular meeting in August, on the 6th. There will also be a training, for volunteers and board members, on Thursday, August 8th at 5:00pm in the Sharon Bushor Conference Room at City Hall and via Zoom. Lesley Gendron asked about how volunteers will be coordinated for Election Day. Jeanne Keller asked what volunteers do on Election Day. Grace Grundhauser explained that volunteers are not able to officially sign any of the paperwork, but they can be an extra pair of hands as needed to help voters. Mike McGarghan asked if board members should be rotated through wards, so consistent practices can be refined. Grace Grundhauser said that she would like to keep as much consistency as possible while so many board members are still training, but that it is a good idea for when the board gets more settled. Grace Grundhauser shared Election Day assignments for each board member – she will share the full member assignment schedule with the board via email. Lauren Ebersol asked if the board could use a shared document to work together on volunteer recruitment and scheduling. Mike McGarghan asked if there is information that can be pulled to show voters who indicated that they are interested in helping at the polling places when they

registered to vote and if those voters can be reached out to. Sarah Montgomery answered that yes, that report can be pulled, and that it includes a large number of voters. Grace Grundhauser asked if the board is allowed to use voters contact information to reach out to them for this purpose. Sarah Montgomery will look into if the board is allowed to use this contact information. Mike McGarghan also recommended using Front Porch Forum to make an announcement about needing volunteers for Election Day.

New Business

Karen Rowell heard from a ward clerk who was asking if there is a way for the Board for Registration of Voters to verify if a voter registered on the citizen checklist is actually a citizen. Grace Grundhauser said that what is in the board's purview is to rule on voter registration challenges, but that she will need to look further into the law regarding this.

Grace Grundhauser will add the list of past volunteers to a shared Google document, so a few board members can work on recruitment of past volunteers together. Olga Bravo and Mike McGarghan opted out of helping with this.

Lesley Gendron asked how many voter registration outreach posters should be printed for posting. Helen Rock has a friend who can print them for us. The board decided to have 50 posters printed.

Adjournment

Mike McGarghan made a motion to adjourn. Seconded by Karen Rowell. The meeting was adjourned at 7:15.

Respectfully Submitted By: Sarah Montgomery, Assistant City Clerk