

MINUTES
OF THE STATE ELECTION BOARD
January, 31 2024

The State Election Board met in a **Special** meeting on **Wednesday January 31, 2024, at 9:00 A.M.** at the State Capitol Building, Room G-3, 2300 N. Lincoln Blvd, Oklahoma City, OK 73105. Advance notice of the meeting was performed by filing a written notice with the Secretary of State on January 18, 2024, at 1:31 P.M.

Meeting was called to order by **Heather Cline**

ROLL CALL: Heather Cline- **Present**

Tim Mauldin- **Present**

Mignon Lambley- **Present**

Also present were Secretary Paul Ziriaux, Assistant Secretary Rusty Clark, In-House Counsel Rachel Rogers, Assistant Attorney General Bailey Warren, Alternate Democratic Member Debra Thompson, and Board Clerk Garris Dennis. Alternate Republican Member Jerry Buchanan arrived at 9:15 A.M.

BUSINESS CONDUCTED AT THE MEETING:

1. Call to Order: Roll call and the announcement of a quorum.
2. Announcements and introductions of members.
3. **BUSINESS CONDUCTED:** Possible Executive Session pursuant to 25 O.S. Section 307(B)(1), to discuss complaints against the Republican Member, Republican Alternate Member, and the Secretary of the Oklahoma County Election Board, and to discuss the possible discipline, resignation, or removal of those individuals pursuant to the provisions of 26 O.S. Sections 2-112 and 2-114.
 - a. Motion and Vote to enter Executive Session
 - b. Discussion in Executive Session
 - c. Motion to exit Executive Session
 - d. In Open Session, possible action and vote, if any, on matters discussed in Executive Session.

(3 a.) ACTION TAKEN: Ms. Cline stated that as the Agenda outlined, the Board is anticipated to enter into executive session to discuss Agenda item 3. Ms. Cline asked Ms. Warren what the Attorney General's office would advise. Ms. Warren stated that since this is a personnel matter an executive session would be appropriate. Ms. Lambley moved that the Board enter into executive session. At approximately 9:10 a.m., Dr. Mauldin

seconded the motion. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Ms. Cline-aye; Dr. Mauldin-aye; Ms. Lambley-aye. Motion passed, 3-0.

(3 c.) ACTION TAKEN: At approximately 7:20 p.m., Dr. Mauldin moved to exit executive session. Ms. Lambley seconded the motion. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Ms. Cline-aye; Dr. Mauldin-aye; Ms. Lambley-aye. Motion passed, 3-0.

(3 d.) ACTION TAKEN: AAG Warren stated she would like to state for the minutes that during executive session, no items were discussed that were not listed on the agenda and no actions were taken. Ms. Cline made the following statement:

"For those of you in attendance, I wanted to take the time to read the following Statutes that are referenced in the agenda:

26 O.S. Section 2-114 states:

The State Election Board shall have the authority to remove any chair, vice-chair or any alternate member of any county election board at any time.

26 O.S. Section 2-112 states:

The State Election Board shall appoint the secretary of each county election board. The State Election Board shall have the authority to remove the secretary of any county election board at any time.

Now, just as I read, the decision-making authority granted this Board by state statute clearly says that these members may be "removed at any time." While that may be the case, we have nonetheless spent the last 10+ hours thoroughly reviewing and discussing the facts and the law related to the complaints surrounding the continued service of these individuals and interviewing all necessary individuals involved.

I want to make clear that any proposed action moving forward is not being taken lightly or without due diligence and proper care these personnel matters require. Further, any action taken by this board is not retaliatory or discriminatory in any way, it will be solely based on the facts and circumstances surrounding their actions or nonactions while serving as a board member, their truthfulness, and whether they have faithfully discharged their assigned duties under the law.

With that being said, now is the time for any motions by this Board."

Ms. Cline moved to remove Cheryl Williams as the Republican Member of the Oklahoma County Election Board effective immediately pursuant to 26 OS §2-114 for the following reasons:

- Lack of Candor and Truthfulness to the Oklahoma County Election Board, Secretary of the State Election Board, and State Election Board.
- Failure to disclose potential conflicts of interest related to a matter before the Oklahoma County Election Board.
- Failure to faithfully perform her duties prescribed by law, including but not limited to voting against the certification of a validly conducted election.
- Apparent misrepresentation of her vote cast at an Oklahoma County Board meeting and requiring minutes to reflect a vote contrary to audio evidence.
- Lack of respectfulness and professionalism with comity to the Oklahoma County Election Board Staff.
- Failure to bring forward alleged concerns in a timely manner to the County Election Board Staff.
- For behavior unbecoming an Oklahoma Election Official.

Dr. Mauldin seconded the motion. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Ms. Cline-aye; Dr. Mauldin-aye; Ms. Lambley-aye. Motion passed unanimously, 3-0.

(3 d. continued) ACTION TAKEN: Ms. Cline moved to remove Jenni White as an Alternate Member of the Oklahoma County Election Board effective immediately pursuant to 26 O.S. Section 2-114 for the following reasons:

- Failure to faithfully perform her duties prescribed by law.
- Purposefully and/or recklessly disseminating false information about Oklahoma's election system and procedures.
- Failing to immediately remove said false information from the public domain.
- Lack of respectfulness and professionalism in written communication with County Election Board staff.
- Failure to bring forward alleged concerns in a timely manner to the Oklahoma County Election Board staff.
- For behavior unbecoming of an Oklahoma election official.

Ms. Lambley seconded the motion. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Ms. Cline-aye; Dr. Mauldin-aye; Ms. Lambley-aye. Motion passed, 3-0.

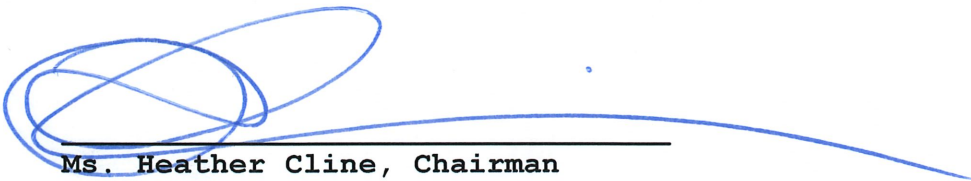
4. BUSINESS CONDUCTED: Discussion and possible action regarding any necessary referrals to the proper authorities regarding the matters discussed in Agenda Item 3.

ACTION TAKEN: Ms. Lambley moved to direct Secretary Ziriaux to send an official communication to the Oklahoma County Republican


Central Committee, to request that any nominees they wish to refer to this Board for possible appointment to fill the vacancy (or vacancies) in the Oklahoma County Election Board to be submitted on or before February 7th so that this Board can consider such appointment before the upcoming February 13th election. Dr. Mauldin seconded the motion. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Ms. Cline-aye; Dr. Mauldin-aye; Ms. Lambley-aye. Motion passed, 3-0. **ACTION TAKEN:** Ms. Lambley moved to direct Secretary Ziriaux to work with legal counsel from the Oklahoma Attorney General's Office to refer the matters related to the removal of these two member(s) to both the Oklahoma County District Attorney's office and the Oklahoma Attorney General for review and possible investigation. Dr. Mauldin seconded the motion. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Ms. Cline-aye; Dr. Mauldin-aye; Ms. Lambley-aye. Motion passed, 3-0.

5. **BUSINESS CONDUCTED:** Discussion regarding the scheduling of future meetings and requests for items to be placed on future agendas. **ACTION TAKEN:** Secretary Ziriaux stated that there may be the need for additional Special Meetings of the Board, and that staff from the State Election Board would reach out to the Members regarding the scheduling of any future meetings. **ACTION TAKEN:** No action taken.
6. **BUSINESS CONDUCTED:** Motion to adjourn. **ACTION TAKEN:** Dr. Mauldin moved to adjourn until the next meeting. Ms. Lambley seconded the Motion. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Ms. Cline-aye; Dr. Mauldin-aye; Ms. Lambley-aye. Motion passed, 3-0.

FOR THE STATE ELECTION BOARD



Ms. Heather Cline, Chairman



Dr. Tim Mauldin, Vice-Chairman



Ms. Mignon Lambley, Member

Mr. Jerry Buchanan, Alternate Member

Ms. Debra Thompson, Alternate Member

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