

## MINUTES

### OF THE STATE ELECTION BOARD AT ITS MEETING

March 14, 2023

The State Election Board met in a **Regular** meeting on **March 14, 2023**, at **5:00 P.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 December 12, 2022, at 8:33 A.M.

Meeting was called to order by **Chairman Montgomery**

**ROLL CALL:** THOMAS MONTGOMERY-**Present**

TIM MAULDIN-**Present**

HEATHER CLINE- **Present**

Also present were Secretary Paul Zirioux, Assistant Secretary Rusty Clark, In-House Counsel Rachel Rogers, Assistant Attorney General Bailey Warren, Board Clerk David Dunn, and Board Clerk Assistant Garris Dennis.

#### BUSINESS CONDUCTED AT THE MEETING

1. Call to Order: roll call and the announcement of a quorum.
2. Announcements and introductions of members and guests. In addition, Secretary Zirioux also announced that we will return to Agenda item 2 at the end of today's meeting.
3. **BUSINESS CONDUCTED:** Discussion and possible action regarding the minutes of the meeting held on January 11, 2023. **ACTION TAKEN:** Dr. Mauldin moved that the minutes of the meeting held on January 11, 2023, be approved. Ms. Cline seconded the motion. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Mr. Montgomery-aye; Dr. Mauldin-aye; Ms. Cline-aye. Motion passed, 3-0. (Signed Minutes attached)
4. **BUSINESS CONDUCTED:** Discussion and possible action regarding the minutes of the meeting held on January 17, 2023. **ACTION TAKEN:** Ms. Cline moved that the minutes of the meeting held on January 17, 2023, be approved. Dr. Mauldin seconded the motion. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Mr. Montgomery-aye; Dr. Mauldin-aye; Ms. Cline-aye. Motion passed, 3-0. (Signed Minutes attached)
5. **BUSINESS CONDUCTED:** Report by the Secretary, discussion, and possible action regarding the certification of the results for the State Question No. 820, Initiative Petition No. 434 Special Election held on March 7, 2023. **ACTION TAKEN:** Dr. Mauldin moved to certify results for the State Question No. 820, Initiative Petition No. 434 Special Election held on March 7, 2023. Ms. Cline seconded the motion. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Mr. Montgomery-aye; Dr. Mauldin-aye; Ms. Cline-aye. Motion passed, 3-0. (Election Summary Report attached; Two Official Certification Reports signed, sealed, and stored)
6. **BUSINESS CONDUCTED:** Discussion and possible action regarding the resignation of Rozella Hadwiger, the Republican Board member of the Alfalfa County Election Board. **ACTION TAKEN:** Ms. Cline moved to acknowledge the resignation of Rozella Hadwiger, the Republican Board member of the Alfalfa County Election Board. Dr. Mauldin seconded the motion. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Mr. Montgomery-aye; Dr. Mauldin-aye; Ms. Cline-aye. Motion passed, 3-0. (Resignation attached)
7. **BUSINESS CONDUCTED:** Discussion and possible action regarding the resignation of Heather Martin, the Democrat Board member of the Jefferson County Election Board. **ACTION TAKEN:** Dr. Mauldin moved to acknowledge the resignation of Heather Martin, the Democrat Board member of the Jefferson County Election Board. Ms. Cline seconded the motion. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Mr. Montgomery-aye; Dr. Mauldin-aye; Ms. Cline-aye. Motion passed, 3-0. (Resignation attached)
8. **BUSINESS CONDUCTED:** Discussion and possible action regarding the

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resignation of Ashley Bayless, the Republican Board member of the Jefferson County Election Board. **ACTION TAKEN:** Ms. Cline moved to acknowledge the resignation of Ashley Bayless, the Republican Board member of the Jefferson County Election Board. Dr. Mauldin seconded the motion. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Mr. Montgomery-aye; Dr. Mauldin-aye; Ms. Cline-aye. Motion passed, 3-0. (Resignation attached)

9. **BUSINESS CONDUCTED:** Discussion and possible action regarding the appointment of Mary Christine Sanchez as the Republican Board member of the Jefferson County Election Board. **ACTION TAKEN:** Ms. Cline moved to appoint Mary Christine Sanchez as the Republican Board member of the Jefferson County Election Board. Dr. Mauldin seconded the motion. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Mr. Montgomery-aye; Dr. Mauldin-aye; Ms. Cline-aye. Motion passed, 3-0. (Nomination attached)

10. **BUSINESS CONDUCTED:** Discussion and possible action regarding the disqualification of Patricia Moffett as the Republican Board member of the Mayes County Election Board pursuant to 26 O.S. § 2-132. In-House Counsel Rachel Rogers advised the Board. **ACTION TAKEN:** Ms. Cline moved to remove Patricia Moffett as the Republican Board member of the Mayes County Election Board, pursuant to 26 O.S. § 2-132. Dr. Mauldin seconded the motion. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Mr. Montgomery-aye; Dr. Mauldin-aye; Ms. Cline-aye. Motion passed, 3-0. (Letter from Mayes County District Attorney attached)

11. **BUSINESS CONDUCTED:** Discussion and possible action regarding the resignation of Charlene Kendrick, the alternate Republican Board member of the Mayes County Election Board. **ACTION TAKEN:** Ms. Cline moved to acknowledge the resignation of Charlene Kendrick, the alternate Republican Board member of the Mayes County Election Board. Dr. Mauldin seconded the motion. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Mr. Montgomery-aye; Dr. Mauldin-aye; Ms. Cline-aye. Motion passed, 3-0. (Resignation attached)

12. **BUSINESS CONDUCTED:** Discussion and possible action regarding the appointment of Charlene Kendrick as the Republican Board member of the Mayes County Election Board. **ACTION TAKEN:** Ms. Cline moved to appoint Charlene Kendrick as the Republican Board member of the Mayes County Election Board. Dr. Mauldin seconded the motion. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Mr. Montgomery-aye; Dr. Mauldin-aye; Ms. Cline-aye. Motion passed, 3-0. (Nomination attached)

13. **BUSINESS CONDUCTED:** Discussion and possible action regarding the appointment of Barbara Drum as the alternate Republican Board member of the Mayes County Election Board. **ACTION TAKEN:** Ms. Cline moved to appoint Barbara Drum as the alternate Republican Board member of the Mayes County Election Board. Dr. Mauldin seconded the motion. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Mr. Montgomery-aye; Dr. Mauldin-aye; Ms. Cline-aye. Motion passed, 3-0. (Nomination attached)

14. **BUSINESS CONDUCTED:** Discussion and possible action regarding the vacancy created by the candidacy of Rose Lynch, the Democrat Board member of the Okmulgee County Election Board, pursuant to 26 O.S. § 2-132. **ACTION TAKEN:** Dr. Mauldin moved to remove Rose Lynch, the Democrat Board member of the Okmulgee County Election Board, pursuant to 26 O.S. § 2-132. Ms. Cline seconded the motion. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Mr. Montgomery-aye; Dr. Mauldin-aye; Ms. Cline-aye. Motion passed, 3-0. (Resignation attached)

15. **BUSINESS CONDUCTED:** Discussion and possible action regarding the resignation of John L. Smith, the Democrat Board member of the Roger Mills County Election Board. **ACTION TAKEN:** Dr. Mauldin moved to acknowledge the resignation of John L. Smith, the Democrat Board member of the Roger Mills County Election Board. Ms. Cline seconded the motion. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Mr. Montgomery-aye; Dr. Mauldin-aye; Ms. Cline-aye. Motion passed, 3-0. (Resignation attached)

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16. **BUSINESS CONDUCTED:** Discussion and possible action regarding the resignation of James D. Beavin, alternate Democrat Board member of Roger Mills County Election Board. **ACTION TAKEN:** Dr. Mauldin moved to acknowledge the resignation of James D. Beavin, the alternate Democrat Board member of the Roger Mills County Election Board. Amended by Ms. Cline to note that his resignation will be effective April 15, 2023. Ms. Cline seconded the motion, as amended. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Mr. Montgomery-aye; Dr. Mauldin-aye; Ms. Cline-aye. Motion passed, 3-0. (Resignation attached)

17. **BUSINESS CONDUCTED:** Discussion and possible action regarding the resignation of Karen Green, the Republican Board member of the Seminole County Election Board. **ACTION TAKEN:** Ms. Cline moved to acknowledge the resignation of Karen Green, the Republican Board member of the Seminole County Election Board. Dr. Mauldin seconded the motion. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Mr. Montgomery-aye; Dr. Mauldin-aye; Ms. Cline-aye. Motion passed, 3-0. (Resignation attached)

18. **BUSINESS CONDUCTED:** Discussion and possible action to acknowledge the vacancy caused by the death of Larry E. Schmidt, the alternate Republican Board member of the Woods County Election Board. **ACTION TAKEN:** Ms. Cline moved to acknowledge the vacancy caused by the death of Larry E. Schmidt, the alternate Republican Board member of the Woods County Election Board. Dr. Mauldin seconded the motion. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Mr. Montgomery-aye; Dr. Mauldin-aye; Ms. Cline-aye. Motion passed, 3-0. (E-mail from CEB Secretary attached)

19. **BUSINESS CONDUCTED:** Discussion and possible action regarding the appointment of Kannin Koehn as the alternate Republican Board member of the Woods County Election Board. **ACTION TAKEN:** Ms. Cline moved to appoint Kannin Koehn as the alternate Republican Board member of the Woods County Election Board. Dr. Mauldin seconded the motion. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Mr. Montgomery-aye; Dr. Mauldin-aye; Ms. Cline-aye. Motion passed, 3-0. (Nomination attached)

**Possible Executive Session, pursuant to 25 O.S. § 307(B)(1), to discuss agenda item 20.**

20. Discussion and possible action regarding the appointment or reappointment of a number of County Election Board Secretaries as provided for in 26 O.S. § 2-111.1. **See attached list.**

- A. Motion and vote to enter Executive Session.
- B. Discussion in Executive Session.
- C. Motion and vote to exit Executive Session.
- D. In Open Session, possible action and vote, if any, on matters discussed in Executive Session.

Assistant Attorney General and State Election Board Legal Counsel Bailey Warren advised that an Executive Session was appropriate pursuant to statute.

20A. **ACTION TAKEN:** Ms. Cline moved to exit the Open Session and enter into Executive Session. Dr. Mauldin seconded the motion. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Mr. Montgomery-aye; Dr. Mauldin-aye; Ms. Cline-aye. Motion passed, 3-0.

20C. **ACTION TAKEN:** Ms. Cline moved to exit the Executive Session and to enter Open Session. Dr. Mauldin seconded the motion. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Mr. Montgomery-aye; Dr. Mauldin-aye; Ms. Cline-aye. Motion passed, 3-0.

Assistant Attorney General Bailey Warren reported that no items were discussed in Executive Session other than what is listed on the agenda and no actions were taken.

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20D. **ACTION TAKEN:** Dr. Mauldin moved to reappoint the 69 County Election Board Secretaries listed on the Addendum to new 4-year terms beginning on May 1, 2023 and ending on April 30, 2027. Ms. Cline seconded the motion. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Mr. Montgomery-aye; Dr. Mauldin-aye; Ms. Cline-aye. Motion passed, 3-0. (Addendum attached)

21. **BUSINESS CONDUCTED:** Discussion regarding the scheduling of future meetings and requests for items to be placed on future agendas. Our next statutory meeting will be on April 3, 2023. The Clerk will be in contact with Members regarding the time. On Tuesday, March 28, the Senate will take up the appointments of both new and reappointed State Election Board Members and Alternate Members.

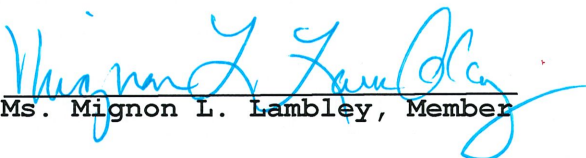
2. **BUSINESS CONDUCTED:** Return to Agenda item 2, as was previously noted. Secretary Zirix explained that this is Chairman Tom Montgomery's last State Election Board meeting. On behalf of the entire Board and SEB staff, Mr. Zirix expressed appreciation for Tom's 11 years of dedicated, faithful service (from May 8, 2012 to March 14, 2023), to the Oklahoma election system and to the citizens of Oklahoma. Secretary Zirix also presented Chairman Montgomery with a Certificate of Appreciation. Mr. Montgomery expressed his thanks for the recognition today and noted how much he has enjoyed working with everybody on this Board, the SEB leadership and staff, as well as with previous Board colleagues. He said he firmly believes that the State of Oklahoma has the very best election system in the entire nation.

22. **BUSINESS CONDUCTED:** Motion to Adjourn. **ACTION TAKEN:** Dr. Mauldin moved to adjourn until the next meeting. Ms. Cline seconded the motion. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Mr. Montgomery-aye; Dr. Mauldin-aye; Ms. Cline-aye. Motion passed, 3-0.

**FOR THE STATE ELECTION BOARD**

  
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Ms. Heather Cline, Chairman

  
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Dr. Tim Mauldin, Vice-Chairman

  
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Ms. Mignon L. Lambley, Member

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\_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Gerald Buchanan, Republican Alternate

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Ms. Debra Thompson, Democrat Alternate