

CITIZENS ELECTION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

December 18, 2023

REGULAR MEETING

MINUTES

2:03 p.m.: Chair Lund called the meeting of the Citizens Election Advisory Committee to order on the above date with the following present:

Present: Committee Members Susanne Baremore, Dawn Duckett, Bev Gray, Ronnean Lund, and Lisa Michaud, Ph.D.

Absent: None

Staff: Deputy County Executive Officer Stewart Buettell,
General Counsel Joanna Gin of Best Best & Krieger LLP, and
Chief Deputy Clerk of the Board Stefany Blankenship.

The Committee meeting opened with an invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD - OPEN TIME

Jon Knight, Nick Gardner, Christian Gardinier, Bob Holsinger, Rick Hutchinson, Laura, Patrick Jones, Teresa, Jim Burnett, Lori Bridgeford, and Tim Saunders spoke during public comment – open time.

In response to public comment, Member Baremore stated that recall petitions are not legally allowed to be viewed by anyone outside of a specific group of individuals.

Member Baremore requested that staff agendaize for Committee consideration at a future meeting a draft resolution submitted by Laura Hobbs to review and advance for recommendation to the Board of Supervisors, pending County Counsel review and approval.

Chair Lund announced that the item concerning ballot drop boxes would be heard at the end of the agenda.

ITEMS PULLED FROM CONSENT CALENDAR

NOVEMBER 20, 2023, MINUTES

Chair Lund discussed amendments she wanted made to the November 20, 2023, minutes.

There was no public comment.

By motion made, seconded (Baremore/Duckett), and unanimously carried, the Citizens Election Advisory Committee approved the minutes of the meeting held on November 20, 2023, as amended.

REGULAR CALENDAR

COMMITTEE MEMBER REPORTS

Member Duckett stated that she would like to have a presentation from Dr. Justin Grimmer concerning election information to help inform the Committee's decisions.

Member Baremore reported that she had reviewed videos from Dr. Douglas Frank's recent appearance at a town hall meeting. She also expressed interest in having a presentation from Dr. Grimmer.

Member Michaud had nothing to report.

Member Gray attended Dr. Frank's town hall appearance.

Member Lund stated that the Registrar of Voter's (ROV) office would be giving a presentation to the Committee regarding voter rolls at the next meeting and requested that Committee members email their questions to Joanna Francescut, Assistant Registrar of Voters, by December 28, 2023. She reported that the Committee's request for the policies and procedures used by the County Clerk/ROV was being treated like a California Public Records Act request and that she expected at least a partial response by December 28, 2023.

Member Lund also stated that the next Committee meeting would be their first as the Shasta County Elections Commission, as the ordinance passed by the Board of Supervisors would go into effect on January 4, 2024. She stated that the next meeting agenda would contain an item for the members to discuss what presentations they would like to have from the ROV's office.

There was no public comment.

AMEND 2024 COMMITTEE MEETING CALENDAR

Chair Lund discussed the possibility of moving the January 8, 2024, meeting to an earlier time to allow the Committee more time for their meetings. She stated that the proposed 2024 meeting calendar would be considered at the January 8 meeting, following the Board of Supervisors' adoption of their 2024 meeting calendar on December 19, 2023.

The Committee members discussed the calendar and potential meeting times. Chief Deputy Clerk of the Board Stefany Blankenship stated that she did not maintain County Counsel's calendar, so was unsure of their availability.

In response to questions by the Committee, General Counsel Joanna Gin stated that the time for the January 8 meeting could be set outside of a regular meeting, as long as all Brown Act requirements were met. Chair Lund stated that she would meet with Ms. Blankenship at a later date to determine the meeting's start time.

There was no public comment.

The Committee took no action regarding the 2024 Citizens Election Advisory Committee meeting calendar.

DISCUSSION: ELECTION ISSUES

Christian Gardinier and Rick spoke during public comment.

Member Duckett expressed interest in the chain of custody followed by the ROV and suggested forming an ad hoc committee to look into possible improvements once the Committee received the ROV's policies and procedures. Member Baremore also expressed her interest in chain of custody issues.

Members Duckett and Lund discussed their interest in speaking with County Counsel about the issues presented to the Committee at an earlier meeting by Richard Gallardo.

Member Gray stated her interest in examining the County's voter rolls.

By motion made, seconded (Michaud/Duckett), and unanimously carried, the Citizens Election Advisory Committee formed an ad hoc committee consisting of Members Lund and Gray to examine the voter rolls and prepare draft recommendations for the Committee to consider approving for Board consideration at a future Committee meeting.

The Committee discussed local, State, and Federal law and the extent of the Board of Supervisors' jurisdiction. Member Lund stated that if something brought to the Committee was felt to be substantiated, even if it was out of the Committee's or the Board's jurisdiction, it should

be presented to the Board for referral for further action or investigation as appropriate.

Lori Bridgeford, Rick, Christian Gardinier, and Nick Gardner spoke during public comment.

Members Michaud and Baremore expressed interest in forming an ad hoc committee to follow up on issues concerning ballot drop boxes.

Ms. Gin stated that Chair Lund was correct in her understanding that the term “voter rolls” was a broad category that encompassed all voter roll data.

BALLOT DROP BOXES

Christian Gardinier, Lori Bridgeford, Rick, Jim Burnett, and Bob Holsinger spoke during public comment.

Member Baremore stated that it was too late for the Committee to advocate making any changes to ballot drop box locations or numbers for the March 5, 2024, election, as the ballot booklets were being printed and they list the ballot box locations. She spoke about the California Code of Regulations concerning ballot drop boxes.

Member Duckett discussed the timeline for the County to receive the Committee’s report, issue a bid and finalize contracts for installing camera surveillance at drop box locations, and install the hardware.

A motion was made and seconded (Michaud/Duckett) to form an ad hoc committee consisting of Members Michaud and Lund to look into the locations and number of drop boxes.

A substitute motion was made and seconded (Baremore/Duckett), and failed 2-3 with Members Lund, Michaud, and Gray voting no, to form an ad hoc committee consisting of Members Michaud and Baremore to look into issues surrounding ballot drop boxes in general.

A substitute motion was made and seconded (Lund/Gray) to form an ad hoc committee consisting of Members Michaud and Lund to review any and all drop box-related issues and draft recommendations for the Committee to consider approving for Board consideration at a future Committee meeting.

Ms. Gin discussed the parameters of the proposed motion due to the item language used on the agenda.

Member Lund withdrew her motion.

By motion made, seconded (Michaud/Duckett), and carried 3-2 by roll call vote with Members Baremore and Duckett voting no, the Citizens Election Advisory Committee formed an

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ad hoc committee consisting of Members Michaud and Lund to look into the installation of camera surveillance at drop box locations and examine the number and locations of drop boxes for the March 5, 2024, election and draft recommendations for the Committee to consider approving for Board consideration for future elections at a future Committee meeting.

4:04 p.m.: The Citizens Election Advisory Committee adjourned.

Chair

ATTEST:

DAVID J. RICKERT
Clerk of the Citizens Election Advisory Committee

By _____
Deputy