

SHASTA COUNTY ELECTIONS COMMISSION

Monday, February 5, 2024

REGULAR MEETING

MINUTES

2:02 p.m.: Chair Lund called the meeting of the Shasta County Elections Commission to order on the above date with the following present:

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

Staff: Deputy County Executive Officer Stewart Buettell, Outside Counsel Joanna Gin, and Chief Deputy Clerk of the Board Stefany Blankenship.

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

Commissioner Baremore read a prepared statement concerning the announced retirement of Cathy Darling Allen, County Clerk/Registrar of Voters.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD - OPEN TIME

Steve Woodrum, Sheree Amaral, Laura Hobbs, Shawn Henson, Lori Heston, Steve Amaral, Deidre Holliday, Darcy, Nathan Blaze, K.C., Lori Bridgeford, Jim Burnett, Robert Exter, and an anonymous speaker spoke during public comment – open time.

Outside Counsel Joanna Gin explained that under the Brown Act, campaign or political speech is arguably outside the subject matter of the jurisdiction of the body, but that this is gray. Counsel also explained that a different state law, Government Code section 8314, prohibits a local officer from allowing others to use public resources for campaign activity, and that the Chair has satisfied the obligation to notify the public as a precautionary measure.

ITEMS PULLED FROM CONSENT CALENDAR

MINUTES

Commissioner Lund stated that the January 8, 2024, minutes needed to be updated to correct the name of the report submitted to the Board of Supervisors.

A motion was made and seconded (Baremore/Duckett) to approve the January 22, 2024, minutes as submitted.

Laura Hobbs spoke during public comment.

Commissioner Baremore withdrew her motion.

By motion made, seconded (Lund/Duckett), and unanimously carried, the Shasta County Elections Commission approved the minutes of the meeting held on January 8, 2024, as amended.

By motion made, seconded (Duckett/Baremore), and unanimously carried, the Shasta County Elections Commission approved the minutes of the meeting held on January 22, 2024, as submitted.

REGULAR CALENDAR

BYLAWS

The Commission discussed amendments to the proposed bylaws.

Laura Hobbs, Lori Bridgeford, and an anonymous speaker spoke during public comment.

By motion made, seconded (Lund/Duckett), and unanimously carried, the Shasta County Elections Commission directed staff to bring back the bylaws, as amended, at the next meeting.

ELECTION OF 2024 CHAIR AND VICE-CHAIR

Lori Bridgeford, Lori Heston, Thomas Hildebrand, and two anonymous speakers spoke during public comment.

By consensus, the Shasta County Elections Commission took no action.

COMMISSIONER REPORTS

Commissioner Gray discussed her investigation into the County's voter rolls.

Commissioner Michaud discussed the possible public funding of ballot box observation equipment.

Commissioner Baremore spoke about scheduling a presentation from Dr. Justin Grimmer, the possibility of moving the public comment-open time, and mail-in/absentee ballots. She reminded the public about the election observer opportunities for the March 2024 Primary Election.

Commissioner Duckett discussed her meeting with Joanna Francescut, Assistant County Clerk/Registrar of Voters, about ways to increase voter confidence at the local level without violating State or Federal law.

Commissioner Michaud stated that she had also met with Ms. Francescut, and that the Commission was welcome to suggest new topics for or revisions to the existing Frequently Asked Questions section of the Elections' Department website, to assist the County Clerk's office in clarifying subjects that the public was interested in.

Commissioner Lund asked Outside Counsel Gin to report on the question of appointing individuals who are not Commissioners to the Commission's ad hoc committees. Ms. Gin stated that, according to Government Code section 54952, ad hoc committees of a body are comprised solely of members of that body that constitute less than a quorum. Because of that, members of the public cannot be formally appointed to ad hoc committees, but can be invited to join ad hoc committee meetings, as such meetings are not subject to the Brown Act. Ms. Gin cautioned Commissioners against discussing ad hoc committee subjects or views with Commissioners who were not on the same ad hoc committee, as that could violate the serial meeting clause of the Brown Act.

DISCUSSION OF ELECTION ISSUES

Laura Hobbs, Lori Bridgeford, and an anonymous speaker spoke during public comment.

Commissioner Baremore stated that she would reach out to Dr. Grimmer to either arrange for his presentation to the Commission in person or to provide copies of his published material to the Commission members.

4:37 p.m.: The Shasta County Elections Commission adjourned.

Chair

ATTEST:

DAVID J. RICKERT
Clerk of the Shasta County Elections Commission

February 5, 2024

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By _____
Deputy

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