

MEETING OF THE COMMISSIONERS OF ELECTIONS
IN THE CITY OF NEW YORK
HELD ON TUESDAY, JANUARY 5, 2016
AT 1:30 P.M.
42 BROADWAY, 6th FLOOR, COMMISSIONERS' HEARING ROOM
NEW YORK, NY 10004

PRESENT: President Michael Michel
 Secretary Bianka Perez

Commissioners Jose Araujo, John Flateau, Maria R. Guastella, Michael Rendino, Alan Schulkin, Simon Shamoun, Frederic M. Umane

Michael J. Ryan, Executive Director
Pamela Perkins, Administrative Manager
Steven H. Richman, General Counsel
Raphael Savino, Deputy General Counsel
Valerie Vazquez, Director, Communications & Public Affairs
Nina M. Crispino, Director, Personnel
Kenneth Moltner, Counsel to the Commissioners
Steven B. Denkberg, Counsel to the Commissioners

GUEST: Anna-Maria Thomas
 Kate Doran, LWV NYC
 John Smith
 Katharine Loving, NYC CFB

President Michel called the meeting to order at 1:38 P.M.

Pursuant to Section 3-212(1) of the New York State Election Law, the Commissioners conducted the election of Board Officers for 2016. Commissioner Schulkin nominated Secretary Perez to serve as President

of the Board for 2016. Commissioner Flateau seconded the motion, which was unanimously adopted. Commissioner Rendino nominated Commissioner Umane to serve as Secretary of the Board for 2016. Commissioner Shamoun seconded the motion, which was unanimously adopted.

President Perez requested for the designation of Committee Members for 2016. Ms. Perkins received the list of Democratic Committee Members and recited it into the record as follows:

Budget & Finance Committee

- Commissioners Schulkin and Flateau

Communications, Voter Registration and Outreach Committee

- Commissioners Schulkin and Flateau

Management Information Systems and Services Committee

- Commissioner Flateau

Legislative Affairs Committee

- Commissioners Perez and Schulkin

Personnel/Investigations Committee

- Commissioners Perez and Araujo

Ballot Layout Committee

- Commissioners Araujo and Guastella

Secretary Umame reported that the Republican Commissioners have not designated their Committee Members yet, and moved to table the designation of Committee Members for 2016 until the next meeting. There was consensus among the Commissioners to table this item until the next meeting. The existing Committee Members for 2015 will carry over the Committee assignments until the 2016 designations.

President Perez proposed scheduling the next Commissioners' Meeting in two (2) weeks due to the New York State Election Commissioners Association (NYSECA) 2016 Winter Conference in Albany, NY next week.

Commissioner Araujo moved to adopt the minutes for the December 8, 2015 meeting. Commissioner Flateau seconded the motion, with Commissioner Rendino abstaining. The motion was adopted.

Commissioner Flateau moved to adopt the minutes for the December 15, 2015 meeting. Secretary Umame seconded the motion, with Commissioners Guastella, Araujo and Rendino abstaining. The motion was adopted.

President Perez moved to adopt the minutes for the December 22, 2015 meeting. Secretary Umame seconded the motion, with Commissioners Araujo and Guastella abstaining. The motion was adopted.

Commissioner Rendino noted that he had jury duty on December 8, 2015 and December 15, 2015.

Mr. Richman requested for the establishment of the date for Hearings on Specifications of Objections and related matters for the February 23, 2016 Special Election for Member of the New York City Council, 17th District, Bronx County. Copies of Mr. Richman's memorandum and Filing Calendar were distributed to the Commissioners. In an effort to accommodate the needs of the Bronx Office staff and the Voting Equipment Operations Unit (VEOU) staff, Mr. Richman recommended Friday, February 5, 2016. President Perez reported that she has a scheduling conflict that day and recommended Monday, February 8, 2016. In the event there is not a full quorum, a Commissioners Subcommittee of two (2) Republicans and two (2) Democrats could serve for the Hearings, and could be determined at a future Commissioners' Meeting before the Hearing date. Secretary Umame moved to schedule the Hearings on Specifications of Objections and

related matters for the February 23, 2016 Special Election on Monday, February 8, 2016 at 10:00 A.M. President Perez seconded the motion, which was unanimously adopted.

Mr. Richman reported on the printing of military and absentee ballots for the February 23, 2016 Special Election in Bronx County. The State Election Law mandates that military ballots be distributed no later than 45 days before the Special Election. The City Charter mandates that the Special Election be held the first Tuesday, 45 days after the occurrence of the vacancy. These inconsistent provisions create a dilemma for the Board. Absentee ballots are to be mailed as soon as practicable following the distribution of military ballots. Mr. Richman reported that this issue arose two (2) years ago and the City Charter has not been amended yet to match the requirement of State Law. He recommended printing and distributing the military and absentee ballots as of Wednesday, January 20, 2016 in an effort to meet the spirit of the State Election Law, and to provide for a meaningful ballot with the names of all candidates who filed facially compliant petitions and cover sheets. Secretary Umane suggested for Board staff to mention these inconsistent laws to the members at the NYSECA Conference next week. Commissioner Flateau suggested for a letter from the Board's President to the City Council about this issue.

President Perez moved to print the military and absentee ballots for the February 23, 2016 Special Election on Wednesday, January 20, 2016. Commissioner Rendino seconded the motion, which was unanimously adopted.

Mr. Richman requested for the designation of a Cover Sheet Review Committee for Independent Nominating Petitions for the Special Election over the next two (2) weeks. He will reach out to the President and Secretary for the Commissioners' availability, if needed.

President Perez moved to adjourn the meeting for two (2) weeks due to the NYSECA Conference in Albany, NY next week. Commissioner Araujo seconded the motion, which was unanimously adopted.

The next stated meeting of the Commissioners will be held on Tuesday, January 19, 2016 at 1:30 P.M.