

PORTER COUNTY ELECTION BOARD
155 INDIANA AVENUE, SUITE 205
VALPARAISO, IN 46383
OCTOBER 31, 2018 3:00 PM

1.) Pledge of Allegiance

2.) Roll Call- JJ Stankiewicz, Dave Bengs, Karen Martin present. Quorum established.

3.) Portage Early Voting Ballots Cast from 10/27/2018 8:30-11:30am- No initials placed on back of ballots during this time frame. Voters have been contacted to request them to revote. Approximately 118 voters affected. Voters were contacted by a bipartisan board of Kathy Kozuszek of Voter Registration and Victoria Gresham of the Election Division of the Clerk's Office. Kozuszek states a lot of voters did not have phone numbers or emails listed. Says five agreed to come back in. Kozuszek states these two workers were fill-ins appointed by the Clerk, not the regular workers for this location. States the two workers had little to no training. When she spoke with one of the workers, she advised them to isolate the ballots without initials. Ballots were securely transported back to the Courthouse by a bipartisan board. The Election Board held an emergency meeting at 9:30 a.m. and decided to contact all voters affected and meet on October 31st to address the 118 votes. Motion was made and passed at emergency meeting to contact and that has been done. Any others that do not come back in; their ballots will be placed in provisional envelopes to be addressed at the certification meeting on November 16th. Martin asks Kozuszek what was done in the past when a ballot was missing both initials. Kozuszek states she has never seen that happen. Stankiewicz asks the board to consider his resolution based upon the fault being that of the county, not the voter. Stankiewicz addresses the need to save these votes. Martin addresses that one of the workers in question had a week of training with a veteran worker before this issue arose. Martin spoke to both workers the night prior and both said they were prepared. Bengs addresses no change to current resolution for ballots in question. Attendee of the meeting asks why not make all ballots provisional, why inconvenience the voter to come back in? Bengs answers that there will be no question of the validity of the ballot if the voter recasts their vote. Stankiewicz mentions that his resolution eliminates the requirement of dual signatures so that those ballots are valid votes even if voter doesn't come back in. Ethan Lowe, Election Board Attorney, advises that state law requires the ballot to include two sets of initials on the back. These 118 ballots do not have initials. His recommendation to the board is that all individuals need to come back in, receive an ABS-5 to spoil initial ballot and vote again.

Lowe states it is a disservice to these voters if you do not take every effort possible to contact these voters and get them to come back in and cast a new ballot. As provisional, by law, they are putting the validity of their ballot to be questioned. This is the message that needs to be conveyed clearly to these affected voters. Stankiewicz motions to approve his resolution to allow all ballots to be counted without initials. No second. Motion denied.

- 4.) Notice from Commissioner's Office from US Postal Service-** Candidates are advised to not place flyers in mailboxes. They have to be mailed.
- 5.) Minutes from Emergency Meeting 10/29/2018-**Bengs motions to approve, Stankiewicz seconds. Vote 3-0.
- 6.) Adjournment-** Bengs motions to adjourn, Martin seconds. Vote 3-0. Meeting adjourned.