

Clark County Election Board

Meeting Minutes

Monday August 31, 2026 - 4:45 PM

Clark County Judicial Center

Board Members Present

- Andrew Steele, Chairman
- Tony Singleton, Member
- Ryan Lynch, Clark County Clerk, Secretary of the Board

Also Present:

- Election Board Staff
- Sarah Stivers, Challenger
- Mickey Weber, Counsel for the Challenger
- John Benningfield, Candidate
- Jeremy Snelling, Republican Party representative and witness
- Members of the public

1. Call to Order

Chairman Andrew Steele called the reconvened hearing to order at approximately 4:45 PM. The sole matter before the Board was the challenge filed by Sarah Stivers regarding John Benningfield's candidacy for Clark County Council District One.

2. Candidate Challenge Hearing

A. Additional Submissions

Chairman Steele noted that the Board had received additional submissions from Benningfield since the August 27 hearing. The hearing had been continued to allow Board members to review the materials and consider the challenge.

B. Status of Expungement and Board Discussion

Clerk Lynch asked about a felony conviction in Johnson County and whether an expungement order had been signed. The Board discussed the case and noted that a hearing was scheduled for November 9, 2026. No signed expungement order for that case was presented to the Board.

Jeremy Snelling addressed the Board and clarified his role in the Republican Party's recruitment of Benningfield. Board members and Benningfield also spoke about Benningfield's recovery and community work. Members emphasized that the challenge required the Board to apply the legal qualifications for candidacy and was not a judgment of his character.

Chairman Steele discussed the felony convictions, the absence of signed expungement orders in effect before the candidacy filing, and guidance received from the Indiana Election Division. He stated that a later expungement would not cure a disqualification existing at the time of filing.

C. Board Action

Chairman Steele made a motion to accept the challenge as true, deny John Benningfield's candidacy, remove him from the ballot, and vacate the candidacy for Clark County Council District One.

Clerk Lynch seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

After the vote, the Board discussed the approaching ballot-printing deadline and whether the Republican Party could fill the vacancy. No determination on the party's deadline was made at the meeting. Clerk Lynch stated that he would look into the applicable timeline.

3. Next Meeting

The Board planned to hold its next regular meeting on Monday September 28, 2026 at 4:45 PM.

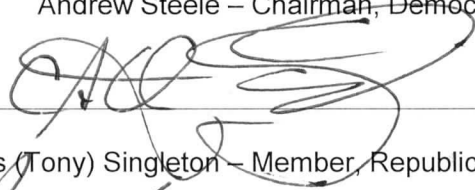
4. Adjournment

Chairman Steele closed the meeting at approximately 5:05 PM.

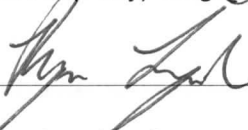
Election Board Members of Clark County:



Andrew Steele – Chairman, Democrat Appointee



Charles (Tony) Singleton – Member, Republican Appointee



Ryan Lynch – Secretary & Clark County Circuit Court Clerk