Clark County Election Board

Meeting Minutes

Monday, June 30, 2025 - 4:50 PM EST

Clark County Judicial Center

Board Members Present:

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

Also Present:

- Angela Cornett, Election Administrator
- Members of the public (sign-in sheet circulated)

1. Call to Order

Chairman Andrew Steele called the regularly scheduled meeting of the Clark County Election Board to order at approximately 4:50 PM.

2. Acknowledgment of Former Meeting Secretary

Steele acknowledged Joanne Gohagan's years of service recording meeting minutes, thanked her for her dedication.

3. Approval of Meeting Minutes

Minutes from May 19, 2025 and May 28, 2025 were presented.

Motion by Steele to approve the minutes.

Second by Singleton.

Vote: Unanimous approval.

4. Amendments to Agenda

No additional agenda items were added.

5. New Business

a. Campaign Finance Law Update (Effective July 1, 2025)

Ryan Lynch briefed the board and public on the newly effective state campaign finance law requiring elected officials making over \$5,000 to maintain open principal campaign committees (CFA-1) throughout their term. The Clerk's office has already contacted affected officials. Judges are not exempt. Discussion held on implications, enforcement, and lack of public guidance from the Indiana Election Division. Filing deadline is July 11. Violations may incur fines of \$50/day up to \$1,000. Steele reiterated the board's responsibility for monitoring compliance and holding hearings before fines are assessed.

6. Transparency & Recording of Meetings

Ryan Lynch updated the board on new equipment allowing for audio and video recording of meetings. Recordings will be posted online once software approvals are finalized. Discussion was held on using YouTube or another platform. Microphone equipment has a 360° pickup radius of ~ 20 feet.

7. Campaign Finance Complaint Update

Ryan Lynch reported communication with attorney Zachary Klutz, who represents the PAC involved in the ongoing campaign finance complaint. The PAC's attorney requested clarification on the board's rationale for requesting 2023 bank statements. Discussion focused on verifying the legitimacy of receipts, particularly a series of payments totaling \$35,000 to 'MDL Strategies'—a firm with no public record. Multiple members of the public voiced concerns about lack of cooperation and transparency. Redactions for sensitive information (e.g., SSNs, addresses) will be required. Full bank statements and vendor identification are expected. The board reiterated that verifying legitimacy is central to the complaint investigation.

8. Motion Authorizing Clerk to Communicate on Board's Behalf

Motion by Singleton to authorize Clerk Ryan Lynch to correspond with Mr. Klutz and the PACs on behalf of the board, with oversight by board members. Clerk Lynch is to: continue requesting documentation, draft letters for legal review, and keep the board copied on communications. Second by Steele. Vote: Unanimous approval.

9. Discussion on Enforcement of Late Filing Penalties

Alice Dorman Butler raised concerns about lack of enforcement of CFA late filing penalties. The board discussed potential delegation to the Clerk's Office or requiring candidates to appear to explain tardiness. Steele noted the importance of discretion, especially for first-time candidates or those with emergencies.

10. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn by Singleton.

Second by Steele.

Vote: Unanimous.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 6:35 PM.

Next Meeting:

Monday, July 21, 2025 – 4:45 PM Clark County Judicial Center

Election Board Members of Clark County:

Andy Steele/Chairman, Democrat Appointee

Charles Singleton-Member, Republican Appointee

Ryan Lynch- Secretary & Clark County Circuit Court Clerk