

Commissioner Kosinski: Good afternoon, I'd like to welcome everybody to the meeting of the Board of Canvassers of the New York State Board of Elections. I'm Peter Kosinski, Commissioner, joining me today is Commissioner Henry Berger, Commissioner Essma Bagnuola, and Commissioner Tony Casale. Everyone is here so we can pick up the meeting. We have before us the certification of the election results from the April 2nd, 2024, Presidential Primary. I believe those documents have been distributed to the Commissioners for their review. First, unless there's any questions, I would entertain a motion to adopt the results as submitted by the staff.

Commissioner Berger: So moved.

Commissioner Kosinski: Is there a second?

Commissioner Casale: Second.

Commissioner Kosinski: Any questions about this document? If there are no questions, I have a motion, all those in favor say aye.

Commissioner Bagnuola: Aye.

Commissioner Casale: Aye.

Commissioner Berger: Aye.

Commissioner Kosinski: Aye.

Commissioner Kosinski: Opposed? That is carried unanimously. I believe that's all we have before the Board of Canvassers, is that correct? Am I correct on that? In that case, we'll close the Board of Canvassers and open as the Board of Elections. And as Board of Elections, we first have our Minutes from the February 6th and March 2nd, meetings for the State Board of Elections. Is there a motion to accept?

Commissioner Casale: So moved.

Commissioner Berger: Second.

Commissioner Kosinski: All in favor aye.

Commissioner Bagnuola: Aye.

Commissioner Casale: Aye.

Commissioner Berger: Aye.

Commissioner Kosinski: Aye.

Commissioner Kosinski: Opposed? Those are both carried unanimously. Our second action is the ballot access determinations. Now the staff has been going through the process of reviewing the petitions that were filed here at the Board. And holding hearings regarding objections due to the nature of those petitions. And the result is this three-page document that they have submitted to us along with supporting documentation of the results of the particular hearings. Again, this has been circulated to the Commissioners prior to the meeting, and we all have a copy of it in front of us. We will take these unless there is a document that has a total on one document, rather than each individually. So, I would entertain a motion to accept the report of determinations regarding the petitions. Is there a motion to approve?

Commissioner Casale: So moved.

Commissioner Kosinski: Is there a second?

Commissioner Berger: Second.

Commissioner Kosinski: All in favor? Aye.

Commissioner Bagnuolo: Aye.

Commissioner Casale: Aye.

Commissioner Berger: Aye.

Commissioner Kosinski: Aye.

Commissioner Kosinski: Opposed? That is also carried. So, we will move on from that to our unit updates. Our first unit would be the Executive, Kristen, and Ray.

Raymond Riley: Good afternoon, commissioners. I just want to start with an acknowledgment of both the state board and county board staff for their hard work over the past several months. The presidential primary election coincided with the June primary petition filing period this year. This put a significant strain on board resources, state board staff, county board staff rose to the challenge of those conflicting calendars and carried out their responsibility both professionally and effectively. I just want to thank them for their hard work and dedication to the voters of the state with those two things coinciding at the same time.

With that said, I want to move onto the report. I want to start with space planning. We are very happy to report we are in the last phase of the construction project on the 5th floor. This has been an ongoing project for several years. Temporary walls separating the 5th floor are scheduled to come down tomorrow, furniture delivery is scheduled to be Monday. So, our hope is that we will

be in place in June, and the entire space back together again. We continue to meet with contractors and OGS on a biweekly basis, and we appreciate all their work on the project.

Online voter registration, from January of this year to date, we have had 39,427 online voter registrations transmitted almost evenly distributed between the New York City system and the state system.

Automatic Voter Registration, our partnership with New York State ITS continues. They have finalized the schedule and have begun to do work. The now finalized schedule, we have Phase 1 to be completed in quarter 1 of 2025 with phase 2 scheduled to deploy in Q2 of 2025. We continue to communicate with various agencies on their connection to those systems and are working with ITS as they build the central API. Carl and Cheryl spoke about this in the previous meeting, but the PCFB/SBOE integrated software solution. On February 23rd Office of State Comptroller approved the contract with MTX. Working in coordination with MTX immediately started about 2 weeks after that. Much of the last 2 months have been spent in daily information gathering sessions with the vendor. We finalized the text stack. MTX has begun development, and they are all working to quickly develop the software and coordinating daily with both PCFB and SBOE staff and units to ensure the development meets needs and expectations.

Petitions, SBOE received petitions the first week of April for over 2,100 candidates running across all four major parties for both public office and party position. With the Commissioner's earlier ruling on ballot access determinations, the co-executive directors will certify the primary ballot and send that to the county boards later today.

Yesterday we had a special election in the 26th Congressional district. Unofficial results were transmitted to the clerk of the House earlier today. The election went smoothly and there are no issues to report.

SBOE continues to meet regularly with state and federal agencies. In our ongoing partnership with cybersecurity and infrastructure security agency, which is a component of Department of Homeland Security, we're going to be hosting tabletop exercises across the state in July, partnering with both county boards of elections and local governments to continue to plan for the upcoming 2024 general election. These exercises serve to bring multiple agencies and jurisdictions together to tackle hypothetical problems that could arise during election events allowing for better coordination and communication across all agencies. State board is happy to welcome our new Chief Information Officer, Laura Baker who is here today, who's first day is scheduled for tomorrow. Laura previously served as both the CIO and Deputy CIO for Schenectady County. Laura's a leader in her field, who has spent years to help modernize and transform the digital space for government agencies. We all look forward to seeing what great things she accomplishes here at the State Board.

And finally, I want to point out that our Deputy General Counsel, Kevin Murphy is not with us today. This weekend the Murphy's welcome their first child, we wish Kevin, his wife, and baby Murphy well. With that, I'll pass it over to Kristen for anything she has to add.

Kristen Zebrowski Stavisky: Thank you. Commissioners, I will just say that it's a pleasure to hear Ray give his report, because at least for two of you, I've sat with you for two plus years and we've talked about space and the agency wide software solution ad nauseum and it's quite wonderful that first of all we have the 7th floor, we will now complete that project on the 5th floor, our agency has grown so much, and to see the staff having the space to do their work, and the incredible work that they're doing is wonderful. The other thing I will say is that we were fully funded in our budget request. And two highlights are the ability for us to hire an accessibility coordinator to really help the counties and ourselves make sure that we are doing everything we need to do for accessibility both when it comes to the website and our materials, and when it comes to county boards and helping them as they navigate accessibility in their poll sites. And the other piece is that we have funding for the train the trainer bill that was passed last year, and we will begin to develop that curriculum so that we can make sure that the county board have the resources they need to train their inspectors and we can ensure that all voters across the state have the same experience and access at the polls. So, thank you very much. That's it.

Commissioner Kosinski: Wait a minute, we have a question.

Commissioner Casale: Speaking of accessibility, right, I was listening in on the conversation with weekly remote call with the Commissioners. How are we addressing the situation in some areas, where especially the rural areas where there are very small communities, almost no public buildings, they use a fire house or they use the church, is there something, how do we help them find accessible spaces, and do we give them flexibility somehow?

Kristen Zebrowski Stavisky: I don't think we have the ability to give them flexibility in terms of the law. But yes, a coordinator here can assist them. We plan to have that person or staff members able to go across the state and really help them. There's also grant money, HAVA funds that they can use, so they can make temporary improvements to sites such as ramps, doorbells, things like that.

Commissioner Casale: So, the boards can use these funds to even make improvements on someone else's property on a temporary basis?

Kristen Zebrowski Stavisky: Yes, they can, yes. Yeah, but your point is well taken, and that's really our thought in creating this, is that we need to offer assistance because it is a lot on the part of the counties, especially the rural counties, and where there are not so many buildings. For them to be able to make sure that their poll sites are accessible.

Tom Connolly: And one of the other things I will mention is in addition to the grant funding for making temporary improvements, and also trying to train them on how to be substantially compliant with the regulations, the other thing the law allows is for the county boards to use certain buildings, that they can be designated as poll sites. Now, the problem that they run into sometimes is that the people who run those buildings may not want them to be poll sites. So,

that's where sometimes it's a little bit helpful for us as a state agency to come in and try to have a conversation with these entities that say, "It really isn't a law that you have to allow the county board to use them. We understand you may have some considerations or concerns around security, and we're happy to kind of work with you and try to figure out how do we mitigate that and make it a win-win for everybody", and then if we really had to, we have had at times escalate things like up to state Ed where we've had to have them go down let's say to a school district and say, "We really need to make some space available."

Commissioner Kosinski: Okay, any other questions? Hearing none, we'll move onto our next unit update and that is Election Operations with Amy Hild and Jude Seymour.

Amy Hild: Thank you, Commissioner. So, the Operations unit has been busy since our last meeting. We did prepare the certification for the Presidential Primary results. We also received, entered, scanned, and processed all of those ballot access documents that Co-Executive Director Riley just mentioned in his report. We worked with Counsel and other units on objections, review research and prepared the information for the Co-Executive Directors to later today certify the primary ballot. We of course, continue to work with other units to coordinate state board communication with counties, and collect all of their required surveys and data and provide assistance to counties. This month that included additional guidance on redistricting for their congressional districts. The only two exceptions to that congressional district redistricting that haven't yet happened, are the two counties that were involved in yesterday's special elections for Congressional District 26 in Niagara and Erie, will redistrict after the certification of the primary from yesterday. We compiled the files for the statewide data match from every county for the Presidential Primary and prior to that going out to the countries we will be doing the same for CD26 this weekend. We do already have files from one county.

In regard to voting systems, we're continuing to work on voting system regulations, and from our voting system vendors, we submitted to our federally certified testing lab to be tested for two of our vendors; one for Dominion their old ballot boxes, many of our counties upgraded who use Dominion software, and they didn't want to not be able to use their old ballot boxes, so they worked on developing a kit that will fit that ballot box to their new voting technology. So, SLI tested that and found it to meet, and that has been approved for use.

In addition, as you know, the new ES&S version that was approved last year 6301, the automark is no longer supported in that software. ES&S had approached the state board about testing programming 6301 that could be brought in the 5602, so counties could run side by side ES&S so they would upgrade their optimal scanning equipment, but still be able to use that auto mark. And SLI conducted and completed that testing and found that that also met the standards. Later in the agenda, you will see a resolution to discontinue use of teamwork, which was an optical scan solution that hasn't been used in years. One of the requirements used to be that your software had to be kept in an escrow account with an outside vendor, so Dominion had asked us to discontinue that contract, so they don't have to continue to keep a version of that that hasn't been in use in years.

For electronic poll books, we did receive an attestation from KNOWiNK, we had previously already received one from Tenex for 1741 for the update to the Apple iPads. And I think that covers it. Jude, do you have anything. And we welcome Jude, of course.

Brendan Lovullo: If I can, I would just like to, in addition to what Amy and Jude said, thank the staff internally with all the specs and petitions that we have had. We received a lot of general objections; a lot of specs and the staff was working nights and weekends to get all this done. So, our thanks to the staff as well, to produce these reports and get people on the ballot, so thank you very much.

Amy Hild: And just one more thing, we did also last week receive communication from one of our voting registration vendors that they will be discontinuing their software at the end of 2024. So, we had contacted eight counties impacted by that, and we of course, stand ready to assist them through the whole process and transition, and have already worked with IT about scheduling and what that will take, with our first county expected to transition over in July.

Commissioner Kosinski: So, those eight counties are going to move to a new vendor?

Amy Hild: Yes, Commissioner.

Commissioner Kosinski: Okay. Any more questions? Okay, great, thank you. Then we'll move on to Counsel/Compliance. Brian is here, Kevin is not here, so I guess Brian will hold the fort.

Brian Quail: I will do my best, Commissioner. I certainly join everyone in wishing the Murphy's every happiness with the arrival of their new child. Something on the minor personal side, I have been working and learning Spanish for two years, and my favorite express is Spanish is "dar a luz" which means to give to life, which is the phrase that is used to give birth. It almost makes me tear up to even think about it. I'm very excited about Kevin and his wife, and their family's new adventure. With that said, the three, four-page document that summarized the petition objections is an incredible distillation because there are literally tens of thousands of sheets of papers with specifications for objections, and staff work on line by line objections for more than a dozen petitions some which were statewide that came to make this document. And as had been mentioned by Brendan and others, incredible amount of staff effort went into that. The entire Compliance Unit essentially eased into ballot access mode and just really, really rose to the occasion to complete the work that was necessary in order to make that process work. It culminated in the ballot access determinations that the board just voted on. Having had a hearing process, there were 18 separate litigation events that occurred as a result, also of which five are still ongoing, and obviously there may be validating petitions that come after today as well. So, that obviously has been very much the work of both compliance and the counsel unit, as well as frankly all of the units of the agency, PIO, definite contribution, significant contribution from the Public Campaign Finance Board, Operations, all of the units aboard participated in being able to timely process all of the work that needed to be done in order to arrive at the right determinations. The work of compliance however in Campaign Finance of course has to still continue. And since the last meeting, the Compliance Unit has processed 5,861 reviews for a

grand total of the unit since its beginning in 2014 of 238,966 reports received, and reviews made in some manner or another. The unit had 85 treasurer resignation reviews that were completed, and 472 committee records were terminated since the last board meeting. We are up to a grand total of 720 paid Internet digital ads that have been received and placed on the Internet and digital form for the public to look at. I've continued to provide support to committees across the spectrum for being prepared to make their upcoming filings.

Commissioner Kosinski: Any questions for Brian? Thank you, then we'll move on. Enforcement Mike Johnson.

Mike Johnson: Yes, I just wanted to update you guys on our, where we are so far with regard to our nonfilers. Initially I think we started off with just 25, where we are now, we're at the 25 that we initially started with, because that was the number, we were able to file with the court system. out of that 25, we entered into a settlement agreement with 21 of them. Two of them we have judgments for \$1000 plus cost and disbursements, and two right now are pending discontinuing without prejudice. Those two are because bad service. The two for the judgment of \$1000 basically was no response, nor was there an appearance in court. The way the 21 broke down, four out of the 21 there was no dollar amount for a settlement because there were certain extenuating circumstances that we decided would not be a financial penalty. 16 out of the 21 paid the \$250 for failure to make their filings. 1 was for \$1000. That's where that 25 ultimately wound up. Then I had initially then said we were going to then wrap it up into 200. We were working with the court system because we're still trying to figure out how we can do a mass filing with the court. Since we were going to do 200 approximately, we reached out to about 200 or so nonfilers randomly, when we reached out to them, I'd say roughly about 25 or so immediately made their filings. We then filed with the court the total of 176 for nonfilers. That seems to be right now about what the court can handle with regard to online filing. Hopefully, as we tweak it a little bit more, those numbers will get bigger in terms of the amount of filings you can make with the court. Out of that 176, as of Friday, at least 45 of the nonfilers have been served, at least 35 initially had bad addresses whom we provided a second address to the process server to attempt service. Five are confirmed to reside out of New York, and two are confirmed dead, and 13 who have reached out to us either to settle, or to plead their case, about undue hardship or special circumstances, and sometimes they tend to be circumstances that involve medical situations or things like that. So, that's where we are in terms of continuing to pursue the nonfilers.

Commissioner Kosinski: Any questions?

Commissioner Berger: Yes. In the January 15th report, do we have a number of how many nonfilers there were in total?

Mike Johnson: We do, I don't know that number off the top of my head. Because the way the court filing system is in terms of limiting us making multiple filings, we did the 25 and then the 175, and then once we finish with the 175, we're going to do another couple hundred. So, right now it's dependent on how we tweak the process we have with the court system, in terms of how

many they're going to allow us to make a filing. I mean places like for instance Tax and Finance, they can make multiple, but because what we do is a little bit different than Tax and Finance, we're sort of doing a workaround that's going to allow us to file many.

Commissioner Berger: Can you get us the number of total amount of nonfilers?

Mike Johnson: Sure.

Commissioner Berger: And another question, and this goes back to my prior life, service is always a major problem on anything. When we were doing it, since we commenced every proceeding in order to show cause, we always put in a provision that service can be made by overnight US postal service mail, and 90% of the time, the judges accepted that. have you considered doing that just to reduce your need to have to go chasing people.

Mike Johnson: Absolutely, we're looking into that, because what we're finding, in the course of the process server appears at the door, most people don't accept service. So that's always an issue. But yea, but if we can do just overnight mail that would be wonderful or any other type that would allow us to get the in order to show cause in the individual's hand other than process servers. So, we are considering that.

Commissioner Berger: Thank you.

Mike Johnson: You're welcome. I'm all set.

Commissioner Kosinski: Anything else? Okay. Then we'll move onto NVRA/PIO, Kathleen McGrath, and Jennifer Wilson.

Kathleen McGrath: Good afternoon, Commissioners. Starting off with our General Public Information functions, since the last board meeting on February the 6th, PIO has received a total of 567 FOIL requests, and we completed 544 of them. Remaining outstanding to process are 23. This is a very busy time of the year for FOILs. Most of those came in April when ballot access documents began arriving and with those petitions, objections, and other documents, and the new congressional line, there's a lot of need for public information requests. PIO staff has worked to process and respond to these in a timely manner. So much so, that in March, the group Reinvent Albany released a report analyzing the FOIL processes of 6 different state agencies, and it was very positive for the Board of Elections, they commended our response time and our processing. So, that was nice to hear the good news about us.

In terms of the State Board's website, when we last met in February, we had just launched the new site. It's been a wonderful experience, this new Site Factory platform. We updated it regularly seamlessly, and Jenn and I, in terms of enrollment change deadlines, and rolling figures, certified results, political calendars for the specials and presidential. We published the 2024 Election Law update as well as the new Election Law book in its accessible formats. We've updated contribution limits, campaign finance training schedules, ballot draw information. We

actually put the first livestream of our ballot draw for the Primary, and we've updated the information for the board meeting today. We also worked with the training team to continuously make timely updates for...

Commissioner Kosinski: Kathleen, what's the reaction been to the new website?

Kathleen McGrath: Overwhelmingly positive. The only, and I wouldn't even call it negative, we've had people reach out saying, "Where is this now," you know just cause they were used to finding it in the same spot for the last twenty years, but overwhelmingly positive. It's a cleaner look, its sleeker, the information is presented in a user-friendly format, and from my point of view, Jenn and I can update it because it's low code, no code, so we don't need any sort of computer science background and we can make updates like that, which is super helpful.

Kristen Zebrowski Stavisky: And you made one between yesterday and today, right, the change, the special election unofficial results and the board meeting.

Kathleen McGrath: It's been very easy. Jenn can disagree, but it's been very user-friendly.

Commissioner Kosinski: It's less busy, the home page, which I think is helpful.

Kathleen McGrath: And we can move things easily and link to things very easily. I have no computer science background, and I feel very confident using the Site Factory platform.

Related to that, one of the big things, on March 12th since we last met, we did launch our Civera application which connects to our website. Civera is the vendor that we had contracted with to be our repository of archives and certified election results. And we officially launched that on March 12th. The application shows any certified results in a lot of different formats, you can play with maps, you can do lists, bar charts, graphs, you can search in any number of ways, and the reaction to that has been largely positive. Including from members of the media, very pleased on how you can see those election results, and search through things as well as look at the original source documents. What you certified today, we will send to Civera later today and within a day or so, those certified presidential results will be on our website as well.

In terms of county board outreach, for all counties, we've worked to ensure that early voting and poll site information has been included and accurate for the Presidential. The Special that occurred yesterday as well as working with them to upload their voter history after the election has occurred. We've worked with counties on enrollment changes, felon list maintenance, and NCOA requirements, and the congressional redistricting now that someone mentioned earlier about how everyone has had to upload their new districts, and then Erie and Niagara now need to do it, now that these Specials have past.

County board visits resumed back in February. Both Dawn Metzler and Dan Toomey, since we last chatted have done Delaware, Sullivan, Albany, and Schenectady Counties, to visit with them and review their NYSVoter procedures. We actually have 11 counties they're planning to visit

all this month. We regularly engage in civic roundtable to provide any timely updates that the county board may need to receive.

With NVRA, Dan Toomey continues to reach out to agencies to ensure proper reporting and documentation as required under NVRA law, and that has become increasingly important and relevant as agencies are moving largely to virtual encounters rather than in person encounters. We are working with Council to provide appropriate guidance for that.

We did receive our annual shipment of voter registration forms and made sure all that shipped out to the counties last month. In terms of mail procedure, we did update and finalize a formal mail procedure for the entire agency to ensure proper and timely delivery to all units. Mail safety has really become a priority, as there've been news reports around the country of elections offices being targeted with suspicious substances. So, we have encouraged all state board staff to participate in free Narcan training, and many of the SBOE staff have done so, and that's offered through the State's Office of Addiction Services and Supports, and we currently have Narcan stocked in the office in case we were ever the target of one of those, which fortunately, we have not been.

In terms of traditional media, since our last board meet, PIO has issued four press releases, the first one right after about the new commissioners that were appointed. We issued one about PCFB candidate certification and participation. One to emphasize the early voting changes for the Presidential Primary since there were only eight days and reiterating that Board of Elections are trusted sources of election information.

We have responded to inquiries and sat for interviews by a multitude of topics including the presidential primary ballot access, the designating petition period, the nominating timeline that has now begun, the new congressional district maps, as well as regular monthly campaign finance disclosure reports, and the election results.

In terms of social media, our Fun Fact Friday series continues, we've made posts about what makes an organization an official party, as well as what a primary election is. And we're continuing that as we move through the year.

Social media, we've had a lot of great content in addition to that fun fact Friday, pushing out deadlines, and updated information about enrollment changes, those special elections, voting registration. This board meeting even had some solar eclipse content a few weeks ago, and we continue to post to X or twitter, Facebook, and Instagram. Our e-mail service has grown to a total of 2,237 subscribers, that's up 4.9% since our last meeting, and we have sent out seven blast e-mails since then as well. In terms of mis and disinformation, we certainly continue to prioritize this issue throughout the election year. We are developing traditional and social media content, and media campaigns focused on this top to disseminate throughout the summer.

Just a couple miscellaneous items before I pass it over to Jenn. As I mentioned a few times already, PIO has participated in numerous meetings with other units and vendor MTX about the

new software being developed for the agency. The entire new PIO staff was trained to work reviewing petitions, specific objections, and work those along, as the all hands on deck nature of that process is. Jennifer and I are coordinating with the Secure Election Center for the upcoming cybersecurity roadshow that we will be doing this summer throughout the state. And as much as I hate to end on a sad note, I do have to give a personnel update that PIO staff member Jonathan Farkas who was our mail staff member, he did pass away last week after a lengthy cancer battle. So, we certainly sent our condolences to his family and loved ones throughout this time. And on that, I would like to pass it over to Deputy Director, Jennifer Wilson.

Jennifer Wilson: Yes, very sad about Jonathan. But luckily, I am going to pick up the mood and I'm going to talk about some exciting things with grants. There's been significant updates since our last meeting. As Kristen mentioned, the state did pass their budget, and reappropriated all of our existing grants. We thought some might not be appropriated, but they were all reappropriated, all 9 of them. And there are some of our older grants don't have as much funding like our 3 year early voting grant only has a small amount of money left. But our Tier grant, our prepaid absentee postage, and our cybersecurity grant still have significant funds left that the counties will be able to spend down again. Even more exciting than the reappropriations, are the new appropriations of 3 new grants for county boards. We will be receiving \$14.7 million for electronic poll book replacement enhancement, \$7.7 million for prepaid postage for early mail and absentee ballots, and \$5 million for expenses related to the 2024 General election. That is a total of \$27.4 million for counties.

Commissioner Kosinski: Question: did we put those amounts in as a request to the legislature for budget?

Jennifer Wilson: We put two of them in, we put the electronic poll books and we asked for money for postage.

Commissioner Kosinski: And were those the numbers we asked for that they gave us?

Jennifer Wilson: Yes.

Commissioner Kosinski: So, they gave us what we asked for? And what about the third one? What was the third one?

Jennifer Wilson: \$5 million for the general election as Aid to Localities. I think the main focus there was, there were a lot of counties board who through the caucuses had sort of lobby for money for temporary employees and help during the busy presidential.

Commissioner Kosinski: So, they can use that in getting respect regarding the conduct of the election?

Jennifer Wilson: So, we're still determining that, so we'll ultimately determine the allowable expenses for each of the three grants, and actually this week, this Friday, the executive staff will

be meeting to determine what exactly they will be able to spend those funds on, but the budget essentially says that anything that they haven't budgeted for for the general election for 2024, they can use that \$5 million to spend. So, as Ray mentioned: temporary staff, security, some boards are looking to get security officers at poll sites, things like that.

Commissioner Kosinski: Okay, and where'd that number come from, do we know, the \$5 million?

Kristen Zebrowski Stavisky: I don't know.

Commissioner Kosinski: Somebody just came up with it?

Kristen Zebrowski Stavisky: I don't know whether the Election Commissioners Association put a number, we can inquire. I'm not sure; we'll find out.

Ray Riley: We can find out. I'm not sure.

Commissioner Kosinski: Alright, thank you.

Jennifer Wilson: So yeah, we will be determining exactly what the allowable expenses are, as well as the expense period, and how long we'll have to spend those funds. So, those are for our state grants; for our federal grants, we submitted our semi-annual report for our cybersecurity, HAVA shoebox, and HAVA poll site improvement and education grants to the Federal Election Assistance Commission. In April, we also received word that we will be getting some new money for our HAVA cybersecurity grant from the federal government from the ESC. We will be receiving \$1.3 million in federal funds and that will be for the state board, not for counties, necessarily, we'll get a 20% match, so the state will match \$273,000, so the total will be \$1.6 million in security funding. And again, we'll be meeting to discuss exactly how we will be spending that money. We sent a letter to the EAC Director requesting a release of the funds. The grant narrative and the budget will be due next week, so we will be quickly turning around to figure out how exactly we will be spending that \$1.6 million.

This is actually the 5th grant of the federal government the EAC has awarded us for this particular grant fund, so since 2018, they have given us \$50 million in funding, which I thought was pretty impressive, and we've used largely all of that for security, both physical security and cybersecurity for us and also for county boards. We've made very good use of that money. So, thank you, Federal Government.

And then unrelated to grants or related to the federal government, tomorrow, I'll be participating in a workshop at Fort Drumm hosted by the Federal Voting Assistance Program for military voters, about the 2024 elections and being able to qualify military and overseas ballots. So, I will be attending on behalf of the Board, and I'm hoping to bring some information, come back with some good connections with some folks on base.

Commissioner Kosinski: Any questions? I do want to say, just for me, I'm thrilled to see the state pulling up some money for the counties, I think it's about time. I think that's been a constant problem in New York, where the counties have been the only entity that's been required to fund these elections for all these years, and it's about time the State contributes. I know the Feds stepped up years ago, and now the state seems to be doing more, and it's about time. I think it's great. I hope they do more as we go forward. Okay, so we'll move onto ITU, and I guess Hope and Tom are sort of pinch hitting today.

Tom Connolly: Indeed.

Kristen Zebrowski Stavisky: Or Laura before she even starts.

Commissioner Kosinski: Whoever wants to go.

Tom Connolly: Sure. I think I join everyone, my colleagues in welcoming Laura aboard tomorrow. We very much look forward to her starting, and I certainly want to thank Hope for, as our acting CIO, for kind of helping keep the ship sailing in a relatively straight direction, as much as the state board can, in all of her help in keeping everything together and keeping everything running. Many of the things that ITU have been supporting and involved in, has kind of already been mentioned, but I'll scan through most of them. Obviously, we did space planning, we are moving, we are expecting to have more space available in the next month and a half on the 5th floor, that will obviously, once the furniture is installed, we will do a lot of work with regard to getting the equipment set up, work phones and the Internet, and as we move staff around to different places, the ITU department will certainly help with effectuating that change.

With regard to the AVR, the Automatic Voter Registration software that we're working with ITS on developing, we are moving forward with that process. One of the things that was mentioned by Kathleen about the difficulties sometimes in the NVRA reporting, is that the automatic voter registration largely impacts agencies that we are getting voter registration from. Not all of them are NVRA agencies, but as we are building this clearinghouse to receive information through some of these virtual transactions, like Kathleen referenced, we're trying to figure out a way, how do we make it easier for us to get some of that information that we're required to track for NVRA purposes automatically. So, we're less a manual process, more of an automatic one, that we can just extract from the clearinghouse to give to the federal government. The agency software, obviously, a lot of talk about that from PCFB and also from here. We are very much looking forward to leveraging the software that we're bringing in-house. Ray referenced the Text stacks so there's a number of different platforms that we're going to bring on board. These are tools that we haven't always had the budget to afford. The fact that we are able to do so now, we certainly aren't going to miss the chance to get as much out of them as we can, so we are certainly constantly evaluating what we can do with the software, both now as part of this project with MTX, and also with Laura at the helm trying to figure out what other processes can we leverage this technology for? One of the main components of the software is salesforce. Laura actually went to a conference last week in New York City about sales force in an attempt to butter us up and start getting really aware of the software better than all of us. So, we were happy

about that. Brendan and I will also be joining her as we go to a conference in Chicago all about basically dedicated to sales force in government, so how can we really use this platform to best serve the needs of the agency? We have been focusing with MTX our vendor with the need to identify training for all the different type of staff, so that they can understand what they need to understand to do their job, whether it be how to develop or implement certain software, certain functionality, or also just how to think about their part of the NYSBOE puzzle through the lens of sales force, so they can kind of better communicate their needs, so we can make that happen in the future. Obviously, while the new software is under development, we are currently supporting the Legacy systems, which obviously was very important during the ballot access process in receiving all of the petitions and other documents, and making sure that those reports were comprehensive from a security standpoint, as was mentioned. The SEC which is part of the ITU obviously supported the state and county boards during the presidential primary with our state partners. We do get together with various partners, various state agencies during the early voting period and on Election Day to kind of help address any issues that might arise, they largely fall into the category of power outages and making sure that power is restored, and that priority is given to the poll sites. One of the things that we always try to figure out after the fact is: are there any things we can do differently? Are there any other partners that we might want to involve? One of the unique experiences that we had this go-round, was reports of a drone flying over a poll site for a couple of days. It turned out to not be anything from a security nature, it was actually an intelligent network that was doing some footage for a documentary that they were going to be doing. But we were able to contact the state police and work with them on identifying what exactly that drone was doing over the poll site. Also, we will be supporting and largely taking the lead in the tabletop exercises in July. Ben Spear, our CISO, talked about the process of our communications with other partners, at a recent event that was sponsored by the National Association of Secretaries of State in Washington, D.C. We will also be attending as well, with our new CIO, the NYSLGITDA conference which is New York State Association of Local Government and IT Directors; that is a group that we've tried to really foster a good relationship with. Obviously, the county IT staff and directors are the ones that largely support the county boards of elections with regard to IT, so trying to keep them aware of different things that are coming down the pike, and also aware of different funding opportunities that might help them do their job at the county level, as I think really resulted in some good work and good relationship building between the county boards and their IT staff. We will continue to do that. The IT unit has also helped support Ops in some of their poll book testing. We relied on some of the ITU group to do some of the vulnerability scanning that we do, as part of our overall process, and then also with regard to security, we have our cyber regs 6220. We've been working with counties over the past couple of years, as far as ensuring their compliance with those regulations. Two of them have their reviews have been done, 48 of them are underway. And the remainder are working with NYSTEK to kind of finalize the assessment of their statute. We are continuing compliance of the cyber regulations. The other thing that we will also just be looking at with the regular budget passing recently, are any of the new initiatives or things that might require technology support, obviously there was talk of the Train the Trainer institute, there will luckily be some software implications for learning management systems that some of the training will be done remotely. Anything that we had to do with regard to accessibility and then there was also funding put in the bill for an elections database for lots of different elections data and not just

from county boards but also from the school districts, from village elections run by village clerks. So, we will be looking at the impact of that. There was funding put in the budget for that, so we will start a process of procuring software and for a vendor to help us stand up that database. Hope, have you got anything?

Hope: Just one thing. I just want to thank our IT staff for their willingness to support all the new tech staff that we're receiving and also the transition to a new CIO. I think everybody has been great and open-minded about things. So, I just wanted to thank the staff.

Commissioner Kosinski: Any questions? No questions, then we're done with unit reports. We are on old business. We don't really have any. I just wanted to raise something, I just wanted to ask a question, so I've been reading a lot of stories in the press about concerns election workers have going forward and there's the polls done that large numbers of them are threatened, feel concern about that. Are you hearing a lot of this in New York State, is there a lot of concern amongst the counties about security and the safety of election workers going forward?

Kristen Zebrowski Stavisky: We have not heard a lot of that thus far, I mean I will preface that with sort of the mis and disinformation. New York was a little late to that scene too, so it's important for us to be proactive and to be aware. CISA does do, and they have worked with several county boards.

Tom Connolly: Cybersecurity Infrastructure Security Administration. Part of DHS, department of Homeland Security.

Kristen Zebrowski Stavisky: They worked very closely and actually Kathleen mentioned the press release they have the Protect 2024 campaign that they're doing, and we've taken that on as well. But they have worked with several of our counties on actual physical security at poll sites, and they are willing, they offer this free of charge, and we have put that out to the counties. They are also partnering with us on this roadshow, cybersecurity, and we have added a piece into that, we've extended it to physical security. So, we can sort of address some of the scenarios. We always pass that information along to the counties, and we are here as a resource. Thankfully, it has not been an issue, but we'll be vigilant. I don't know if Ray wanted to say--

Commissioner Kosinski: --I'm sure you will, I just didn't know how prevalent this was. I mean I'm reading about it from most of the country, I don't know how real it is, I don't know if it's something we're experiencing, or if it's limited to certain states, or other areas of the country, or what's going on.

Commissioner Berger: I think part of the manifestations of it is the difficulty that the county and city board have in getting inspectors and keeping them.

Commissioner Kosinski: Are we seeing that? Are they reluctant in New York to be inspectors because of this concern? Is that...

Ray Riley: I wouldn't say there is any evidence to indicate that physical security is a concern with retaining inspectors. I think retaining inspectors is just generally difficult because it always has been.

Commissioner Kosinski: It always has been. These stories feed each other too to some extent. Because I'm sure they're reading the stories that I'm reading, and they worry about it.

Ray Riley: At least in some of the larger jurisdictions where we at least are at an advantage that may not be in place in other states. I mean in the City of New York, there's a member of the New York City Police Department inside every poll site which probably would alleviate some of the security concerns at least from that jurisdiction, and I know there is coordination with local PD and some other jurisdictions as well.

Kristen Zebrowski Stavisky: The other piece is that \$5 million grant as Jenn mentioned you know, some counties have certain poll sites maybe in big cities or big sites that they've asked for security. So, that can be funded.

Tom Connolly: And I will just add, one other thing that has been very helpful is, especially in a presidential year, there are lots of people who are interested in security of elections, outside of just this building. And we've been having conversations with most of them, but sometimes those conversations are super helpful for us to understand where we need to go, should we need to escalate something. So, for the most part, the poll workers are in charge of the poll site, something happens to the poll site, they are largely going to the county board. If the county board doesn't exactly know what to do, they are often calling us. So, being able to kind of tell them, "Listen you should really go to either your county sheriff or you should go to the local jurisdiction police, or if this is the situation, we might have to escalate it to this state agency whether it be DHSES or somebody else, to kind of help address whatever the situation on the ground is.

Kristen Zebrowski Stavisky: We're also, next week we are attending session on Monday, senior staff with the executive chamber and Homeland Security and several different partners to talk about security around this election. I think what's helpful about that, is that communication we can really map out for them, this is what we have in place now, as we talked many times before each election, we meet with all partners; we have a standing call, daily, during early voting and on Election Day, that we thankfully are able to pull down other than one time. But this will help with the communication, and that one where we thought there was an incident at Mohawk Community College where it was a troubled student, it was not, but it was reported to the press as an active shooter, and the board immediately contacted us. They moved their poll site. One of the things we ran into there was local officials saying, "Well, they're telling us we should move back to the poll site" and so we need to make sure, and we need our partners to help, that all the different government and all the layers know who they should be calling, and who should be coordinating that. Because at that point, the poll site was moved, and in our view, we're not moving anyone back into any site until law enforcement tells us we're moving back. So, just helps with communication.

Commissioner Kosinski: Alright, then we'll move onto new business, and we do have some new business. And this was alluded to at our previous meeting for some reason, and I'm not perfectly clear why. This board approves the money for the other board.

Commissioner Berger: It's not even the whole board.

Commissioner Kosinski: Just the two of us. So, I guess Henry and I have to sign something to approve the money for the other board, I'm not sure why that is. Why the other board doesn't approve their own money, but I guess they don't. So, we have this resolution here to approve \$20,262,500 as payments for the primary election, this is the anticipated amount we will need for the Primary...

Kristen Zebrowski Stavisky: Maximum amount. Director Couser's here if you have any questions on it, yes this would be the maximum.

Commissioner Kosinski: So, this would be the maximum that you would need to spend for the primary election this year?

Cheryl Couser: That is correct.

Commissioner Kosinski: Okay. I don't know, how do you feel about that?

Commissioner Berger: I don't know, I mean I've gotta think about this, this is a lot of money.

Commissioner Kosinski: Okay, so 20 million, so how do we do this, you move it and I second it?

Commissioner Berger: I move.

Commissioner Kosinski: I'll second it and I'll vote aye.

Commissioner Berger: I vote aye.

Commissioner Kosinski: Okay, so we approved that \$20,262,500 allocation.

Commissioner Berger: Don't spend it all in one place.

Commissioner Kosinski: That is the first order of business, the second one was also alluded to earlier which is this Dominion. Amy, I don't know if you want to talk about it anymore, but it's a program that Dominion no longer uses in our state, and you mentioned they keep it escrowed and it costs a certain amount of money, and they just want to dump this now because it's costing the money. How long has it been since someone's used it?

Amy Hild: At least five years.

Commissioner Kosinski: At least five years, okay. Any other questions about that resolution? This one is the entire board I might add. You're back in! I'll entertain a motion to adopt this.

Commissioner Casale: So moved.

Commissioner Kosinski: Seconded? All in favor aye.

Commissioner Bagnuola: Aye.

Commissioner Casale: Aye.

Commissioner Berger: Aye.

Commissioner Kosinski: Aye.

Commissioner Kosinski: Opposed? That is carried unanimously. That ends the agenda for today's meeting. unless there is an executive session that anyone need today? Okay. Then we will end today's meeting and we will be convening as a Public Campaign Finance Board on May 7th. I don't know if we're prepared to have another meeting right now.

Kristen Zebrowski Stavisky: Do you have our schedule? We have a schedule we can send.

Commissioner Casale: Did we pick a date?

Ray Riley: June 6th or 7th I believe?

Commissioner Kosinski: Okay, then we'll look at that.

Kristen Zebrowski Stavisky: And it goes on, so we can see through the year.

Commissioner Casale: As much as you can give us the dates to set aside, and we can...

Commissioner Kosinski: The staff can send that out. See you next week at the Campaign Finance Board meeting. So, I will entertain a motion to adjourn.

Commissioner Casale: So moved.

Commissioner Kosinski: Seconded. All in favor?

Commissioner Bagnuola: Aye.

Commissioner Casale: Aye.

Commissioner Berger: Aye.

Commissioner Kosinski: Aye. Thank you very much.