

**R. I. STATE BOARD OF ELECTIONS
MINUTES OF MEETING
February 27, 2013**

The Rhode Island State Board of Elections convened at 3:45 PM at the Rhode Island Board of Elections, a quorum included, Chairman Frank Rego, Vice-Chairman Richard Pierce, Commissioners William West, Susan Farmer, and Martin Joyce Executive Director Robert Kando and Board legal counsel Raymond Marcaccio were also in attendance.

First order of business: Vice Chairman Pierce moved to approve the minutes for Board of Elections meetings dated 9/19/12 and 12/11/12, seconded by Commissioner West and passed with Commissioner Farmer abstained since she had not attended the meeting.

Next order of business: A motion for approval of the meeting calendar for 2013 by Commissioner West seconded by Commissioner Joyce and passed unanimously.

Next order of business: Discussion and possible vote in regards to election legislation in the R.I. General Assembly; relating to elections – Mail Ballots. Robert Rapoza, Director of Elections, addressed the board acknowledging the recommended changes to the legislation. Several Board Members noted they had not seen the legislation and asked if the legislation had been reviewed by the Board's attorney prior to introduction. Mr. Kando stated that the legislation had not been reviewed. A consensus of the Board felt that the legislation should have been seen by the Board and reviewed by the Board's attorney prior to introduction. After further discussion Robert Kando stated he will, in the future submit the changes to both the Board's attorney and the Board.

Ric Thornton, Director of Campaign Finance, addressed the board with the recommended changes regarding RI Campaign Contributions and Expenditures Reporting legislation.

Commissioner Joyce motioned to recess for two weeks until legal counsel can review and give his comments on these bills seconded by Commissioner West. During open discussion Commissioner Joyce suggested that the board should listen to the public in attendance and complete the discussion and then reconvene in two weeks and vote on a final form including the boards, our legal counsel as well as the public. The motion failed on a 2 to 3, with Commissioners Pierce and West voting in the affirmative.

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After the vote, the staff continued their update on the proposed legislation, and it was agreed that the review, and Board vote, would be continued to a future meeting to allow the Board's attorney to review the legislation and send his comments to the Board in advance of the meeting.

John Marion, from Common Cause, testified regarding his concerns for proposed legislation relating to limiting the rights of persons to declare for office and changing the campaign finance contribution limits.

At 5:13 PM a motion to adjourn into executive session to discuss a campaign finance matter pursuant to R.I.G.L 42-46-5(a)(4) was made by Vice Chairman Pierce and seconded by Commissioner Farmer.

During the executive session, campaign finance director, Ric Thornton and executive director, Robert Kando, presented the Board with a consent decree for ratification, naming Thomas A. Palangio as defendant that was supported by documentation provided by Mr. Thornton. After some discussion, Commissioner West moved to ratify the agreement, seconded by Commissioner Farmer and passed unanimously.

Upon completion of the executive session, Commissioner Farmer announced that the Board had voted in the executive session to ratify a consent decree with Thomas A. Palangio, who shall within 60 days pay a fine of \$4,500 with \$1500 suspended on the condition that he correctly file all campaign finance reports and failure to do so will result in all fines and penalties being due. The motion was seconded by Commissioner West., and voted unanimously with Chairman Rego not participating.

At 5:23 PM Commissioner West moved to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Farmer, and passed unanimously.

Andreza Skipworth