

FRANKLIN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES OF THE ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING

January 7, 2025

The Franklin County Board of Commissioners convened in the Commissioners Hearing Room at 9:00 A.M. on Tuesday, January 7, 2025.

Present were: Kevin L. Boyce, President
John O'Grady, Commissioner
Erica C. Crawley, Commissioner

Also present on the dais were Kenneth N. Wilson, County Administrator; Kris Long, Deputy County Administrator; Joy Bivens, Deputy County Administrator; Zachary Talarek, Director, Office of Management and Budget; Shayla Favor, Prosecuting Attorney; and Melissa K. Kohler, Deputy Clerk to the Board of Commissioners.

Using hybrid meeting technology, participants were also able to access General Session via Zoom conferencing by dialing (929) 436-2866, Meeting ID: 978 8790 2896; Passcode: 628826, or by joining at: <https://franklincountyohio.zoom.us/j/97887902896>

Commissioner Boyce called the meeting to order at 9:18 A.M.

Commissioner Boyce: Before we get started today, I would like to take a personal point of privilege to recognize our prosecutor, who has joined us today. Welcome, Prosecutor Shayla Favor. It is good to see you here, and I hope to see you regularly. We would love to have you here.

Prosecutor Shayla Favor: Thank you, President Boyce, Commissioner Crawley, Commissioner O'Grady, staff, and guests. I am honored to introduce myself as your new Franklin County Prosecutor, and I am thrilled to join this meeting today. This is a pivotal moment for me and the future of justice in our community. My approach to leading this office is rooted in transformation, not just transaction. While holding violent offenders accountable, it is a critical part of our mission. We must address the root causes of crime and continue to invest in strategies that build safe, healthy, and equitable communities. My vision aligns with the incredible work being done across county agencies, and I am eager to collaborate with each of you. I look forward to strengthening our partnerships, sharing ideas, and creating innovative solutions that benefit all of Franklin County. I am especially excited to embark on this journey with a commitment to transparency, collaboration, and listening. I will soon visit every division and agency to hear directly from the individuals who make our work possible. I welcome similar opportunities to learn from all of you and your teams. I am excited to roll up my sleeves and work with all of you. Thank you for having me this morning, and I look forward to building a better Franklin County for every resident, every day together. Thank you.

Commissioner Boyce: I know I speak on behalf of my colleagues and those listening when we welcome you to the Franklin County system, in general, and its history in the making. [You are] our first female prosecutor in the history of Franklin County, and for that matter, the history of America, and the first Black female prosecutor. You are not only breaking ceilings but paving the way. In a few minutes, we are going to be electing our leader for the board for the 2025 year, and we will be making history together for the first time in Franklin County history; we will have the president of the board as an African American female and the Franklin County Prosecutor as an African American female. For those who might not think that is a big deal, I want to help you understand history. In 2016, I became the first African American in the history of Franklin County to be elected to the board. Today, we have two African Americans, and in a few minutes, our president will be an African American female, and our prosecutor will be an African American female. If nothing else, it speaks to progress, but even more so, opportunity. I am excited to see the growth of Central Ohio represented in our leadership in Franklin County. That is really what your role and leadership are indicative of, as well as Commissioner Crawley. This is groundbreaking for Franklin County, and I am happy to be part of it. I know Commissioner O'Grady feels this way, too; we are pleased that we are part of this, and it means something, moving the needle, and that is what leadership is about. It is about every day that incremental progress, inch by inch, mile by mile, moment my moment.

Commissioner Crawley: Happy New Year, everyone, and welcome to Prosecutor Favor. It is an honor and privilege to share space with you. To our agencies, staff, interns, and volunteers, it is an honor to serve you each day. As Commissioner Boyce said, I do not take it lightly that I am in this seat, and I get to serve you all daily, and that I happen to be the first Black woman elected to this position and serve as president for the 2025 year. We will be bold and intentional about our initiatives, but it will take all of us. I always say opportunity is what we do here, providing opportunities for our residents to thrive and not just survive. Our work for 2025 will not be easy, but we will do it easily. People may be nervous about a new administration coming in at the federal level, which happens with a change in administration. Still, I know that Franklin County will remain a steady hand. We will continue to put our residents, the needs of our residents, and our staff first, and we wake up every day trying to figure out how to bring solutions and work with all our agencies but, especially, the prosecutor's office in bold solutions. I know we must do a formality for me to be the president, but it is such an honor and privilege. I know whose shoulders I stand on and the people who paved the way for me to be here today. I thank my ancestors and those who have forged a path before me, and I hope that my time here will be a pathway for someone else. I may be the first, but I will not be the last. Thank you for your comments and thank you to my colleagues. I have a great gig, and I get to work with two colleagues who get it and wake up every day looking for solutions to our most complex problems. We get to work with an administration; thank you, DCA Bivens and DCA Long, our Clerk's office, and especially our Administrator. I put our County Administrator up against any administration out of 3,069 counties. I put our administration against them and our budget office; thank you, Zachary Talarek, for your leadership. I look forward to 2025, and it will be an exciting year, but it will be an intentional one.

Commissioner O'Grady: Thank you, President Boyce. Prosecutor Favor, we look forward to serving with you. As Commissioner Boyce said earlier, I am honored to serve with all of you. I remember 20 years ago asking then-House Minority Leader Beatty to work with me and help

recruit fellow Black elected officials to run for county-wide offices. We got Commissioner Boyce to run, and now, here we are, years later. I am proud to serve with all of you.

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Resolution No. 0001-25, electing the President of the Franklin County Board of Commissioners for the 2025 term of the Board (Board of Commissioners).

Commissioner O'Grady moved to nominate Commissioner Erica C. Crawley to serve as President of the Board of Commissioners for 2025, seconded by Commissioner Boyce. The resolution was unanimously adopted by roll call vote.

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There being no further business before the Board, the organizational meeting was adjourned at 9:30 a.m.

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(Signature Page Follows)

These minutes are a general summary of the Commissioners' Organizational Meeting for Tuesday, January 7, 2025.



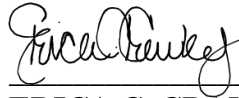
1/21/2025

KEVIN L. BOYCE, PRESIDENT



1/17/2025


JOHN O'GRADY



1/21/2025

**ERICA C. CRAWLEY
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FRANKLIN COUNTY, OHIO**

Submitted by:



1/15/2025

**Melissa K. Kohler
Deputy Clerk to the Board of Commissioners**