

MINUTES

MEETING OF THE ALLEGHENY COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS

MONDAY, JUNE 5, 2023, 10:00 A.M., PUBLIC MEETING-GOLD ROOM, FOURTH FLOOR OF THE ALLEGHENY COUNTY COURTHOUSE, PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA.

BOARD MEMBERS: HONORABLE RICH FITZGERALD, CHAIR-present
HONORABLE THOMAS DUERR, MEMBER-present
HONORABLE CYNTHIA KIRK, MEMBER-present

IN ATTENDANCE: JESSICA GAROFOLO-DEPUTY DIRECTOR, DEPT. OF ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES
JAMES DAVIS-DEPUTY DIRECTOR, DEPT. OF ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES
DAVID VOYE – MANAGER, DIVISION OF ELECTIONS
CHET HARHUT- DEPUTY DIVISION MANAGER
ALLAN J. OPSITNICK – ASST. COUNTY SOLICITOR

I. CALL TO ORDER –Meeting called to order by Chair Fitzgerald. Roll was taken by Mr. Opsitnick

II. PUBLIC COMMENT

From the following individuals:

a. Erika Rocchi Brusselars-Pittsburgh 23rd Ward. Thanks County staff in recruiting election workers, indicating good telephone access. Ms. Rocchi Brusselars indicated though that at her polling place, Pittsburgh 23-2, the Board could not find the necessary forms to spoil a ballot and it took approximately 45 minutes for the problem to be corrected. Also asked regarding how to reduce memory stick issues, where memory sticks are left in machines after close, and how to deal with split precincts;

b. Julie Zavon-indicating poll worker training does not deal with spoiling of ballots and suggests real ballots be used in training. Supports post-election audits and echoes her written comments, also submitted, in terms of the 2% audit and a risk limiting audit. Suggests that County Elections should give the public information about when and how these audits are conducted and the post-election audits should be posted and publicized.

Written submissions:

a. Matthew Van Bibber-regarding data on 2020 duplicated ballots;

b. Blair Stackhouse-poses questions about keeping track of people who are “problem poll workers,” complaint process about poll workers, and use of poll book to find a voter’s address and visit their house;

c. Brenda Forman-poses questions of voting equipment and ballot chain of custody. Feels transparency lacking and urges hand counted paper ballot tabulated at the precinct level;

d. Michelle Finegold-urges certification this date, without delay;

e. William Towne-questions regarding Elections administration and constitutional guarantee of secrecy in voting. Feels voters' constitutional rights are being violated. Also alleges double counted ballots from 2020 General Election.

III. APPROVAL OF BOARD MINUTES OF MAY 3, 2023 MEETING

Moved by Member Kirk. Seconded by Member Duerr. Approved 3-0

IV. 2023 MUNICIPAL PRIMARY CERTIFICATION

Moved by Member Duerr. Seconded by Member Kirk. Approved 3-0. Chairman Fitzgerald complimented the process. Member Duerr indicated this was a good election because it was a "boring" election. Member Kirk was at the elections warehouse and complimented the process. Member Kirk asked Mr. Voye to explain the write-in process and how write-in winners are contacted.

V. NEW BUSINESS

Ms. Garofolo indicated that the County is getting ready for the November General Election. Member Kirk asked about memory sticks not returned on election night. Ms. Garofolo indicated that the County checks for repeat offenders. Mr. Harhut indicated that the Board is to return both memory sticks from each scanner and Elections eventually gets both.

Member Duerr asked when do certified results get posted. Mr. Voye indicated today. Mr. Duerr asked whether or not there were any problem spots. Mr. Davis indicated that there were a few issues in the Alle Kiski Valley and Pittsburgh's 31st Ward.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 10:20 AM by Chairman Fitzgerald.