

**Voye, David**

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**From:** OpenForms <noreply@openforms.com>  
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**To:** # Elections Contact  
**Subject:** Contact the Elections Division

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## Contact the Elections Division

Data from form Elections - Contact the Elections Division was received on 05/10/2024 13:49 PM.

Contact the Elections Division	
Your name	Diane Tkocs
Your email	[REDACTED]
Street Address	[REDACTED]
City	Pittsburgh
State	Pennsylvania
Zipcode	15237
Subject	ballot drop locations before the General Election in November
Message	<p>I feel it is VITAL to have the same number ballot drop locations and staffed for the same number of days, before the General Election in November of 2024, as we had this spring.</p> <p>Perhaps, ballot drop locations could be eliminated for the next Primary in spring of 2025, in order to save money. But I think that's also not a wise decision, because giving voters having a routine that they can know, understand and count on in elections is of utmost importance in these days where our very democracy is under threat.</p>

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## Contact the Elections Division

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Contact the Elections Division	
Your name	Alison Duncan
Your email	[REDACTED]
Street Address	[REDACTED]
City	Wexford
State	Pennsylvania
Zipcode	15090
Subject	Keep mail ballot drop boxes for general!
Message	<p>Please keep at least one mail ballot drop-off weekend before the general election!</p> <p>Because you did them for the primary, voters will likely EXPECT to be able to drop off ballots before the general and procrastinate or decide not to put their ballots in the mail.</p> <p>The upcoming election is far too important to risk. Please do at least one drop-off weekend!!!</p>

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## Contact the Elections Division

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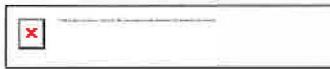
Contact the Elections Division	
Your name	Marta Pelusi
Your email	[REDACTED]
Street Address	[REDACTED]
City	Pittsburgh
State	Pennsylvania
Zipcode	15218
Subject	Support of Ballot dropoff locations
Message	I am writing in support of staffing mail ballot drop off locations for the Nov. 2024 election. I think we need at least one ballot drop-off weekend, the weekend right before the election. We need to make voting as convenient as possible, so that every registered voter can exercise their right to vote, particularly in such a crucial election year. Thank you. Sincerely, Marta Pelusi

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## Contact the Elections Division

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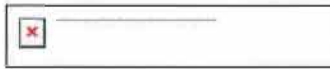
Contact the Elections Division	
Your name	Valerie Klauscher
Your email	[REDACTED]
Street Address	[REDACTED]
City	Crescent
State	Pennsylvania
Zipcode	15046
Subject	Drop Boxes for 2024 General Election
Message	I was absolutely thrilled to see that there was a drop box for ballots available in the West Hills for the primary this year! The US Postal Service is not nearly as reliable as it was even 10 years ago, and taking the ballot downtown is just not always practical out here in the suburbs. Having a secure place to bring a ballot is a real positive gamechanger! Thank you!

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## Contact the Elections Division

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Contact the Elections Division	
Your name	Marie Norman
Your email	[REDACTED]
Street Address	[REDACTED]
City	Pittsburgh
State	Pennsylvania
Zipcode	15217
Subject	Ballot Drop Off Locations
Message	I am in favor of making voting as easy as possible for busy, working people -- people who have to work on election day, have childcare or other obstacles to in-person voting, and/or health or mobility issues. So I am fully in favor of having ample ballot drop-off locations and support the county's efforts to provide them!

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## Contact the Elections Division

Data from form Elections - Contact the Elections Division was received on 05/10/2024 14:44 PM.

Contact the Elections Division	
Your name	Donna Terlecki
Your email	[REDACTED]
Street Address	[REDACTED]
City	Wilmerding
State	Pennsylvania
Zipcode	15148
Subject	Drop box for primary and general
Message	Thank you for continuing this program. I used Monroeville this time and we went downtown for my son once a few years back too.

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## Contact the Elections Division

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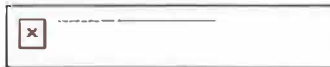
Contact the Elections Division	
Your name	Marianne Novy
Your email	[REDACTED]
Street Address	[REDACTED]
City	Pittsburgh
State	Pennsylvania
Zipcode	15217
Subject	drop off locations
Message	Please continue to have drop-off locations before election day. Some people have come to expect them. They help many people vote who have various conflicts and difficulties and this is important in making our elections more representative.

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**From:** OpenForms <noreply@openforms.com>  
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## Contact the Elections Division

Data from form Elections - Contact the Elections Division was received on 05/10/2024 16:32 PM.

Contact the Elections Division	
Your name	Janet Lunde
Your email	[REDACTED]
Street Address	[REDACTED]
City	Pittsburgh
State	Pennsylvania
Zipcode	15217
Subject	Please have ballot drop boxes for the general election
Message	Humans being human, it's very common to not get your ballot filled out well in advance. Ballot drop boxes in neighborhoods make voting easier for people who procrastinate.



## Voye, David

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**From:** Mary Lee Baumgartner  
**Sent:** Sunday, May 12, 2024 8:51 AM  
**To:** # Board of Elections  
**Subject:** 4/23/24 Primary Input for BOE Mtg

These are comments respectfully submitted re: the 4/23/24 Primary on behalf of the team for Ward 07 District 02:

- Our normal voting site at Rodef Shalom was not available on 4/23/24 because of Passover
- Our team and one of the other teams normally based at Rodef Shalom were asked to share the lobby of the gym at Central Catholic with a team historically based there
- We recommend that the Central Catholic lobby not be used again as a temporary alternate location for the following reasons:
  - The space is very small for three teams
  - Parking for voters on site is not available during the school day
  - The location of the gym is not well known and understood
  - Central Catholic officials were opposed to political parties putting signs on 5<sup>th</sup> Ave. Such signs and the presence of party representatives at the legally permissible distance from the polling place typically help voters identify polling locations
  - The gym was used in the early evening for athletic competition. Spectators who wished to use bathrooms in the lobby designated for them walked through the voting area including behind the “guardrails” of the two visiting teams and by the tables at which voters were marking their ballots in order to access the bathrooms

Also, FYI: We have a high concentration of college students in our district. When voting for the first time in our district, ID is required. 3 students only had valid ID's as photos on their phones. I, (the election judge) called the election hotline to get guidance on how to proceed. I was told a Digital ID would be accepted if and only if the photo was accurate along with the address in the poll book. Everyone was happy.

However, for the important election in November, please add something in the training handbook and the accepted forms of ID paperwork that includes guidelines on Digital ID's to avoid confusion.

Thank you,  
Mary Lee Stenson  
Election Judge 07-02

Observations from the Allegheny County Warehouse on Election Day, 4/23/24 by Toni Shuppe, candidate for RNC Delegate in Congressional District 17

I entered the warehouse shortly after 3pm on Tuesday, April 23<sup>rd</sup> to observe the counting process of mail-in ballots. I was brought back to an area of the warehouse that was sectioned off from the DS850 Tabulators and the Express Vote machines that are there for adjudication.

A county worker came over to an Express Vote machine to recreate a few ballots. I was unable to verify that what she was typing on the screen from the voter's ballot was accurate. I left the sectioned off area and politely approached the county worker and asked if I could watch her transfer the voter's selections to the screen and make sure that everything was accurate. The county worker agreed, but less than a minute later, I was met with resistance from other county workers who told me that I was not allowed to be that close to the screens and I would have to go back to the sectioned off area or be escorted out of the building. This escalated to a point where security was called and I was threatened that if I did not return to the designated area, I would be escorted out. I remained calm and respectful the entire time.

This was very different from experiences I've had observing this process in other counties, and I made sure the county workers were aware of that.

I observed the mail-in ballot counting in Washington County for the May 2022 Primary Election and I observed it in Beaver County for the November 2022 General Election. I have colleagues who observed the process in many other counties across the Commonwealth who had a similar experience to mine.

In the two counties where I observed, the process was completely transparent. The Election Director had a Democrat and a Republican observer watch the transfer of the vote selections and when the new ballot was printed out, they had us verify that everything was accurate before they moved to scan the re-created ballot through the tabulator. Being able to observe this process in this manner gave me great confidence in the election process. Without this level of transparency, it makes it very difficult for the public to trust the outcome of the election.

I am making the following 3 suggestions to be implemented before the November General Election of this year to reassure the public that the election is transparent, open, honest, and fair.

1. Observers and Authorized Representatives must be given meaningful access to every part of the counting process. There should be equal representation from each party able to watch the adjudication of ballots. This is not to insinuate that anything nefarious is happening, but after a long, monotonous, and tiring day of handling ballots, anyone could make an innocent mistake when transferring voter selections, and having oversight in that process will help to eliminate any potential human error while reassuring the public that the election is fair and transparent.
2. The tabulation room being off limits to authorized representatives also creates more mystery with the process and undermines public trust. I had a lengthy and friendly conversation with Al Obsitnik about this on election day. The screen that was made available for observation in that room is a step in the right direction, but nothing meaningful

can be observed from that screen. All I saw were two people sitting across a table from one another working on computers. When the USB drives from the tabulators are brought back to that room to be transferred for reporting, there is no oversight or way to reassure the public that everything is fair and transparent. I suggest that the county allow an authorized representative from all qualified parties to be in that tabulation room on election day to remedy this situation.

3. Only Allegheny County employees are involved in the counting process for the mail-in ballots. The County does not ensure that there is equal representation of Democrats and Republicans involved. At the precinct level for in person voting, there is supposed to be a mixture of political parties involved working the polls to ensure that everything is fair. Why is it okay to do that at the precincts, but not at the central counting facility? I suggest that Allegheny County open those positions to residents of the county to apply and work in the warehouse on election day. Having equal representation from all political parties will again reassure the public that the election is fair and transparent.

To Recap, I am making the following suggestions:

1. Provide meaningful access for both parties to watch the adjudication of ballots.
2. Permit Observers and/or Authorized Representatives to be in the tabulation room on election day for the sake of oversight and transparency.
3. Election worker positions at the warehouse on election day should be open to all Allegheny County residents and the Election Director should make sure there is equal representation from all interested political parties so not to give the impression that the workers are weighted on one side or the other.

Thank you,

Toni Shuppe

# Allegheny Elections Tabulation Center

Observation by Matthew Van Bibber on April 23, 2024

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## Executive Summary

This report covers my observations/representation at Allegheny County Tabulation Center for Bob Howard, 2024 Primary Election. Allegheny County did a great job in getting the procedures posted at the tabulation center however they need to add on a few additional procedures for the representatives/candidates for viewing. The staff needs better training as I did see quite a few not following procedures. There is some concern over ballot recreation and representatives/candidates being able to better see that they have been done correctly. My intent is to act as a nonpartisan constituent to promote transparent, fair, and accurate election results for all constituents.

## Ballots/Tabulation machines/Procedures

Staff are not following procedures properly. There are no provided procedures for ballot recreation, scanning on the DS950 or tabulation room. At 3:37pm on this day they downloaded the results from the DS950s and uploaded to the unofficial EMS system, watched them on the display monitors.

### Some positive areas:

- The new inner yellow envelopes are very nice and well seen.
- Being able to see staff go through the envelopes with the issue sigs/dates.
- Procedures being provided

## Staff Evaluation

During this observation I noticed that some staff are following the procedures properly however there are others that are not following procedures properly. The ones not following procedures are distracted while talking to other coworkers or are just not following them.

Ballot recreating representatives/candidates were not able to see what was being recreated. There ended up being an issue at one point when a candidate asked to see the process, to be sure that they were being recreated correctly. The county lawyers threaten to kick the candidate out, as they were not following unposted procedures.

## Areas of Concern to Address

- Was told by one of the county lawyers that they are not willing to make any adjustments to the procedures, even though candidate and representatives are letting them know they have suggestions on how to make the process better and more transparent.
- Staff not following the procedures that were written down on the tables.
- Staff being trained on the job and not before hand
- 3:37pm on this day they downloaded the results from the DS950s and uploaded to the unofficial EMS system, watched them on the display monitors. This should not be done till 8PM when rest of the USB drives are loaded as the unofficial system is on a VPN and can be accessed offline, which could allow others that have access to see results ahead of time.
- Tables should be numbered so representatives/candidates can point out issues when needed
- County should have different parties to be able to walk around to have better viewing of the entire process. I was not able to see a lot of what was going on and if people in far back side was following procedures. The viewing monitors are not detailed.

## Conclusion

The 2024 Primary Election at that the tabulation center was good, however there are many things that still need to be improved: better viewing, add on procedures, improve procedures when asked by representatives/candidates, training a head of time for staff so the follow proper procedures.

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## Contact the Elections Division

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Contact the Elections Division	
Your name	Alyssa E Snyder
Your email	[REDACTED]
Street Address	[REDACTED]
City	Mckees rocks
State	Pennsylvania
Zipcode	15136
Subject	Drop off ballots Gen election
Message	Keeping ballot drop off locations is essential for the 2024 general election and as a tax payer I expect this service.

# **Improved Public Communications**

## **Public Comment to the Allegheny County Board of Elections**

May 13, 2024

by **Juliet Zavon**

I want to thank you for the improvements in public outreach and communications.

- The newly designed website is full of useful information that is better organized and easier to access than the old website.
- The newsletter “Allegheny Votes” has become a powerhouse with updates, reminders, and fundamental information.
- The Elections Division is more responsive to emails and calls with the public's questions.
- The new format for Board of Elections (BOE) meetings is excellent. By addressing the public comments and questions and explaining misunderstandings they reveal, the BOE makes excellent use of meetings as an opportunity for direct communications with the public.

It is great to see these improvements. Thanks again.