

MINUTES

MEETING OF THE ALLEGHENY COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS

MONDAY, MAY 13, 2024, 10:00 A.M., PUBLIC MEETING-GOLD ROOM, FOURTH FLOOR OF THE ALLEGHENY COUNTY COURTHOUSE, PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA.

BOARD MEMBERS: HONORABLE SARA INNAMORATO, CHAIR-present
HONORABLE BETHANY HALLAM, MEMBER-present
HONORABLE SAM DEMARCO, 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
ALLAN J. OPSITNICK – ASST. COUNTY SOLICITOR
LISA G. MICHELE-ASST COUNTY SOLICITOR

I. CALL TO ORDER –Chair Innamorato. Roll taken by Assistant Solicitor Opsitnick. All present.

II. PUBLIC COMMENT

1. Pat Clark. Not present
2. Juliet Zavon. Thanks County for public outreach, new website design and Allegheny Votes. Feels Elections is more responsive. Likes when the Board addresses public comments at a meeting.
3. Matt Van Bibber. Thanks the Board. Was at the tabulation center (warehouse) on Primary Election Day. Favored yellow privacy envelopes and procedures but indicates all staff does not follow all procedures and suggests authorized reps to be able to walk throughout the warehouse. Does not agree with DS950 scanners having data sticks removed midafternoon and disagrees with County's position in official vs. unofficial/voted ballots. Complemented County on a great job. Submitted written comments, also incorporated.
4. Charles Faltenovich. Did not appear.

Next, Assistant Solicitor Opsitnick summarized the following emailed comments:

1. Diane Tkocs. Favors ballot return sites.
2. Alison Duncan. Favors ballot return sites.
3. Marta Pelusi. Favors ballot return sites.
4. Valerie Klauscher. Favors ballot return sites.
5. Marie Norman. Favors ballot return sites.
6. Donna Terlecki. Favors ballot return sites.
7. Marianne Novy. Favors ballot return sites.
8. Janet Lunde. Favors ballot return sites.

9. Mary Lee Baumgartner, on behalf of Pittsburgh Ward 7, District 2, Local Election Board. Indicated that, because of Passover, their normal voting location at Rodef Shalom was moved to Central Catholic High School lobby and there were space and other problems.

10. Toni Shuppe. Commented on her visit to Elections Warehouse. Felt that she was unable to verify recreation of mailed-ballots incapable of being scanned. Believes that observers and authorized representatives should be given more access to the warehouse, including the tabulation room. Concerned that only Allegheny County employees are involved in the tabulation process.

11. Matthew Van Bibber. Written comments echoing his oral comments.

12. Alyssa E. Snyder. Favors ballot return locations.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF APRIL 15, 2024

Motion for approval by Member Hallam. Seconded by Member DeMarco. Approved 3-0.

IV. DISCUSSION OF PRIMARY ELECTION

Mr. Voye indicated it was a quiet election and provided the following statistics:

1.	Registered Voters	905,308
2.	Ballots Cast	245,198
3.	Voter Turnout	27.08%
4.	Absentee, Mail-In Ballots Cast	95,765
5.	In-Person Votes	145,403
6.	Provisional Ballots	1,521
7.	Poll Workers	6,751
8.	Election Day Staff	699

Mr. Voye also indicated total provisional ballot dispositions:

1.	Counted	823
2.	Partially Counted	216
3.	Rejected	<u>482</u>
		1,521

Mr. Harhut addressed efforts to cure defective mail-in ballot material. 1,433 ballots were sent back to voters and 844 were successfully cured. 1,177 were received late.

Director Garofolo indicated that it was a quiet day.

Mr. Voye indicated that certain candidates had received sufficient votes to claim write-ins. They will be notified, and a close race was in the 38th Legislative District for the top two Democratic finishers were only 38 votes apart.

Member Hallam asked how late most of the late received ballots were. Mr. Harhut indicated that most of them were a day or two late, some were postmarked on Election Day, or the day before.

V. CERTIFICATION OF PRIMARY ELECTION RESULTS

Moved by Member Hallam. Seconded by Member DeMarco. Approved 3-0. The certification forms were subsequently signed by each Board member.

Member Hallam commented that there should be an earlier meeting than currently scheduled to determine the ballot return site program for the November election.

Member DeMarco inquired about using streaming video on Election Day from the Elections Warehouse and commented regarding the cost information furnished by Administrative Services and Elections to the Board for the ballot return sites. Member DeMarco commented that (exclusive of video equipment) the cost per ballot was \$37.38 that he felt was not unreasonable, especially since more ballots will be submitted in this fashion for the November election.

Member DeMarco also commented that the County follows Act 77 and other applicable laws at the Elections Warehouse, and it is not feasible to have multiple observers throughout the warehouse.

Chair Innamorato inquired what information does the Board need to evaluate to determine the ballot return site program for fall. Director Garofolo responded, indicating primarily that it is the number of individuals utilized, number of votes made in each of the regional ballot return sites and their availability to various communities throughout the County.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

Vote 3-0. Meeting adjourned at approximately 10:22 AM.