

## Voye, David

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**From:** mahowco1@zoominternet.net  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 18, 2021 10:35 PM  
**To:** # Board of Elections  
**Subject:** Comments related to BOE Monday, November 22 meeting

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Written comments from Robert Howard, 229 Seasons Drive, Wexford, PA 15090 (Marshall Township)

**Thank you** for the Daily Updates posted to the website. This transparency increases voter confidence. My comments and questions are designed to expand transparency so that voters are made aware of your actions to remedy certain situations.

On November 5<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 PM the Allegheny County Return Board reported the following: that after all materials from the 1,323 precincts were turned in at the regional reporting centers on Election night, there were 30 precincts that were not reporting. This is due to a variety of reasons including flash drives being left in the scanners, errors in reading one of the drives, or the drives simply being missed on Election night. As of today, the results from all but five (5) of those precincts have been added to the results page. The pending precincts are Penn Hills 05-01 and Pittsburgh 11-13, 18-09, 19-31 and 29-09.

Prior to the certification today, can you please share with the public your findings related to the following:

- (1) Why the flash drives were not properly returned on Election night
- (2) How each of the flash drives were retrieved?
- (3) How you can be confident that the flash drives were secure and not tampered with
- (4) Do you have the paper ballots from each of these locations and have you compared the paper ballot results with what was reported from the flash drives?

On November 5<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 AM the Allegheny County Return Board reported the following to the public: "... and all results are audited through the Return Board process." **Prior to the certification today, can you please share with the public the following:**

- (1) What audits are conducted? For example, are a certain percentage of the precincts randomly picked and the paper ballot results compared to the reported results. If so, were any discrepancies found?
- (2) Were observers from both the Democrat and Republican Parties present during these the audits.
- (3) How and where are the results of these audits reported to the public?

Thank you.

Robert Howard

## Voye, David

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**From:** VERONICA M EDWARDS <vladybrit@verizon.net>  
**Sent:** Saturday, November 20, 2021 3:55 AM  
**To:** # Board of Elections  
**Subject:** Polling Places

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There were problems at the Sheraden Senior Center and the Jasmine Nyree Homes. Jasmine Nyree was added at the last minute so the residents were uninformed at the change. There were a lot of problems when residents came to vote they were told to go somewhere else. Some did and some walked away frustrated because of confusion. I believe the District 2 (City Council) and the District 9 (School District) were flawed.

Veronica Edwards  
School Board Director  
District 9  
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(412)608-5625

Sent from my iPhone

## Voye, David

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**From:** Monica Cellio <cellio@pobox.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, November 20, 2021 11:25 PM  
**To:** # Board of Elections  
**Subject:** spoiled ballot, no remedy available (public comment)

Warning! This email was sent from an external source. Please be sure you recognize the sender and use caution when clicking on links and/or opening attachments.

Hello,

I am writing to submit the following public comment for the Nov 22 meeting of the board of elections.

I applied for a mail-in ballot for this year's elections. I had no issues with the primary, but for the general election, I received a spoiled ballot and was unable to get a replacement before the election, forcing me to go in person and cast a provisional ballot. My spoiled ballot was not accepted for return because it was missing pieces, though I brought everything I received. In talking with other people, I learned that this happened to other people too. Allegheny County needs to both improve its quality control and make better provisions for voting -- for real, not provisionally -- by people who did nothing wrong and yet were not allowed to cast proper ballots.

Specifically, my ballot was printed with my name and bar code on it, instead of on a separate return envelope. The mailing contained only this ballot -- no privacy envelope, no return envelope. If the production process had involved any quality assurance, this would have been caught -- while I know you can't inspect every ballot, at the very least, this mailing was underweight and that should have been caught. What is the error rate that the county considers acceptable? I think the public has a right to know what you consider to be an acceptable loss on ballots.

The poll workers, who tried their best to help me, said they were not allowed to accept the misprinted ballot so I could vote. All I could do was cast a provisional ballot. I felt disenfranchised.

If this happened for an off-cycle election, when requests for ballots are presumably lower, what's going to happen in the mid-terms next year and in the presidential primary and election in three years, when you're handling a lot more ballots?

When I opened my ballot and saw the error, I started calling the phone number printed on the outer envelope. That turned out to be a wrong number -- it was for the state, but the state can't help with county problems. I found a "contact us" link on either their or your web site (I'm no longer sure) and submitted a ticket about this, hoping to get a replacement ballot, but nobody responded, not even to say "we can't help". Just...silence.

To sum up:

1. Quality control is a problem. I should not have received such an obviously spoiled ballot.
2. The ballot did not come with a phone number or URL that actually led to someone who could help me.
3. Your rules should have allowed me to return a ballot at the poll even without the envelopes. Even if someone were trying to vote twice, how would having just the ENVELOPE, without the BALLOT, allow that to happen? I had a ballot with my NAME on it; that should have been sufficient.

You can see a photo of the ballot on the blog post I wrote about this incident: <https://cellio.org/blog/2021/ballot-problems> .

I hope you will improve your processes, both production and remedies, before the next election.

Thank you.

Monica Cellio  
Pittsburgh

## **Comments to the Board of Elections for the Nov. 22, 2021 meeting**

*From William Towne*

Greetings! I come before you today to raise some concerns about County elections administration . As an opening matter, I'd like to thank you for announcing that today's meeting will be live-streamed online. However, unlike the last one, I would ask that you would livestream the entire meeting, and set up the connection a few minutes early so that people looking to join can actually find it online and join for the start of the meeting.

I also ask that the Board of Elections take its oversight duties seriously. The Elections Division has repeatedly lied to the Board of Elections and the public in response to questions from the Board and public, as well as in response to inquiries for public records, including claims from the Elections Division believed by the Office of Open Records that some of the Division's false statements are theoretically subject to penalty of perjury. The Division has lied about its vendor selection, screening, and quality control processes and has no apparent incentive to be truthful about those kinds of things.

That the Division is willing to lie in such a strong way in support of its cover-up of constitutional violations is not something the Board should simply let slide. This will come back to hurt the County in even stronger efforts to discredit the results of future elections. The record will reflect that the Board was informed about the issues and did nothing.

Elections Division staff also dismissively mischaracterized my comments from the last meeting, which received no response, strongly discouraging any efforts to make things better. The Division also has repeatedly not responded to requests for information under the Right-To-Know Law and other transparency laws, not complied with what the Office of Records ordered it to do, and not even complied with rules of Court requiring timely responses. This should not be supported by the Board in its oversight capacity! I recognize that the Board's infrequent meetings do not allow it to engage in more meaningful oversight and action while there is still time for doing so, and encourage the Board to meet more frequently in order to address the serious issues that will, if allowed to continue, undermine the public's faith in the outcomes of Allegheny County elections.

I also ask that the Board not certify results of an election for races where those results are not completely determined yet, including smaller races such as for election Board positions.

Thank you,

William Towne