

# M I N U T E S

## MEETING OF THE ALLEGHENY COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS

TUESDAY, MAY 2, 2017, 10:00 A.M., IN CONFERENCE ROOM #1, FIRST FLOOR COURTHOUSE,  
PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA 15219.

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**BOARD MEMBERS:** HONORABLE JOHN P. DEFAZIO, CHAIR  
HONORABLE RICH FITZGERALD, MEMBER  
HONORABLE SAM DEMARCO, MEMBER

**IN ATTENDANCE:** JERRY TYSKIEWICZ – DIRECTOR, DEPT. OF ADMINISTRATIVE  
SERVICES  
MARK WOLOSIK – MANAGER, DIVISION OF ELECTIONS  
ALLAN J. OPSITNICK - ASST. COUNTY SOLICITOR, LAW DEPT.

- I. **CALL TO ORDER** - Called to order by Mr. DeFazio.
- II. **PUBLIC COMMENT** - None.
- III. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**-December 12, 2016, continued meeting and November 28, 2016 regularly scheduled meeting. Moved, Mr. Fitzgerald. Seconded, Mr. DeMarco. Passed 3-0.
- IV. **MAY 16, 2017 MUNICIPAL PRIMARY**-Mr. Wolosik discussed petition challenge appeals indicating that only one matter remains open, being an appeal to the Supreme Court. Ballots have been printed. Mr. Wolosik distributed sample ballots and sample absentee ballots to each Board member with registration statistics and a candidates list.

As to registration statistics, Mr. Wolosik indicated that countywide registrations increased by 1,647 with the largest number of registration changes in the “all other” category which increased by approximately 2,600. “All other” registrations do not include Democrats, Republicans or Libertarians.

Mr. Wolosik explained the certification that polling places in private residences are free of harassment and intimidation. Mr. Wolosik noted that there are four polling places in private residences, more specifically Brentwood 4, Pittsburgh 16-6, Pittsburgh 20-2 and Pittsburgh 31-2. All polling places in Allegheny County are handicapped accessible.

Mr. Wolosik discussed absentee ballots. At the November 2016 presidential election approximately 37,000 absentee ballots were processed. For the municipal primary in 2013 there were approximately 4,800 absentee ballots processed and Mr. Wolosik feels that the absentee ballots to be voted in the upcoming municipal primary will be less than 4,800.

As to turnout, Mr. Wolosik noted that the countywide turnout in the municipal primary four years ago was 23.2% Democrat and 16.86% Republican. As to projected turnout for the upcoming municipal primary, Mr. Wolosik noted that there were approximately 50,000 more registered voters in Allegheny County than four years ago and projected that countywide Democrat turnout would be 23% and countywide Republican turnout would be 17%.

- V. DISTRICT ELECTION BOARD COMPENSATION**-Mr. Fitzgerald indicated that it is time for an increase for election board members as the last increase was in 2008. Currently judges of election receive \$110 plus \$20 travel compensation, other board members receive \$105 and election day constables receive \$95. Additionally board members are paid for mandatory training.

The sentiment of the Board was to consider an increase in election board compensation at either the October or November 2017 meeting with Mr. Fitzgerald indicating that he would likely propose a \$10 increase for all election board members and election day constables.

Mr. Fitzgerald also indicated that there are efforts being made to recruit younger individuals for board of election service. Mr. Wolosik indicated by statute, high school students are permitted to be clerks at a polling place even if they are not 18 years old.

Mr. Wolosik indicated that the number of election board members increases as the magnitude of the election increases. For example, at the 2016 presidential primary Allegheny County had 6,321 paid poll workers (not including constables). At the November 2016 presidential election there were 6,797 paid poll workers (not including constables).

**VI. FUTURE REPLACEMENT OF VOTING EQUIPMENT –**

- Mr. DeMarco asked that this be placed on the agenda and asked that Mr. Wolosik investigate possible options;
- Mr. Tyskiewicz indicated that in 2006 the cost for countywide voting equipment was approximately 16 million dollars. Mr. Wolosik indicated that because of the Pennsylvania constitutional requirements of secrecy in voting, a continuous paper roll on our current iVotronic voting machines is not permissible.
- As to future cost of countywide voting equipment Mr. Wolosik indicated that he was informed that Lawrence County, with 70 precincts, would incur costs of one and a half million dollars for precinct count optical scan equipment (with an accessible ballot). By extrapolating this to Allegheny County, an estimated cost of 26 million dollars be incurred. Wolosik also indicated that it is highly unlikely that any new voting equipment would not be paper based.
- Mr. Fitzgerald asked Mr. Wolosik if any Pennsylvania county has replaced their voting equipment since the federal mandate and funding. Mr. Wolosik replied in the negative.

- VII. NEW BUSINESS –** The next meeting, for certification of municipal primary results, is scheduled for Monday, June 5<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 AM in Conference Room #1.

- VIII. ADJOURNMENT –** Mr. DeMarco moved for adjournment. Seconded by Mr. Fitzgerald. Passed 3-0. Adjournment at 10:25 AM.