

Voye, David

From: Miracle Jones <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Tuesday, August 9, 2022 12:53 PM
To: # Board of Elections
Subject: Board of Elections Meeting 8/10 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.

Good Afternoon Allegheny County Board of Elections,

My name is Miracle Jones and I am a resident of the city of Pittsburgh and employed in the city as well. My employee's address for reference is 460 Melwood Ave suite 204 Pittsburgh, Pa 15213.

Thank you so much for taking the time to hold this meeting to discuss the upcoming election. With the recent upholding of Act 77, it has become more pressing to ensure the right to vote is not only protected but accessible to every voting eligible resident of Allegheny County. With continued attacks on the democratic process, it is imperative that we have a transparent and accessible voting process. As such, I am asking this board to adopt a robust promoter agenda to ensure every voter in Allegheny County has the opportunity to vote in this and every election. Having accessible drop boxes ensures our elderly, disabled, and working class neighbors are able to participate in the democratic process. Having a pro-voter agenda also ensures our county is welcoming to all who would like to participate in the process.

The pro-voter agenda includes:

1. Purchasing and equitably distributing secure **ballot drop boxes** in outdoor locations with 24-hour access.
2. Creating and using multiple **permanent early voting sites** with weekend and evening hours and voter registration options.
3. **Fully staffing polling places** with trained election workers at least two weeks before every election.
4. Providing widely accessible **language access materials** in all polling places and early voting sites.
5. **Mailing election information** about drop box locations, polling places, and early voting sites to all voters.
6. Establishing a **permanent public election board meeting schedule** that meets at least twice per quarter.
7. Continuing to advocate for increased resources from state and county officials to **fund elections and meet the needs of voters.**

Given the constant questions about election integrity, I am also requesting a return to the weekend drop box sites to allow individuals to register in person, drop off ballots, and double check the registration status. Thank you so very much for your time and consideration.

--



Miracle Jones
She/Her
Legislative Director, 1HoodPower

1HoodPower.org | [REDACTED]



Create your own email signature



Voye, David

From: Diana Parno <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Tuesday, August 9, 2022 12:59 PM
To: # Board of Elections
Subject: Comment for Board of Elections meeting

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 have been a poll worker since Fall 2020. In this spring's primary, our precinct was issued an incorrect list to post of voters who had received mail-in ballots -- as best we could figure out, it was actually a list of voters who had received mail-in ballot *applications*. These are two different things and should never be confused. Please ensure that this error does not happen in the general election, when partisan feeling will be running high! We need strong quality control for all aspects of our election, from lists at the polling place to ensuring that the correct ballots are mailed to each voter who requests one.

Sincerely,
Diana Parno

Voye, David

From: Ken Janowitz <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, August 5, 2022 4:36 PM
To: # Board of Elections
Subject: Election Comments/Recommendations

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.

As a poll worker in Pine District 2 for the past several elections I've seen the frustration people experience when they come to vote and are faced with long registration lines, especially during the busy times early in the morning, at lunch and at dinner time. The voters want to enter, register, vote and leave without delays due to the slow processing of registrations. I expect voter turnout to increase at the upcoming 2022 midterm election given the political issues and most definitely for the 2024 presidential election so voter frustration is expected to increase unless a change is made.

My recommendation, where there are sufficient poll workers, is to split the registration book onto two sections: A - M and N - Z with one poll worker assigned to each of the two sections. Once the voter is registered and a voter number assigned and recorded the voter can receive their ballot and vote. This should reduce the waiting time yet meet the requirement for assuring proper registration of the voter.

Thank you for considering my recommendation.

Ken Janowitz

Voye, David

From: Ken Janowitz <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, August 5, 2022 11:17 PM
To: # Board of Elections
Subject: Poll Workers

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.

I believe there is a pool of untapped potential poll workers that may be available. These are most likely women who have school age children. You might consider advertising for part time workers who have time during the day when their children are in school. Not everyone is available or willing to work the 6 am to 9 pm that full time poll workers are required to work.

Ken Janowitz

Voye, David

From: laurie appel <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Saturday, August 6, 2022 6:32 AM
To: # Board of Elections
Subject: Nov Election

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.

Absolutely NO mail in votes unless you're military.

Voye, David

From: allan willinger <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, August 4, 2022 5:08 PM
To: # Board of Elections
Subject: Fw: Board of Elections to Meet Wednesday, August 10

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.

Dear BOE - Thank you for making BOE meetings available to attenders by zoom. I attended the last BOE meeting remotely, but it was very hard to hear the speakers except those closest to the microphone. Would it be possible to put a mic in the center of the table or room? That would make it much easier for remote attenders to hear the speakers. Thank you.

Sincerely, Allan Willinger, [REDACTED] Pittsburgh, PA [REDACTED]

----- Forwarded Message -----

From: Allegheny Alerts <noreply@everbridge.net>
To: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, August 4, 2022 at 03:59:29 PM EDT
Subject: Board of Elections to Meet Wednesday, August 10

This is a message from Allegheny Alerts.

The Board of Elections will meet on Wednesday, August 10 at 1 PM in the Gold Room at the Courthouse to hear from the Elections administration about its plans for the November election.

Individuals wishing to submit written comments, or signing up to address the board in person, must do so by 1 PM on Tuesday, August 9 by emailing boe@alleghenycounty.us. Written comments will be summarized at the meeting and entered into the record. Those wishing to address the board should email their name, address and that they are planning to speak in person. Remarks will be limited to three (3) minutes.

The meeting will also be streamed on the county's Facebook page.

To modify your subscription settings click [here](#). To visit the Allegheny County website click [here](#).

Voye, David

From: Brittany Linville Tonet <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, August 4, 2022 4:11 PM
To: # Board of Elections
Subject: Concerns for Board of Elections Meeting on August 9

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.

Dear Board Members,

I am writing to encourage you all to continue by mail voting for all voters. As a disabled voter, this has made voting so much easier. Standing in line as someone who uses a mobility aid can be hard for me so, while I can sometimes go in person, I usually pay the price for trying to stand in line long enough to vote, particularly during years where the polls are busier.

I would also encourage you all to consider allowing for ballot drop off at a place or places where there is better parking (like at North Park in 2020) where it is easy for disabled people in wheelchairs or using other mobility aids to turn in a ballot that may not have come in early enough to be turned in on time through the ever more unreliable mail service. It is hard as someone who uses a mobility aid to find parking and travel from the parking lot to the county building to turn in a ballot. Particularly in Pittsburgh's downtown where disabled parking is few and far between and also hard to get because it's so rare. For those in wheelchairs, it's next to impossible. And that doesn't include the terrible sidewalks and wheelchair ramps that are so prevalent in this city.

I would also ask the Board to ensure that poll locations are all wheelchair accessible to ensure my fellow disabled folks that use wheelchairs are able to get to their polls.

Please continue to ensure that us disabled voters can vote in a way that isn't detrimental to us. I know so many disabled voters that just can't vote because getting to the polls is impossible without mail in voting. This is disenfranchisement of disabled voters. I ask that you do everything you can to ensure we can vote just as well as our non-disabled counterparts.

Sincerely,
Brittany Tonet
Glenshaw, PA

Voye, David

From: Rudy, Daniel Robert <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, August 4, 2022 5:16 PM
To: # Board of Elections
Subject: Comment for the 8/10 BOE Meeting

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, my name is Daniel Rudy, and I'm not able to attend the meeting on the 10th but would like to submit a comment for the meeting:

I'm currently the Judge of Elections for the 11th Ward 11th District. In the primary election this past May, we received too few ballots and nearly ran out by the end of the day. This included only 10 Republican ballots, which we ran out of by the early afternoon. Our ExpressVote machine was also improperly calibrated, which led to significant delays and confusion, especially once we ran out of paper ballots. Both of these issues were shared early on primary day, but we received no follow-up. Could you please share what caused these issues and what steps are being taken to avoid them in the November General election?

Best,
Daniel Rudy (He/Him)
University of Pittsburgh '24
MPA – Policy Research & Analysis

Voye, David

From: Josie Fisher <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, August 4, 2022 5:28 PM
To: # Board of Elections
Subject: Voting instructions

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 - is it your function to inform voters of how, where and when to vote? About timelines for registering to vote? And about the ways to vote, such as mail-in ballots, eligibility for mail-in ballots and how to obtain and use mail-in ballots? How will you communicate this information? Will you differentiate between absentee ballots and mail-in ballots? If there is no difference, can you stop using one or the other so to limit confusion? Thank you for your work!

Voye, David

From: Susan Klixbull <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Tuesday, August 2, 2022 3:45 PM
To: # Board of Elections
Cc: Susan Klixbull
Subject: Suggestions for Poll Worker Shifts

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.

As Judge of Elections for Glen Osborne Borough, I am requesting consideration of splitting the poll worker's shift into 2 - eight hour shifts, or, 3 - five and one half hour shifts with each volunteer selecting a full shift or one of the other options.

I do understand that it might be desirable for the Judge of Election position to continue to be from opening of polls to closing of polls.

This would relieve the strain on elderly workers and allow others who might not be able to devote the entire day to become active in the elections process. This would also enable any 18 year old high school student to become involved..

Glen Osborne Borough would consider being a beta test site for this new process.

Thank you for your consideration.
Susan Klixbull
Judge of Elections

Voye, David

From: Colin Dean <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, July 29, 2022 7:41 PM
To: # Board of Elections
Subject: A comment for Aug 9 meeting

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.

Board of Elections members,

Thank you and the county GIS team for creating the voting districts tool enabling printable maps of the districts. With the help of the GIS team in May 2021, I printed and posted on a science fair tri-fold posterboard the map for the districts which vote at the Eastridge Branch of the Wilkinsburg Library in Blackridge. This has been an incredibly useful tool for directing voters to which of three tables they should try first when they don't know their district and don't have their voter registration card on them. This saves our poll workers a significant amount of time and enables voters to resolve the question of "am I in the right place" themselves quickly and low-tech, which saves our Judges of Election some time working with the voter to look up their registration online or to call the Elections Division.

I encourage the Board to make such a printed, displayed map available to all multi-district polling places so they can benefit as ours has from the streamlined voter triage process.

--

Colin Dean
Judge of Election, Wilkinsburg Ward 1 District 4

Comments to the Board of Elections for the August 10, 2022 meeting

From William Towne

Greetings! I come before you today with concerns about ballot secrecy, transparency as required by law, and underhanded strategies for dismissing election concerns from the public and Board members.

At your packed meeting following the primary, efforts were made to dismiss and defer concerns to Board meetings to occur a couple weeks later, claiming the ability to handle raised issues at those meetings and (per direct quote from Atty. Opsitnick) that **"Any meeting we have, it's never limited to one subject."** Ms. Hallam and Mr. DeMarco bravely fought against this resistance to pass a motion bringing the County into better compliance with what is now state law, per Act 66 of 2022. Yet those subsequent meetings were then limited to a single topic, and discussion on anything else was deferred to a fictional July meeting that would not be happening, as a dishonest dismissal of concerns. Please pass a motion at this meeting to schedule monthly Board of Elections meetings that are not agenda-limited. Elections administration is a topic of growing concern to many people, and active all year: The Elections Division claims they're exceptionally busy even at the lowest periods of the annual cycle.

Please also pass a motion requiring prompt compliance with state law requiring compilation and transparency of records as further detailed in Court of Common Pleas case GD-22-007739. For example, rather than compile the information required, County practices expose the drivers' license numbers and last four digits of Social Security numbers used as proof of identification on applications for postal ballots even when nobody is asking for that information, but rather seeking the few specific fields state law requires the County to proactively compile and produce (per law, within 48 hours of a request!). The County will not even do an easy export from the SURE system selecting the correct fields as specified in the Election Code without a specific court order, but a passed motion from the Board should be able to overrule the Division and improve compliance with PA law. Demonstrating that those in charge of elections in Allegheny County insist on handing citizens a minimum five-figure legal bill and months or maybe years of delay before they would be willing to comply with prompt transparency requirements in the plain text of the Election Code serves the interests of disinformation campaigns, not the peaceful interest of citizens as codified by the General Assembly. The Elections Division even strongly fights against efforts to get an order for preservation of records when they note they're already (claiming perhaps "accidentally") destroying records from federal elections well before the end of even the statutory retention period.

I am especially concerned about Allegheny County's practice of uniquely numbering postal ballots. This practice could lead to those ballots being tossed out or an order for an election do-over on short notice. A do-over could be under a microscope, potentially with party control of one or both chambers of the US Congress, the PA Governorship (overseeing certification of 2024 electors), and other important contests at stake. An election redo would likely not be run as well as a normal election due to the time crunch, and it would also be a large expenditure you could avoid now with one simple practice-changing motion. In either of those bad outcomes, failing to act now could give many people a reason to refuse to accept the declared outcomes of the election, which would mark a very costly loss of democracy. We could see angry mobs in Allegheny County that make the Jan. 6 Capitol riot look, by comparison, like the tourist visit some of its defenders are trying to portray it as.

Fortunately, it would be easy to significantly reduce this risk with a motion you can pass at this meeting, to protect secret ballot in Allegheny County in accordance with the law. Though #1 is the most important in the list below, the motion would ideally require that:

1. Ballots in the same municipality, ward, precinct, precinct split (if applicable), party (in a primary), and method (e.g. mail-in vs. absentee) must **not** be otherwise distinguishable before being marked by voters,
2. No voter-specific or voter-identifying markings shall be added to ballots by anyone other than the voter at any time (and though out of the County's control, the voter shouldn't either),
3. Privacy envelopes (with the hash markings inside, commonly used in personal and business correspondence) shall be used for ballot secrecy envelopes, and
4. After removing secrecy envelopes from declaration envelopes and verifying that they do not bear any voter-specific markings, the secrecy envelopes shall be mixed up in large batches before being opened.

I also ask that you contact the Department of State seeking a statewide declaration for these items in the event that other counties are using the same vendor and/or practices based on the validation of Allegheny County having repeatedly violated the secret ballot in opposition to those four items.

PA election officials used to uniquely number ballots and swear not to divulge voter choices, but that practice was supposed to have stopped after the 1901 constitutional amendment specifically changing that and providing for ballot secrecy even from elections officials. You don't have to take my word for that; you can take the Commonwealth Court's reasonably concise description issued earlier this year in *McLinko v. Dept. of State*, 270 A. 3d 1256¹. That interpretation of constitutional history was affirmed last week by the PA Supreme Court². However, Allegheny County holds that their violation means they also aren't bound by transparency laws that are meant to help citizens uncover such violations, meaning the violation justifies the cover-up. Please move Allegheny County out of the late 1800s with a motion at this meeting for compliance that the Elections Division is currently refusing to implement on its own.

I also encourage you to go back and read the comments submitted for prior recent Board meetings, especially those ignored because of the practice of guaranteeing the Board and public that agendas would not be limited to a specific topic and then limiting the agendas to a specific topic. Credibility costs in other aspects of elections administration still need to be addressed. Steps like pressing for truthful answers from the Elections Division especially on topics where they have shown a record of giving false answers to this Board and the public, hosting official election information on a .gov subdomain, ingesting and presenting specific ballot-tracking data from the USPS, and other items previously commented on could go a long way toward rebuilding some public trust in elections administration.

In preparation for the general election, please also seek better outreach efforts to eligible volunteers who have signed up as having an interest in serving as poll workers, prior to complaints from the Division about how we are short-staffed and need more poll workers shortly before the election. Please also improve training opportunities and communication channels, especially for election day questions.

Thank you for your work.

¹ https://scholar.google.com/scholar_case?case=14078700414360331179#p1256

² <http://www.pacourts.us/assets/opinions/Supreme/out/j-18a-e-2022mo.pdf> esp. note 46 on p. 67-68.