

MINUTES

MEETING OF THE ALLEGHENY COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS

TUESDAY, MAY 4, 2021, 3:00 P.M., PUBLIC MEETING-VIRTUAL MEETING VIA MICROSOFT
TEAMS, PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA.

BOARD MEMBERS: HONORABLE RICH FITZGERALD, CHAIR-present
HONORABLE BETHANY HALLAM, MEMBER-present
HONORABLE SAM DEMARCO, MEMBER-present

IN ATTENDANCE: JERRY TYSKIEWICZ – DIRECTOR, DEPT. OF ADMINISTRATIVE
SERVICES
JESSICA GAROFOLO-DEPUTY DIRECTOR, DEPT. OF
ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES
DAVID VOYE – MANAGER, DIVISION OF ELECTIONS
CHET HARHUT-DEPUTY MANAGER, DIVISION OF ELECTIONS
GEORGE M. JANOCKO-FIRST ASST. COUNTY SOLICITOR, LAW
DEPT.
ALLAN J. OPSITNICK - ASST. COUNTY SOLICITOR, LAW DEPT.

I. CALL TO ORDER – The meeting of the Allegheny County Board of Elections commenced at 3:00 PM. Meeting called to order by Chair Fitzgerald. Roll was called by Assistant Solicitor Opsitnick.

II. PUBLIC COMMENT

There were two public comments. Those comments are attached hereto. The commentors were:

1. Juliet Zavon regarding postage to be placed on mail-in ballots and lack of information. This was addressed by Mr. Voyer who indicated that only one stamp is necessary;
2. Debra R. Fyock regarding poor call taking at Elections. Mr. Voyer responded to this indicating that, at certain times, telephone lines were clogged.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF APRIL 13, 2021, MEETING

Moved by Member DeMarco. Seconded by Member Hallam. Approved 3-0.

IV. MUNICIPAL PRIMARY PREPARATIONS

Municipal Primary Preparations were discussed. Mr. Voyer indicated that 2,000 ballots had been processed today. There is no backlog on ballot requests. Mr. Voyer also indicated as of May 3, 2021, the total number of registered voters in Allegheny County was 927,365. 531,361 are Democrats. 262,203 are Republicans. 133,801 are other parties.

- V. Mr. Voye indicated that 115,548 mail-in applications were processed and approximately 110,000 ballots were in the mail. In addition to mail, mail-in/absentee voting over the counter is permitted.
- VI. Mr. Voye indicated that there were 52 new polling place locations. In each of those locations registered voters shall receive a mailed postcard advising them of the new polling place.
- VII. Mr. Voye further indicated that at the Allegheny County Jail, there were 22 new registrations and 44 absentee applications. On May 14th, Elections personnel shall travel to the jail to process absentee ballots.
- VIII. Ms. Garofolo indicated as to local Board of Election members that 75% of the positions were filled. 90% of the Judges of Election were filled as well as 85% of the inspectors. The need is for clerks.
- IX. As to training, Ms. Garofolo indicated that 500 people had attended in person, with 500 more expected to attend and 1,100 attended online with 300 more expected to train online.
- X. Mr. Tyskiewicz discussed the County Office Building ballot drop off plan and indicated that, beginning on Wednesday, May 12th through 8:00 PM on Election Day, ballots could be dropped off in the lobby of the County Office Building with County employees directing traffic and permitting curb parking while voters went inside the County Office Building.
- XI. Mr. Tyskiewicz also indicated that ads with information are to be run beginning April 30th through Election Day in various media outlets. Mr. Tyskiewicz indicated that FAQ videos for Facebook and Twitter are being prepared and that at the Elections warehouse there will be appropriate room for media and authorized representatives, in a fashion similar to November 2020, with less space allocated for each group.
- XII. Mr. Harhut discussed warehouse procedure, indicating all scanners have been checked and that the precinct scanners are to be packed on Friday the 7th. Mr. Harhut also indicated that video monitors of the pre-canvassing and canvassing will be used as they were in November. Ballots are being processed upon receipt and indicated that 2,000 ballots were processed today.
- XIII. Member Hallam asked regarding ballots requiring postage that did not contain postage. What was the disposition of these ballots. Mr. Tyskiewicz indicated that the ballots would be returned to the return address on the envelope, which should be the address of the voter. Mr. Voye indicated that individuals can track their ballot through the state website and, if not received timely, a replacement ballot can be requested by phone or in person. Member Hallam requested a notice in the future on the envelope indicating that it requires a single stamp. Mr. Voye indicated that that would be considered.
- XIV. Member Hallam inquired regarding changed polling places requiring a postcard, whether or not that change is permanent. Mr. Voye answered in the affirmative.
- XV. Member Hallam inquired regarding the wheelchair lift at the County Office Building as it needs key to operate and is not always staffed and inquired will the lift be staffed during ballot drop off times. Ms. Garofolo spoke to Facilities management and County building guards and replied

that someone, who can operate the lift, will be on the first floor of the County Office Building during these times.

XVI. Member DeMarco expressed concern about Board vacancies and also asked whether training videos are online and whether or not the Board of Elections would be notified when these videos are posted. Mr. Voye indicated that the Board would be notified when the videos were posted.

XVII. ELECTION MORNING PRE-CANVASS

Mr. Opsitnick requested the Board to approve the 7:00 AM pre-canvass both for May 18th and all future elections including, if the commencement time for pre-canvass would change, the earliest legally permitted time. Member DeMarco moved, Member Hallam seconded, motion passed 3-0.

XVIII. NEW BUSINESS

None reported.

XIX. ADJOURNMENT

Member DeMarco moved for adjournment. Seconded by Chair Fitzgerald. Approved 3-0. Meeting adjourned at 3:18 PM.