

MINUTES

MEETING OF THE ALLEGHENY COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 24, 2022, 2:00 P.M., PUBLIC MEETING-GOLD ROOM, FOURTH FLOOR OF THE ALLEGHENY COUNTY COURTHOUSE, PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA.

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

IN ATTENDANCE: JESSICA GAROFOLO-DEPUTY DIRECTOR, DEPT. OF ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES
DAVID VOYE – MANAGER, DIVISION OF ELECTIONS
ALLAN J. OPSITNICK – ASST. COUNTY SOLICITOR
JAMES DAVIS – DEPUTY DIRECTOR, DEPT. OF ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES
CHET HARHUT- DEPUTY DIVISION MANAGER

- I. **CALL TO ORDER** – Meeting called to order by Chair Fitzgerald at 2:00 PM. Roll was taken by Mr. Opsitnick. All members present, with Member Hallam participating remotely.
- II. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

The following individuals addressed the Board:

1. Christine Mattarochia, Moon Township, said that she campaigned door-to-door and four voters were registered at a commercial business on Moon Clinton Road, numbers 370 & 425. Also, in Pittsburgh Ward 21 District 4, on Western Avenue, voters were registered at empty lots and businesses. Approximately 120 voter registrations in that area. Questioned the requirement of \$10 per voter challenge and spoke in favor of paper ballots.
2. M. J. Costello, Mt. Lebanon, suggests fully transcribed meeting. Indicates that County employees cannot be on a Board of Election per Elections Code. Mentioned better timekeeping and mentioned the Konnech relationship with China and County's use of Konnech Poll Chief software. Further indicated that, regarding Mr. Opsitnick's letter of October 7th, Member DeMarco has ignored evidence of fraud and states that this letter was to intimidate.
3. Jim Barr, Westview, elections record shows names not removed from street lists and stated whether or not anybody on the election street lists were born in the 1800s.
4. Matthew Van Bibber commented on his observations as the September 27, 2022, logic and accuracy procedure at the Elections warehouse. No cameras above scanners yet. Echoes his written comments, incorporated into the record of this meeting. Investigation is necessary as at least one scanner has ghosting text.
5. Traci Brown, Ross, said she is a Judge of Elections at Ross 1-3 and asking for poll workers. Also mentioning the Konnech issue in passing. Wants to recruit poll workers with confidence.

6. Erika Rocchi Brusselars, Pittsburgh, thanks Elections on a number of items. States that mail-in voting is safe. Indicates that there are problems with poll worker management portal and that there is no training on dangerous situations and firearms.

7. William Jasper, Leetsdale, states meeting minutes not complete. Wants forensic audit. Expressed reservations regarding Poll Chief. States 2020 election was stolen.

8. Anthony Golembiewski, Pittsburgh, states there is inequity between non-County employee poll workers and County employee workers. Referred to a chart that he had prepared contending that County poll workers are paid \$550 per day.

9. Brigitte Savchaik, Franklin Park, is the Judge of Elections in Franklin Park 3-2. Questioned the acquisition of Poll Chief, that is, who decided on Poll Chief, was Poll Chief a sole source contract, and who administers Poll Chief. Wants to terminate the Konnech contract. Wants in-person, one-day voting with voter id and paper ballots.

10. Elizabeth Conway, speaking for Karl Jarek. Read Mr. Jerik's statement that is incorporated into the record.

11. Faye Vietmeir, said that Vote PA found 232,000 who no longer live in Pennsylvania. Inquired of County's plan. Read a parable that was submitted by email and made part of the record.

Emails from the following individuals have been incorporated into the record and Minutes of this meeting. Those commenters being:

1. Brenda Foreman.
2. Michelle Feingold.
3. Anna Fisher.
4. M. J. Costello.
5. Karl Jarek.
6. Faye Vietmeir.
7. Matthew Van Bibber.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 20, 2022 MEETING

Moved by Member DeMarco. Seconded by Member Hallam. 3-0 vote to approve said Minutes.

IV. 2022 GENERAL ELECTION

A statistics sheet was submitted by Mr. Voye and Ms. Garofolo, attached hereto.

Mr. Voye indicated that today is the last day to register. There are 1,200 online mail-in/absentee applications a day and a few hundred mail-ins are received per day. Elections is running current with processing applications.

Ms. Garofolo indicated that Elections' goal is at least four individuals per each of County's 1,323 polling places. Therefore, approximately 5,500 people are necessary.

Chair Fitzgerald asked Mr. Voye to comment on mail-in ballot procedure. Mr. Voye and Ms. Garofolo explained the procedure, starting with the pre-canvass through the canvass of mail-

ins and absentees. Ms. Garofolo added that she expected all mail-ins to be tabulated prior to 8:00 PM on Election Day.

Member DeMarco asked Ms. Garofolo why she projected only four individuals per polling place. Ms. Garofolo explained that was a projection and, while the goal was five individuals per polling place, the four poll workers per polling place is a more realistic estimate. That being said, Elections strives to fully staff each polling place with five individuals.

Member DeMarco inquired as to the registration drive that produced a number of incomplete voter registrations. Mr. Voye replied that it was an organization called One PA.

Member DeMarco asked Mr. Voye to explain treatment of deceased voters. Mr. Voye explained that procedure and, for example, indicated where the mail-in or absentee ballots of four recently deceased voters were noted and will not be tabulated.

Member DeMarco ask Mr. Voye whether undated ballots were segregated. Mr. Voye confirmed that.

Member Hallam asked about rejected registrations. Mr. Voye explained that some registrations are returned to the person filing the registration, if possible. If not possible, rejected registrations are retained by Elections.

Member Hallam asked whether or not County is supposed to retain rejected registrations. Mr. Opsitnick said no.

Member Hallam discussed communications among local poll workers to better coordinate a local Board of Election. Mr. Voye indicated that the Poll Chief system can be accessed by the Judge of Elections and that Elections might be able to implement broader communication in the future.

Member Hallam asked whether or not poll worker training included de-escalation training. Mr. Voye indicated no but indicated that the Elections telephone number was provided to all Boards in the event of any issues.

Member Hallam asked Mr. Opsitnick regarding the Board of Election input in the contracts. Mr. Opsitnick replied that the contracts are lead by the County using the County's competitive procurement program. As a result, there is no direct input and decision making by the Board of Elections.

Member DeMarco asked Ms. Garofolo about a request for the Konnech system logs. Ms. Garofolo said County IT was investigating.

V. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 2:55 PM by Chairman Fitzgerald.