

MINUTES

MEETING OF THE ALLEGHENY COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 28, 2022, 10:00 A.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
HONORABLE SAM DEMARCO, MEMBER-present

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

I. **CALL TO ORDER** –Meeting called to order by Chair Fitzgerald at 10:00 AM. Roll was taken by Mr. Opsitnick. All members present.

II. PUBLIC COMMENT

NOTE: All emailed or similar submissions to the Board are referenced herein. Those submissions shall be part of the meeting minutes.

Those individuals submitting comments to the Board are as follows:

1. Debbie Hadfield.
2. Sherry Sweeny.
3. Michelle Feingold.
4. William Towne.
5. M.J. Costello.
6. Janice Marks.
7. Diane Schmitt.
8. Brenda Forman.
9. Todd McCullum.
10. Bob Howard.
11. Blanche Mcguire.
12. Juliet Zavon.
13. Melinda Edwards.
14. M. J. Costello.
15. Lynn Shine.
16. Holiday Adair.
17. Matthew VanBibber.

18. Brady Reidel.

The following individuals addressed the Board, in person:

1. Anthony Golembiewski-Directed comments to Member Hallam regarding attempted communication without success. Also commented about Elections' use of the Poll Chief software.

2. Robyn Kesneck-Commented on polling places at Robinson Township 4 & 6. States incorrectly located in gym. Asked for a clarification of a May 2022 post. Submitted documents.

3. Juliet Zavon-Submitted a document addressing polling place accessibility issues. Suggests regular inspection of polling places for accessibility.

4. Erika Rocchi Brusselars-Appreciated list of dates and proxy mail cure for mail-in and absentee ballots. Mentioned difficulties in searching Elections for Oliver School and difficulties with poll worker recruitments. Inquired of remedy for local Boards who do not poll and submit their memory sticks on Election Night.

5. Matthew Van Bibber-Complimented the Board regarding addressing his concerns for a camera showing the tabulation room and above the high speed scanners in the warehouse. Submitted twelve petitions.

6. Melanie Maxwell-Stresses transparency. Cannot follow ballots and cannot see information being uploaded in the tabulation system.

7. Diane Schmitt-Request delay in certification because of petitions filed seeking recount/re canvass in twelve districts.

8. M. J. Costello-Referring to a chart. Indicated she is a Judge of Elections but cannot count ballots at her polling place and does not know what is on the USB memory sticks.

9. Roberta Corpuz- Stated two people who were trained were willing to work local Boards in Robinson that were supposedly open. These people later advised there were openings in South Fayette and not Robinson. Robinson was understaffed until County staff appeared and there was mass confusion. Additionally, some people did not sign the poll book. Inquired who assigns the polling place constable and how does that occur.

10. Lynn Shine-Expressed reservations about Poll Chief. Inquired why social security numbers are needed in addition to one's date of birth and drivers license number. Indicated there was an email and screenshot from Poll Chief showing her full social security number. Referred to criminal charges against a principal in Konnech in Los Angeles County. Poll Chief needs fully transparency.

11. Ellen McCracken-Submitted comments regarding improving the voter process.

12. Christine Mattarochia-Regarding 121 supposedly fraudulent voters on the North Side. Agreed that the street as submitted was incorrect but there were parallel numbers on both streets. States there are still persons registered at USBS maintenance building and investigation is needed. Requested not to certify results.

13. Cindy Zwergel-Mentioned issues at North Fayette District 5 regarding obtaining machine tapes. Submitted written comments as well.

14. Rosalind Daily-Submitted comments. Asks that results are not certified. Submitted a "Formal Notice."

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF OCTOBER 24, 2022 MEETING

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

IV. REQUEST TO DELAY CERTIFICATION

At this time Mr. Opsitnick addressed the Board regarding the request to delay certification and argued against that, indicating that the twelve petitions filed were without merit and that the Board should certify the entire County, that is, 1,323 precincts.

V. Member Hallam commented on the availability to see Board meeting on Allegheny County livestream.

Member Hallam and Chair Fitzgerald discussed maps on doors of polling places for the polling places in that district.

Member Hallam asked how provisional ballots were counted. Mr. Voye explained.

Member Hallam asked regarding memory sticks not returned. Mr. Voye explained that 31 sets of memory sticks were not returned on election night. Most were obtained the day after the election.

Member Hallam asked if the memory sticks were special in any fashion. Mr. Voye indicated that the sticks are ESS encrypted and used for each election.

Member Hallam asked why there was no access to the tabulation room. Mr. Voye indicated that a camera was used and shall be in the future.

Member Hallam mentioned the voters on Western Avenue and Northwest Avenue in the city and asked if any addresses were checked. Mr. Voye explained the investigation conducted and indicated that there are no registered voters on Western Avenue.

Member Hallam inquired about registered voters at the Civic Arena parking lot. Mr. Voye indicated that there were no public comments regarding this.

Member Hallam mentioned the Montour High School polling place issue (Robinson Township). Mr. Voye said this will be addressed and resolved.

Member Hallam indicated that people who wanted to be poll watchers but were not assigned contacted her yet County employees were working. Director Garofolo indicated that there were 6,500+ poll workers. County employees were used as a "bullpen."

Member Hallam said at least three County employees said they were not trained and also inquired why the full social security number was required. Ms. Garofolo indicated that Elections is working on using only the last four digits of the social security number.

Member Hallam inquired as to regular inspections of polling places for accessibility and general purposes. Ms. Garofolo indicated that this could be discussed.

Member Hallam indicated that in Ulster County, New York, there was an "I Voted" sticker contest for kids. Ms. Hallam proposed that County do the same and indicated that a budget amendment for \$25,000 for this project would be requested.

Member DeMarco inquired whether or not the sheriff at the regional centers could retrieve memory sticks left in scanners on election night. Mr. Voye indicated that polling places were closed shortly after the Board leaves.

Member DeMarco inquired as to who conducts the ballot reconciliation. Mr. Voye indicated that the Judge of Elections (local Board), Elections does not.

Member DeMarco asked whether or not results tapes printed out from the polling place scanner. Mr. Voye indicated in the affirmative that four copies of the results tapes are printed at the polling place.

Member DeMarco inquired about North Fayette Township Districts 3 & 5 in the same location. He does not favor that. Mr. Voye indicated that he will research that situation and provide an explanation.

Member Hallam asked about election day constables and how they are selected. Mr. Voye provided an explanation.

Member DeMarco mentioned looking into the Robinson Township Democratic Chair appointment.

Chair Fitzgerald indicated that Allegheny County's mail-in and absentee ballots posted online at 8:02 PM. All involved were complimented. Chair Fitzgerald also complimented the State on the 4.7 million dollars provided to Allegheny County to use for Elections purposes.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 11:22 AM by Chairman Fitzgerald.