

M I N U T E S

MEETING OF THE ALLEGHENY COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS

TUESDAY, March 8, 2022, 2:00 P.M., PUBLIC MEETING-CONFERENCE ROOM 1 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
DAVID VOYE – MANAGER, DIVISION OF ELECTIONS
CHET HARHUT-DEPUTY MANAGER, DIVISION OF ELECTIONS
ALLAN J. OPSITNICK - ASST. COUNTY SOLICITOR, LAW DEPT.

I. CALL TO ORDER – The meeting of the Allegheny County Board of Elections commenced at 2:05 PM. Meeting called to order by Chair Fitzgerald. Roll was called by Assistant Solicitor Opsitnick. All Board Members present. Additional County personnel in attendance, as listed above.

II. PUBLIC COMMENT

1. Juliet Zavon submitted a statement before the meeting but appeared in person and read her statement.
2. Emailed comments were also received from William Towne, Valerie Klaucher and Colin Dean
3. During the public comment period, Member Hallam inquired about different/better ballot secrecy envelopes. Mr. Voyer indicated that County had 300,000-350,000 of the currently used envelopes in stock. Member Hallam also inquired about the barcode on a mail-in/absentee ballot. Mr. Voyer replied that this is not a tracking barcode but a code that identifies the declaration envelope and the outer envelope.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 22, 2021, MEETING

Approval moved by Member Hallam. Seconded by Member DeMarco. Minutes approved 3-0.

IV. SPECIAL ELECTION PREPARATIONS REGARDING THE SPECIAL ELECTION FOR TWO PENNSYLVANIA HOUSE SEATS TO BE HELD ON APRIL 5, 2022

Mr. Voyer referred to the ballot packets for each district furnished to the Board Members. Mr. Voyer further indicated that there are no County Registration statistics for the Special Election area and no registration statistics for the two House seats on the ballot.

Mr. Voyer also indicated that mail-In voted ballots received were 1,700 by February 18th and 3,400 by February 24th.

Mr. Harhut commented that as to voting equipment, logic and accuracy testing, everything ran smoothly and that the bid for equipment moving ends tomorrow. Elections shall award the bid to one mover as the special elections encompass approximately 176 voting precincts.

Member DeMarco commented that his observer in the Elections Warehouse, during logic and accuracy, saw a bunch of hardworking people.

Ms. Garofolo indicated that there are full local election boards and a bullpen for the polling places and the Elections Warehouse and that March 21st was the final day to register for the special election and March 29th was the last day to apply for a mail-in ballot for the special election.

Member Hallam stated that she lives in one of the special election districts and inquired whether or not a request for a mail-in ballot generates both a special election and primary mail-in ballot. Mr. Voye confirmed this.

Mr. Voye indicated that the Department of State runs a nightly processing activity for applications for the special election.

V. PRIMARY ELECTION UPDATES-MAY 17TH PRIMARY ELECTION

Mr. Voye indicated that ES&S upgraded all County elections equipment with a Windows update, upgrading to Windows 10. Mr. Harhut confirmed this.

Member Hallam inquired about poll workers for the primary election. Ms. Garofolo indicated that currently County had secured approximately 2,400, which is one-third of the total needed.

Member Hallam inquired whether or not the increase pay rates, as used in the 2021 elections, continued. Chair Fitzgerald confirmed this.

Member DeMarco inquired about voter registration list maintenance early in 2022. Mr. Voye indicated that he was not sure of the extent of list maintenance but he would check on removals.

Member DeMarco requested an update on the poll worker software system, being installed by the County. Ms. Garofolo indicated that currently the County was testing and debugging and hopefully there would be a actual launch next week.

Member DeMarco asked whether the state requires reporting on voting from nursing homes. Mr. Opsitnick, Mr. Voye, and Ms Garofolo indicated that they were unaware of any such reporting requirement. Mr. Voye indicated that as to absentee voting from the Kane Regional Centers, where outside personnel have been prohibited during COVID, he would contact Kane Executive Director Dennis Biondo and inquire.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

The Board, as a whole, congratulated Jessica Garofolo on her new position.

Member Hallam stated that, as she understands that Member DeMarco is circulating nomination petitions for US Representative in the 17th District, should he not have to resign his position. Member Demarco confirmed that no nomination petition has been filed. Mr. Opsitnick indicated that the County Administrative Code defines “candidate” as someone who has filed

the required nominating petitions. Therefore, Member Demarco is not a candidate as of this time.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Member Hallam. Seconded by Member DeMarco. Approved 3-0 at 2:33 PM.