

# MINUTES

## MEETING OF THE ALLEGHENY COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS

MONDAY, April 25, 2022, 11:00 A.M., PUBLIC MEETING-CONFERENCE ROOM 1 OF THE ALLEGHENY COUNTY COURTHOUSE, PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA.

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**BOARD MEMBERS:** HONORABLE RICH FITZGERALD, CHAIR-present  
HONORABLE BETHANY HALLAM, MEMBER-present  
HONORABLE SAM DEMARCO, MEMBER-present (by telephone)

**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 11:05 AM. Meeting called to order by Chair Fitzgerald. Roll was taken.

### **II. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Public comment was both by email and live. As to email comments, the following comments were submitted:

1. MJ Costello, speaking in person in lieu of email comments;
2. Patricia A. Bennet, discussing signature verification at polling places;
3. TJ Harris, regarding deaths of deceased voters;
4. Sherry Sweeney, regarding drop boxes in Allegheny County.

Live public comments:

1. MJ Costello regarding Republican party rules for County Committee members as well as concerns about over-the-counter voting in Allegheny County and drop boxes;
2. Anthony J. Golembiewski, regarding a street list he received and used in petition signatures that he contended was erroneous, as well as voter registration concerns;
3. TJ Harris, echoed his emailed comments.

### **III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF MARCH 8, 2022, MEETING**

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

### **IV. CERTIFICATION OF APRIL 5 SPECIAL ELECTION FOR TWO STATE HOUSE SEATS**

Mr. Voyer indicated that turnout was 9.6%.

Voter registration: 8,743 voters applied to vote by mail. 4,513 mailed ballots were returned. 4,157 voters voted in person.

Certification moved by Member Hallam. Seconded by Member DeMarco. Approved 3-0.

## **V. PREPARATIONS FOR MAY 17<sup>TH</sup> PRIMARY ELECTION**

Director Garofolo provided the following information as of April 23, 2022:

Registration: 525,348, Democrats. 261,361 Republicans. 922,839 total voters registered.

1,992 total candidates for primary election with 1,829 of those being party committee candidates, both Democrat and Republican.

1,323 polling places, as previous, with 30 locations changed for this primary.

Absentee/mail-in ballot processing and mailing-105,613 applications processed.

Poll workers, approximately 4,500, already obtained, a full complement would be about 6,200.

Interested parties could go to [AlleghenyVotes.com](http://AlleghenyVotes.com) for information.

In-person poll worker training begins today. Online poll worker training will be available by the end of this week.

Member Hallam inquired as to the compensation for poll workers. Director Garofolo indicated that a Judge of Election is paid \$175.00, other Board members are paid \$150.00, plus \$20.00 for training.

Chair Fitzgerald indicated that an advantage of a poll worker is the chance to meet one's neighbors and observed that poll worker shortages are sprinkled throughout the County, not located in a particular area.

Director Garofolo indicated that the Elections staff is working nights and Saturdays to continue its recruitment effort.

## **VI. NEW BUSINESS/DISCUSSION**

Member Hallam asked for an explanation of the process to remove an inactive voter. Mr. Voye indicated that federal law requires a five-year no-vote/no-contact provision as well as two federal election cycles, without voting. These federal regulations add four years to the time period before an inactive voter can be removed.

Chair Fitzgerald observed that the polling place number is the same with 30 changes although the polling place districts may be a different electoral district, given reapportionments.

Chair Fitzgerald inquired whether or not mail-in/absentee ballots are being mailed to voters. Director Garofolo indicated that this process will start this week in a staggered fashion.

Member Hallam asked whether or not polling places are listed online. Ms. Downs commented that this information can be obtained online. Mr. Voye indicated that there is a polling place locator.

Mr. Voye further indicated that over-the-counter voting will begin by mid-week both in the lobby of the County Building or at the Elections Division offices, now on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor, as Elections has moved from the 6<sup>th</sup> floor.

Member DeMarco requested Mr. Voye to provide all information regarding over-the-counter and mail-in voting. Mr. Voye agreed to do that.

Member Hallam requested an explanation of the ballot process, especially regarding ballot security. Mr. Voye stated that over-the-counter ballots, that have been voted, are in sealed, locked containers, that are transmitted daily to the Elections warehouse where they are stored in a locked enclosure under continuous video surveillance.

Member Hallam requested an explanation of email confirmations of ballots received vs. actual experience. Mr. Voye indicated that there is generally a day or two delay.

## **VII. ADJOURNMENT**

Moved by Chair Fitzgerald at 11:28 AM.