

# MINUTES

## MEETING OF THE ALLEGHENY COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS

MONDAY, June 6, 2022, 10:00 A.M., PUBLIC MEETING-GOLD ROOM, FOURTH FLOOR 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

**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

- I. **CALL TO ORDER** – The meeting of the Allegheny County Board of Elections commenced at 10:00 AM. Meeting called to order by Chair Fitzgerald. Roll was taken by Mr. Opsitnick. All present.
- II. **PUBLIC COMMENT**  
Public comment was submitted by email and in person.

Email comments by the following persons:

- a. Melody Coholic;
- b. Eric Nylund;
- c. Marlene Chioda;
- d. Bruce Walker;
- e. LeeAnn Wagner Cica;
- f. Nigel Broadbent;
- g. [Lockespfs@verizon.net](mailto:Lockespfs@verizon.net), no name provided;
- h. Christine C. Molka;
- i. Warren Scheifele;
- j. Carrie Perrell;
- k. Lisa Bible;
- l. Joann Decolati;
- m. Margaret Michaels;
- n. Deb Coury;
- o. Yvonne Federouch;
- p. Nick Duratz;
- q. Michael Stroucken;
- r. Josh Griffin;
- s. Lynne Shine;
- t. Donald Guerra;

- u. Roberta Corpuz;
- v. Paula Fredland;
- w. Margaret L. Shaw & Nathan R. Shaw;
- x. Vasiliki E. Zotis Paliouras;
- y. William Towne;
- z. Elizabeth Conway;
- aa. Stacey West.

All emailed comments, as customary, shall be posted online with the Minutes of this meeting.

Public comment, live.

The following people spoke to the Board of Elections:

a. Diane Schmidt-Kennedy Township. Discusses and disputes the method that write-in ballots for County Party Committee is conducted. Motion by Member Hallam, seconded by Member DeMarco approved 3-0, to certify write-in winners for County Committee by action of the Board of Elections;

b. Rosalind Daily-Monroeville. Read a section of the United States Code regarding eliminating fraud. Submitted a document which will be included with Minutes;

c. Cynthia Scott-Edgeworth. Urging BOE to get rid of current voting equipment, mentioning DeKalb County, Georgia, and that those machines change votes;

d. Juliet Zavon-Pittsburgh. Discussed poll worker recruitment issues, indicating no return contact from Division of Elections, stressing that the poll worker software must work;

e. Christine Berenger-Carnegie. Discussed change of party forms, Coraopolis and Moon, as well as Kennedy and Pine-Richland, further indicating that she does not trust provisional ballots, indicating that certain party affiliations will change without voter's consent and people were requested to vote by mail without asking to do so. Further commented on deceased persons or persons that moved still on voter rolls and that voter id and paper ballots should be required;

f. Mary Jo Costello-Mt. Lebanon. Indicating she was a Judge of Elections and could not get through to the Elections Division, forced to leave voicemail;

g. Sherri Sweeney-Gibsonia, West Deer. Worked on the local Board of Elections in West Deer 1, indicating there were unanswered phone calls to Elections and messages left, most people do not like using the ADA machine and several voters left and did not return, regarding ballot shortages, indicating that the optics were horrific. Additionally, requesting to return to paper ballots, that Pennsylvania is the new Broward County and that there should be three times the number of ballots provided to polling places in November;

h. Jim Means-Bethel Park. Thanked Member Hallam and Member DeMarco for their motion regarding BOE certification of Committee Offices, indicating it was common for people to get multiple mail-in ballots and felt that this created voter suppression and was either intentional or the product of rank incompetence. Further indicated that the voting machines, that scan and tabulate, are connected to the internet. Mr. Voye disagreed;

i. David Tessitor-Pittsburgh. Indicated that the board on which he served, Pittsburgh 7-14, ended up managing two polling places, including Pittsburgh 7-13, as there were insufficient poll workers. Discussed the need for more poll workers and suggested dividing Election Day among poll workers rather than the full Election Day of approximately 6:00 AM to 9:00 PM, indicating that 17-year-olds can function as poll workers under the Election Code. Mr. Tessitor indicated that Mr. Voye did an exemplary job;

j. Ron Bandes-Pittsburgh. Judge of Elections at 14-1, indicating there were 46 people no in the poll book and as a result 27 provisional ballots were used, also indicating that 6 independent voters were issued ballots. Mentioned the County subcontract and Midwest Direct;

k. Toni Schuppe. Was an observer (authorized representative) at the Elections Warehouse and was approximately 25 feet away from activity and wanted to be as close as possible to the activity and, on behalf of the group Audit the Vote, of which he is CEO, submitted a document which will be included with Minutes;

l. Robyn Kesnick-Robinson Township. Worked the polling place at Robinson 4, indicating that her polling place ran out of ballots at 11:00 AM. The shrink wrapped ballots received were in packets less than 50. Her understanding was that ballots were in packs of 50 only, indicating that the PA Voter Registration website reflected issues with McKees Rocks mailing addresses for persons that voted at Montour High School. Member DeMarco indicated that people applied for ballots that were not received, that registrations were changed without explanation and that Elections should no longer charge for timestamped documents. Mr. Opsitnick indicated that the mail-in ballot issue shall be addressed before the November election.

### **III. NEW BUSINESS/DISCUSSION**

#### **CERTIFICATION OF 2022 GENERAL PRIMARY RESULTS**

Approved 3-0, unanimous vote.

#### **ADJUDICATION OF 75 OVERVOTED BALLOTS**

Mr. Voye explained that process and the Board was requested to approve those adjudications, which adjudications were approved 3-0, unanimous vote.

#### **POST-PRIMARY REPORT**

Director Garofalo provided a document (included with the Minutes) entitled "By the Numbers" containing registered voters, ballots cast, voter turnout, etc. Director Garofalo also indicated that the pre-canvass was completed by approximately 3:00 PM and the results of the pre-canvassed mail-in ballots were posted shortly after the polls closed at 8:00 PM. Director Garofalo also discussed the situation where insufficient ballots, of both parties, were sent to polling places and described the efforts involved in Election Day ballot printing and delivery. Director Garofalo apologized to all and indicated that this will not happen in November or at any time in the future. Chair Fitzgerald indicated that using prior election data failed us and the ability to use the express vote machines (ADA machines) be explained to Board of Elections and general public. Mr. Harhut explained that process.

Member DeMarco indicated that the ballot shortages were unacceptable and people were turned away from the polls without getting a chance to vote, West Deer for one. Member DeMarco asked County personnel what percentage of registered voters will be printed in the future and that we cannot afford to give voters any reason to doubt the elections process in the future. Member DeMarco indicated that Elections personnel works hard but this shortage was inexcusable. Member DeMarco also commented that the ballot printing and delivery process, in which he delivered some ballots, was an all-hands-on-deck process.

Member Hallam moved that the policy for providing ballots to polling places should be 100% for the in-person voters, less the number of mail-in applications as of the date of ballot printing.

This motion was limited to November only. Said motion was seconded by Member DeMarco. Motion passed, 2-1. Members Hallam and DeMarco, for. Chairman Fitzgerald, against.

Member Hallam mentioned complaints regarding the ballots and improper activity at polls. Director Garofalo indicated that the call center shall be expanded to all elections issues, not merely limited to equipment related. Mr. Voye indicated that election employees begin at 6:00 AM. Mr. Opsitnick indicated that, during Election Day, any person or party has recourse to Election Court which is open continuously from 7:00 AM to 8:00 PM. Member DeMarco indicated that the telephone calls are not being answered.

Member Hallam mentioned provisional ballot voting, indicating that voters should not leave without voting provisional and also inquired in terms of the Warehouse "25 feet" procedure, wherein authorized representatives are kept at a distance. Mr. Opsitnick indicated that there is no hard and fast 25 foot rule, in some areas of the Warehouse voters were much closer and the Election Code only provides that authorized representatives be in the same room where pre canvassing activities are being conducted.

Member Hallam mentioned that there were complaints regarding the polling place lookup tool and the emails regarding the status of mail-in ballots. Mr. Voye indicated that that process was in the hands of the Department of State.

#### **IV. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no other business, Chair Fitzgerald adjourned the meeting at 11:30 AM.