

MINUTES

MEETING OF THE ALLEGHENY COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS

TUESDAY, September 20, 2022, 3:00 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
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 3:00 PM. Roll was taken by Mr. Opsitnick. All members present, in person.

II. PUBLIC COMMENT

There were 10 public commentators as follows:

1. Diane Schmitt. Inquired regarding: Zero prints of scanners, are they taken ahead of time? Are the USB drives reused? Should they be retained for 22 months? Express chain of custody issues. Express concerns whether or not EMS clients are computer connected.

2. Rosalind Daily. Presented a handout to director Garofolo, expressed unanswered IT concerns regarding airgap, unofficial server/vpn, unofficial system connected to the internet, concern regarding a worm virus, concerns as to the DS200 scanners contain wireless card, and whether FCC stickers are required.

3. Mary Jo Costello. Echoed the concerns of prior speakers and indicated that there are no process improvements and evidence mounts regarding vulnerabilities in our election system, mentioning the vote audit on True to Vote.

4. Debbie Hadfield. Asked whether or not passwords to tabulation system will not be the same or shared so as to follow the NIS for password usage. Also asked whether or not contractors have our passwords and are able to override and asked whether or not Mr. Voyer changed the passwords.

5. William Jasper. Read his written statement alleging serious fraud. This statement and all other statements or documents used by speakers and submitted by email commentators will be or have been posted online.

6. Janet Sidor. Inquired as to the operating budget for elections and County vs. Pennsylvania funding percentage. Also inquired about the number of election employees

and an elections organizational chart and asked who decided on purchasing the Poll Chief system from Konnech. Favors paper ballots.

7. Matt Vanbibber. Inquired whether or not there was a response to his report submitted at the last meeting regarding Poll Chief. Inquired whether or not a third-party group had access to the data in the Poll Chief system and whether or not that data was breached.

8. Shirley Ewart. Submitted a report and commented on that report.

9. Ron Bandes. Presented a written document and commented on that document.

10. Ellen McCracken. Submitted a document for review.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF AUGUST 10, 2022 MEETING

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

IV. 2022 GENERAL ELECTION PLANNING

Mr. Voye discussed a document entitled September 2022 Elections Divisions Statistics, attached. Member Hallam inquired whether polling place changes have been confirmed. Mr. Voye said yes. Member Hallam inquired whether or not poll worker numbers are confirmed only or all contacts made. Director Garofolo said poll worker numbers contain both confirmed and not yet confirmed and Elections was calling individuals on an ongoing basis.

Member Hallam inquired regarding the ballot mailing date and whether over-the-counter voting would be available. Mr. Voye confirmed ballots being mailed the first week of October and that over-the-counter voting would continue in the customary fashion.

Member DeMarco asked Mr. Voye to explain errors regarding the Poll Chief system. Mr. Voye and Ms. Garofolo indicated instructions will be added to the website and Ms. Garofolo explained the system and how to register in detail. Ms. Garofolo also indicated that individuals could also call the Elections Division.

Member De Marco asked whether or not Elections had full confidence in the ability to fill all necessary positions on local Election Boards. Ms. Garofolo answered in the affirmative and indicated that the number of interested individuals is at the usual level prior to an election. Member De Marco also inquired as to ballot shortages and whether or not Elections is sure that a sufficient number will be printed. Mr. Voye said that there will be no ballot shortage issue and explained the formula used to determine how many ballots should be sent to each polling place.

Member Hallam commented that Elections is always scrambling for polling place personnel and inquired what different steps are being taken. Member Garofolo indicated that there is outreach to County universities and colleges and there will be a Steelers game recruitment drive as well as a recruitment drive in Market Square. Ms. Garofolo further commented that there are many boots on the ground to recruit polling place personnel.

Member De Marco mentioned concerns about chain of custody and processing of provisionals and asked what County is doing in terms of their training for these two situations. Mr. Voye indicated that Election Board member training deals with these issues but unfortunately things

do happen, including poll workers leaving USB sticks in machines. Ms. Garofolo indicated that County employees are polling place coordinators and are also being trained to address these issues.

V. NEW BUSINESS

Member Hallam asked when the scanner zero prints are taken from the ten warehouse scanners. Mr. Harhut indicated that the zero prints from the ten scanners are taken right before or at 7:00 AM on Election Day and no earlier.

Member Hallam asked whether the USB drives are reused and how they are stored. Mr. Voye indicated the drives are retained for 30 days and reused for the next election. Mr. Opsitnick indicated that the USB drives need not be saved as the data stored on the drives is being retained as required by law.

Member Hallam asked where the servers for unofficial results are stored. Mr. Voye indicated that the unofficial servers for election night only are contained at the Elections Warehouse, further explaining in detail the official and unofficial servers.

Member Hallam stated that there was no Board of Elections budget and that the Elections budget by line item is available online.

Member Hallam asked whether or not Elections can use security type secrecy envelopes. Mr. Voye indicated that he would check. Member Hallam indicated about 2D barcodes on ballots and declaration envelopes. Mr. Voye explained that Elections is using a new mail house vendor, Phoenix, from Rochester, New York. Phoenix uses a two-window envelope and there will not, for the November 2022 election and any time in the future, be individual identifying codes on any mail-in ballot.

Member De Marco inquired about the digital images of voted ballots and the claim that counterfeit ballots were used in Allegheny County. Ms. Garofolo said it would be impossible for 10,000 counterfeit ballots to be brought into the County's secured Elections Warehouse and, as an example, indicated that 10,000 ballots would take approximately 10 bankers boxes and indicated that there were 10 bankers boxes stacked nearby in the Gold Room. Mr. Voye added that the Elections Warehouse is under 24/7 video surveillance.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 4:00 PM by Chairman Fitzgerald.