

MINUTES

MEETING OF THE ALLEGHENY COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2020, 3:00 P.M., PUBLIC MEETING-VIRTUAL MEETING VIA
MICROSOFT TEAMS, PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA.

BOARD MEMBERS: HONORABLE RICH FITZGERALD, CHAIR-present
HONORABLE BETHANY HALLAM, MEMBER-present
HONORABLE SAM DEMARCO, MEMBER-present

IN ATTENDANCE: JERRY TYSKIEWICZ – DIRECTOR, DEPT. OF ADMINISTRATIVE
SERVICES
DAVID VOYE – MANAGER, DIVISION OF ELECTIONS
ALLAN J. OPSITNICK - ASST. COUNTY SOLICITOR, LAW DEPT.
CHET HARHUT-DEPUTY MANAGER, DIVISION OF ELECTIONS

I. CALL TO ORDER – The meeting of the Allegheny County Board of Elections commenced at 3:00 PM. Meeting called to order by Chair Fitzgerald. Roll was called by Assistant Solicitor Opsitnick, all Board Members present either live or virtually.

II. PUBLIC COMMENT
There were four comments that were emails received by the Division of Elections before the meeting. These public comments were summarized by Mr. Opsitnick and made a part hereof.

III. 2020 GENERAL ELECTION PREPARATIONS

Mr. Voyer discussed the following:

- Thanked Department of Administrative Services and other County Departments for their efforts.
- Indicated that as of October 19th there were approximately 10,000 new registrations.
- 15 additional call takers/makers were added regarding poll worker recruitment. Less than 1,200 persons were still needed for a full complement for the election.
- Approximately 384,000 mail in/absentee applications have been processed and about 17,000 applications were still to be mailed.
- Satellite voting for the first weekend yielded approximately 16,000 applications completed onsite and/or completed ballots and voted ballots dropped off.

Chair Fitzgerald discussed the following:

- Delivered a pat on the back to all involved in this massive effort.
- Discussed the Midwest Direct Company ballot error.
- Discussed provisional ballots and naked ballots.

Mr. Voyer and Mr. Harhut responded.

Mr. DeMarco discussed the following:

- Questions as to incorrect ballots and checks and balances.
- The result if someone discards their ballot.
- Whether or not Republicans were being contacted by Elections to serve on local Boards.
- Questioned how late received ballots are to be treated.

Mr. Voye responded.

Ms. Hallam inquired about:

- Poll worker recruitment.
- Dropbox ballot, scanning status.
- Voters not receiving their ballots.
- The removal of the “bad ballot lookup tool” from the County website.
- Whether or not corrected ballots are scanned for receipt.
- Mail in applications rejected as duplicates.
- 44 ballots sent to the wrong address.
- How to remedy erroneous ballots.

Mr. Voye responded.

IV. DISCUSSION OF NEW BUSINESS

Ms. Hallam inquired about:

- Poll workers being required to wear mask.
- When watcher certificates would be available.
- Allegheny County’s use of Midwest Direct.
- Issues regarding Midwest Direct’s prior history and current display of a Trump flag in front of their corporate headquarters.

Mr. Voye, Mr. Opsitnick and Mr. Tyskiewicz responded. Mr. DeMarco and Chair Fitzgerald responded regarding the state contract and Midwest Direct’s work in the June primary.

V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the September 17th, 2020 meeting were approved. Moved by Member DeMarco. Seconded by Ms. Hallam. Approved 3-0

VI. ADJOURNMENT –Meeting adjourned at 3:58