

Voye, David

From: Madelyn Dinnerstein <mdinnerstein@hotmail.com>
Sent: Friday, September 11, 2020 3:02 PM
To: # Board of Elections
Subject: Additional offices during election season

Warning! This email was sent from an external source. Please be sure you recognize the sender and use caution when clicking on links and/or opening attachments.

Dear Board of Elections members,

I think it is a great idea for there to be additional offices at key points in the election season where Allegheny County residents can return ballots or take care of other election-related activities, particularly given recent issues with the mail.

It can be quite inconvenient for people to go Downtown. Often, they would have to pay for parking or spend an unusually long time to get there because of limited Port Authority in some areas, such as the North Hills, where I live.

Voting should be easy and convenient, and having these offices would make the various steps in the process less onerous for many people. Also multiple offices would be safer in these times because people will not be converging on one office, so physical distancing will be easier.

Please create at least four offices in various parts of the county. More would be better, if it is possible.

Sincerely,

Madelyn Dinnerstein
Ross Township

Get [Outlook for Android](#)

Voye, David

From: Schneider, Nicole <nicole.schneider@medexpress.com>
Sent: Friday, September 11, 2020 3:44 PM
To: # Board of Elections
Subject: Board of Elections Meeting Question

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There has been concern voiced about the possibility of non-postmarked ballots being challenged as invalid. Are there any plans to date-stamp or to give a receipt to those who would like to hand-deliver their ballot in order to prove the date of voting?

Nicole Perko Schneider

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Voye, David

From: jwallace <jwallace@egmcentral.com>
Sent: Friday, September 11, 2020 4:11 PM
To: # Board of Elections
Subject: Elections Board to Consider Proposal for Additional Offices

Warning! This email was sent from an external source. Please be sure you recognize the sender and use caution when clicking on links and/or opening attachments.

They say they are doing this because "voters remain concerned about COVID". So why not just MAIL in your ballot if you are fearful of being around other people? If you're not one of the fearful then VOTE IN PERSON ON ELECTION DAY! This just opens up the opportunity for fraud.

Their press release states

<https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fj.mp%2F3bPZBef&data=02%7C01%7CDavid.Voye%40AlleghenyCounty.US%7Ccb3758a594504b952f7808d8568ec142%7Ce0273d12e4cb4eb19f708bba16fb968d%7C0%7C1%7C637354518415996426&sdata=KQNV0jEmkWdV%2FfRzRsEsXLtWD%2FczNPyi3JIw1IYwlGI%3D&reserved=0>

"Each office will have access to the Statewide Uniform Registry of Electors (SURE) system and will be staffed by county employees."

Having "access" to the SURE system does not prevent people from committing voter fraud. Will the SURE system be checked and updated with each ballot returned? We know the answer is NO. Every additional location and every additional day exponentially increases the chances of an individual submitting multiple ballots.

This last-minute change to our election process would only invite litigation that ultimately would be a financial drain on the citizens of Allegheny County.

I urge you to prevent this terrible idea from being implemented.

Thank you.

Jeff Wallace

Voye, David

From: erb990 <erb990@aol.com>
Sent: Friday, September 11, 2020 4:25 PM
To: # Board of Elections
Subject: Election

Warning! This email was sent from an external source. Please be sure you recognize the sender and use caution when clicking on links and/or opening attachments.

I am responding to the way to vote this year. There is no reason we can not vote as we have for over hundreds of years with the same polls opened pre covid. If there is a concern as for elderly, do as you do with all other huge stores do, 1 hr or so for them, then the rest of time as usual. For anyone to try to make the case that it is dangerous to vote in person, is lying to everyone, these so called peaceful protest, no problems, walmart, lowes, target, giant eagle etc, same as voting, lining up for getting tablets for schools, on and on. There is no reason that we can not vote as we normally do, to say any different is a complete lie. If you would really think about it it would make sense to keep polls open longer so they aren't that crowded. I have my right to vote in person at a location that is not overcrowded by eliminated polling places. Don't violate my rights.

Eric Black
Moon township

Sent from Samsung Galaxy smartphone.

Voye, David

From: Diana Baron <dianalynnbaron@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, September 11, 2020 4:34 PM
To: # Board of Elections
Subject: 2020 voting locations

Warning! This email was sent from an external source. Please be sure you recognize the sender and use caution when clicking on links and/or opening attachments.

To whom it may concern:

I am writing in support of opening more polling locations before November 3, to allow people to vote early. In my opinion, this is a no-brainer during a global pandemic, when having crowds on election day could pose a major public health risk. But it's something that would make for more fair and equitable elections in any year. Because voting day isn't a national holiday, many people have to work on voting day, meaning that fewer citizens make it to the polls. Giving people a few options for dates to vote will increase safety, accessibility, and hopefully, voter turnout.

Please pass and enact this plan.

Thank you,
Diana Baron
1038 Murray Hill Ave, Pittsburgh, PA 15217

Voye, David

From: Michelle Kearns <mgkearns@yahoo.com>
Sent: Friday, September 11, 2020 5:03 PM
To: # Board of Elections
Subject: Public Comment for September 17th Board Meeting re: 2020 Presidential Elections

From: Allegheny County resident, Michelle Gilbert Kearns at 213 Lynn Haven Drive, Pittsburgh 15228

To: the Board of Elections

Re: 2020 Presidential Election, Plan for Additional Office Locations and Times Leading Up to Election

Dear Board Members:

I currently reside in Mt. Lebanon with my husband, our adult son, and our soon to be 18 year old daughter, so the number of eligible voters at this address is 4. We waited anxiously for confirmation that our mail-in ballot applications were approved, and now we are waiting anxiously for receipt of those mail in ballots. It is our intent to complete them at home, but rather than mailing them back, we wish to take them to our election office in person. We had originally planned to mail them back to protect ourselves and others from possible COVID exposure or transmission, but no longer feel enough confidence in that method. In the interest of public health & safety, we do not believe it is safe to stand in line anywhere so we are strongly urging you to do everything in your power to make the return of ballots as expedient and safe as possible for the citizens of Allegheny County. Please open additional offices, and offer abundant and convenient times for people to turn their ballots in. Please properly publicize this information so there is no question that people have a fair option to make sure their mail in ballots are counted.

Thank you for your time and for including my comment in the record for the September 17, 2020 public meeting.

Respectfully
Michelle Gilbert Kearns
On behalf of
Thomas G. Kearns
Joseph Gilbert Kearns
Grace Elizabeth Kearns
All of 213 Lynn Haven Drive, Pittsburgh, PA 15228

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

Michelle Kearns, Licensed PA Realtor®
Howard Hanna Real Estate Services
*Certified Residential Relocation Specialist
*Certified Negotiation Expert
c. 412-495-5486
o. 724-941-8800
michellekearns@howardhanna.com
MichelleKearns.HowardHanna.com

Voye, David

From: Marilyn DeMasso <mared825@aol.com>
Sent: Friday, September 11, 2020 5:51 PM
To: # Board of Elections
Subject: Proposed offices for voting

Warning! This email was sent from an external source. Please be sure you recognize the sender and use caution when clicking on links and/or opening attachments.

Nothing in the West. Are we orphans abandoned? As seniors who can't get downtown, north park or south, consider our plight. We requested mail in ballots, but have issues of doubt regarding the USPS under the current circumstances. Please consider an office in the West.

M DeMasso, W Barron
Imperial PA

Voye, David

From: Jim Wasik <jawasik@verizon.net>
Sent: Friday, September 11, 2020 8:25 PM
To: # Board of Elections
Subject: Additonal Offices for Over-the-Counter, return balloting

Warning! This email was sent from an external source. Please be sure you recognize the sender and use caution when clicking on links and/or opening attachments.

I commend the idea of offering alternative sites for Over-The –Counter and Return of Voted Ballots. This will provide voters who do not wish to vote in their polling place, don't trust the US Mail or did not request a mail-in ballot a place to vote or deposit their ballot safely.

I have one concern in viewing the alternative sites. There is no 'Office' in the outskirts of the county. Downtown, Hill District, Homewood, North Hills (North Park), South Hills (South Park), Southeast (Boyce Park), Westside (Carnegie) and North side are covered. However anyone living on in the northeast – east of Route 8 through Natrona Heights is not included. The Shriner's Center in Cheswick just off of Route 28 is an ideal location to cover this area.

I suggest a Additional Office be established in this area.

Jim Wasik
Elected Judge
Fox Chapel
District 2

Voye, David

From: Suzanne Shulman <sgsmd1@yahoo.com>
Sent: Saturday, September 12, 2020 8:33 AM
To: # Board of Elections
Subject: Ballot drop boxes

Warning! This email was sent from an external source. Please be sure you recognize the sender and use caution when clicking on links and/or opening attachments.

I fully support changing whatever is necessary to allow more drop boxes and more in person voting “over the counter“ in Allegheny County. I have lived in both Maryland and Massachusetts which allow more voting access with similar methods, and it has always worked well.

Any means to improve access is important. I plan to vote by mail and have also applied to be a poll worker, taking my training class on October 3. That’s how much I support access!

Suzanne Shulman
326 McCully Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15216

Voye, David

From: Grace Cameron <grccmrn@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, September 12, 2020 12:48 PM
To: # Board of Elections
Subject: Public Comment Re: Elections Board to Consider Proposal for Additional Offices

To the Allegheny County Elections Board:

I am writing in response to the memo announcement titled: Elections Board to Consider Proposal for Additional Offices. I would like my to voice my concerns with regard to voting integrity.

First, I commend your efforts to adopt greater health and safety measures in response to CV19. However, I remain concerned about fraudulent voting. What measures is the Board taking to ensure 1) every vote is a verifiable resident of Allegheny County, 2) individual persons votes are counted only once, 3) that there is an auditable chain of custody for each vote, 4) fraudulent or counterfeit mail-in ballots will be detected and not counted, and 5) that voting results will not be manipulated, especially through voting machines, for which several security engineers have discovered insecurities and vulnerabilities to hacking.

Thank you,
Grace Cameron

Voye, David

From: Sean Meloy <seanmeloy@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, September 12, 2020 1:42 PM
To: # Board of Elections
Subject: Comment for Record

Warning! This email was sent from an external source. Please be sure you recognize the sender and use caution when clicking on links and/or opening attachments.

Hello,

I'm writing as a voter and asking that voting drop off boxes be located at multiple locations in all corners of the county - people outside downtown are much less likely to go there than if boxes are more conveniently located at places throughout the county, possibly places where there are major shopping centers or municipal buildings where community members are familiar. This year is likely to be a big one for vote by mail considering the pandemic and importance of this election, so we should provide the voters with the safest and most convenient ways to vote.

I know that many of my neighbors share my concern.

Thanks you so much,

Sean
5100 Hamlet Drive
Gibsonia PA 15044

--
Sean M. Meloy

Voye, David

From: Steve Silverman <sjs@generalpipecleaners.com>
Sent: Sunday, September 13, 2020 11:39 AM
To: # Board of Elections
Subject: Virtual meeting scheduled for Sept. 17th

Warning! This email was sent from an external source. Please be sure you recognize the sender and use caution when clicking on links and/or opening attachments.

To the Board of Elections,

I support the proposal to have additional offices opened for specific dates and times leading up to the November 3, 2020 election. I feel this plan will ensure voters additional safe and accessible options to vote over-the-counter or return their completed mail in ballots.

High turnout is expected for this election. I remember the long lines of voters in 2008 and there was no risk of COVID then. Also, there is the concern about the reliability of the US Postal Service. Will my completed ballot arrive in time to be counted?

I believe the creation of these additional voting stations will help Pennsylvanians' belief in the fairness of this election.

Sincerely,
Steve Silverman

Voye, David

From: Mike Crane <mcrane.j@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, September 13, 2020 5:05 PM
To: # Board of Elections
Subject: Comment on plan to provide additional temporary county office buildings

Warning! This email was sent from an external source. Please be sure you recognize the sender and use caution when clicking on links and/or opening attachments.

Members of the Board of Elections,

My name is Michael Crane, and I am a resident of Monroeville. I am writing today in support of the proposed plan to open temporary county office buildings at the county parks during October.

This plan would provide much needed, safe and efficient means to complete our civic responsibility and allow greater access to voting.

Thank you,

Michael Crane

Voye, David

From: Larry Wolfson <oclarry44@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, September 14, 2020 10:25 PM
To: # Board of Elections
Subject: Question for the Bd of Elections Mtg on Sept 17

Warning! This email was sent from an external source. Please be sure you recognize the sender and use caution when clicking on links and/or opening attachments.

Please report on court cases, challenges , etc which may affect the voting process in Allegheny County and their status. In Allegheny County , are there potential obstacles to a smooth election process such as occurred in Wisconsin with the Supreme Court challenge to get the Green Party on the ballot. That case lost, but had it succeeded, it likely would have stopped all absentee ballots from being mailed.

How concerned, if at all, is the Bd of Elections about such disruptions in Allegheny County? Does the Bd of Elections attempt to anticipate such disruptions?

Lawrence Wolfson

Voye, David

From: Corinne Price <corinne.e.price@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 15, 2020 4:29 AM
To: # Board of Elections
Subject: Thursday, September 17, 2020 - 2 pm Meeting of the Board of Elections

Warning! This email was sent from an external source. Please be sure you recognize the sender and use caution when clicking on links and/or opening attachments.

Dear Allegheny County Board of Elections:

I have a number of questions that I hope can be addressed and read into the record at the Thursday, September 17, 2020 - 2 pm meeting of the Board of Elections.

1) Will there be a new policy to begin counting ballots before Election Day in light of the increased volume due to COVID? If so, starting when?

2) How will mail-in ballots will be counted? Will they be counted by machine or by hand or both? If by hand, who will count them? Will extra people be needed for the expected increase due to COVID? How will these people be selected? Will a person from each party examine and jointly tally each vote?

I think it's important for a representative from each party to jointly tally each vote if they are to be counted by hand.

3) Will everyone who requests a mail-in ballot be notified of the option to have their ballot tracked to receive confirmation that it has been received?

I think it's important for everyone to be aware that this is an option.

4) Can voters also receive confirmation that their ballot has been either tallied or rejected? If a ballot has been rejected due to a missing signature, for example, can the voter go to the Board of Elections to fix it? When ballots are rejected due to a signature anomaly, for example, will these be open to challenge?

I think this will be very important in this pandemic, when mail-in ballots are so controversial and yet so consequential. The number of rejected votes could be greater than the margin of victory.

I am concerned that the politically motivated and/or arbitrary rejection of a small percentage of mail-in votes in key zip codes in a key state like PA could swing the election unless such safeguards are put in place.

There is no information about rejected ballots or challenges to them in the FAQ section of the Board of Elections website, despite my email to David Voye, Division Manager, asking that answers to these questions be added. I hope this issue will be addressed.

5) Is there any history of the theft of ballot deposit boxes? Are there any safeguards to prevent this?

I keep remembering with dread the last scene of The Plot Against America. The theft of ballot deposit boxes or their votes in a few key zip codes could swing the election.

I hope you will address these questions in the 9/17/20 meeting and add the answers to them to the FAQ website section.

Kind regards,

Corinne Price

Voye, David

From: Engel, Richard <EngelR@nrgoncology.org>
Sent: Tuesday, September 15, 2020 10:38 AM
To: # Board of Elections
Subject: Over-the-Counter Voting proposal

Warning! This email was sent from an external source. Please be sure you recognize the sender and use caution when clicking on links and/or opening attachments.

I'm writing in favor of the over-the-counter voting "additional offices" proposed for October 10-11, 17-18, and 24-25 set forth in the press release of September 11th titled 'Elections Board to Consider Proposal for Additional Offices.'

Thanks. Yours,

Richard Engel
Pittsburgh, PA 15206
412-403-2506

Voye, David

From: Sandy Garfinkel <garfinkel5@me.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 15, 2020 12:38 PM
To: # Board of Elections
Subject: Early voting centers

Warning! This email was sent from an external source. Please be sure you recognize the sender and use caution when clicking on links and/or opening attachments.

To Whom It May Concern -

I am a resident of Allegheny County and wanted to submit my written support for the addition/expansion of early voting centers for in-person ballot drop-off for the 2020 elections. This initiative is extremely important and sorely needed.

Thank you

Sandy B. Garfinkel
910 Delafield Road
Pittsburgh, PA 15215

Sent from my iPhone

Voye, David

From: Christine Hunsinger <cs.hunsinger@verizon.net>
Sent: Tuesday, September 15, 2020 1:16 PM
To: # Board of Elections
Subject: comments to the Board of Elections

Warning! This email was sent from an external source. Please be sure you recognize the sender and use caution when clicking on links and/or opening attachments.

This is a message from Christine Hunsinger, President of Golden Triangle Council of the Blind, a group of nearly 60 Allegheny County residents most of whom have visual or print impairments. I am particularly interested in whether any accommodations will be made for people with print impairments at the Election office. That is, either at the main election office or at any of the proposed additional offices. Will there be a way for people with print impairments to vote privately, independently, and verifiably if they come to the elections offices? Will there be either an Accessible Ballot Marking Device Available for Independent voting at the office, or will there be a way for individuals with Print impairments to use either a computer, tablet, or Smart phone to fill out an Accessible Vote by Mail Ballot and then print it at the office. I know that I have yet to see the full instructions from the Secretary of the Commonwealth's office, but I am hoping that for some who either don't have home access to the internet or a printer, this would be a possible option. Many of those who don't have internet access at home also don't have email available for them to use the Democracy Live solution as outlined in the email sent to election officials on Sept 2, 2020. This population in the county needs to be considered when making plans for the Nov. 3 election with adjustments for those not able to vote in person on Election Day. Thank you for making a note of my organization's concerns.

Voye, David

From: Deb/Tom Stackrow <stackrow@comcast.net>
Sent: Tuesday, September 15, 2020 1:51 PM
To: # Board of Elections
Subject: Satellite Sites

Warning! This email was sent from an external source. Please be sure you recognize the sender and use caution when clicking on links and/or opening attachments.

Dear Elections Board,

I am in support of the proposed plan to have satellite sites around Alleghney County for the purpose of voting as well as submitting mail-in ballots. It is imperative that you pass this proposal in light of the Covid-19 pandemic. I am glad that someone thought of this proposal and hope that all of you will vote in the affirmative.

Sincerely,

Deborah Stackrow

Voye, David

From: take action mon valley <takeactionmonvalley@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 15, 2020 2:00 PM
To: # Board of Elections
Subject: Public Comment

Warning! This email was sent from an external source. Please be sure you recognize the sender and use caution when clicking on links and/or opening attachments.

A majority of the locations or close to the City of Pittsburgh (see below) with one being in West Mifflin. The Mon Valley and other areas outside the City of Pittsburgh constantly struggle with transportation etc. Therefore, we need more sites in these communities such as McKeesport, Homestead or North Versailles etc. See below for a list of recommended sites. Thank You

McKeesport:
DA Office 409 Walnut Street
455 Industry Road

North Versailles
CYF Office

Homestead:
Carnegie Library

Take Action Mon Valley (TAMV)
412-440-8268
www.tamv.org

Voye, David

From: Elaine Giarrusso <elaine.giarrusso@outlook.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 15, 2020 2:43 PM
To: # Board of Elections
Subject: Proposal for additional offices

Warning! This email was sent from an external source. Please be sure you recognize the sender and use caution when clicking on links and/or opening attachments.

As a resident of Allegheny County I am writing to express my strong support of the Proposal for Additional Offices that was described in the BOE release dated September 11, 2020. Voters need this additional safe and convenient way to vote, and democracy benefits by increased participation. I am grateful that the members of the BOE have taken this step and I urge the adoption of the proposal.

Elaine Giarrusso
1147 Washington Road
Pittsburgh, PA 15228
412-344-1012 (H)
412-841-8795 (C)

Voye, David

From: Mike madsen <mpmdesign@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 15, 2020 7:12 PM
To: # Board of Elections
Subject: More polling places

Warning! This email was sent from an external source. Please be sure you recognize the sender and use caution when clicking on links and/or opening attachments.

All of these proposed changes I strongly agree with: people should have as many voting locations available to them as possible. In case folks are confused by Trump's racist, scaremongering propaganda, or don't have time to sign up for mail in voting, voting in person should be as safe and easy as possible. Multiple means of voting should be available for ANYONE who is registered to vote in Allegheny county. Be wary of anyone who says otherwise, regardless of their reasoning.

Sent from my iPhone

Voye, David

From: Kate H <katevilanova@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 15, 2020 9:10 PM
To: # Board of Elections
Subject: early voting centers

Warning! This email was sent from an external source. Please be sure you recognize the sender and use caution when clicking on links and/or opening attachments.

Dear Board of Elections,

I urge you to adopt the proposed plan to open early voting centers. We live in a time where people are worried about their risk of getting COVID-19 and about the fairness of the upcoming presidential election, and this plan addresses both fears. These centers will make it easier for those who are concerned about their ballots getting in on time to get those ballots to you, and those who have health risks to vote without risks of long crowds. By allowing voters to choose to vote early, it will also lower the numbers heading to the polls on November 3rd and reduce the strain on the postal service. Our vote is our most important right--I urge you to consider this plan, which makes it easier and safer for all of us to exercise that right.

Sincerely,
Kate Harris
Pittsburgh resident

--

Kate Harris

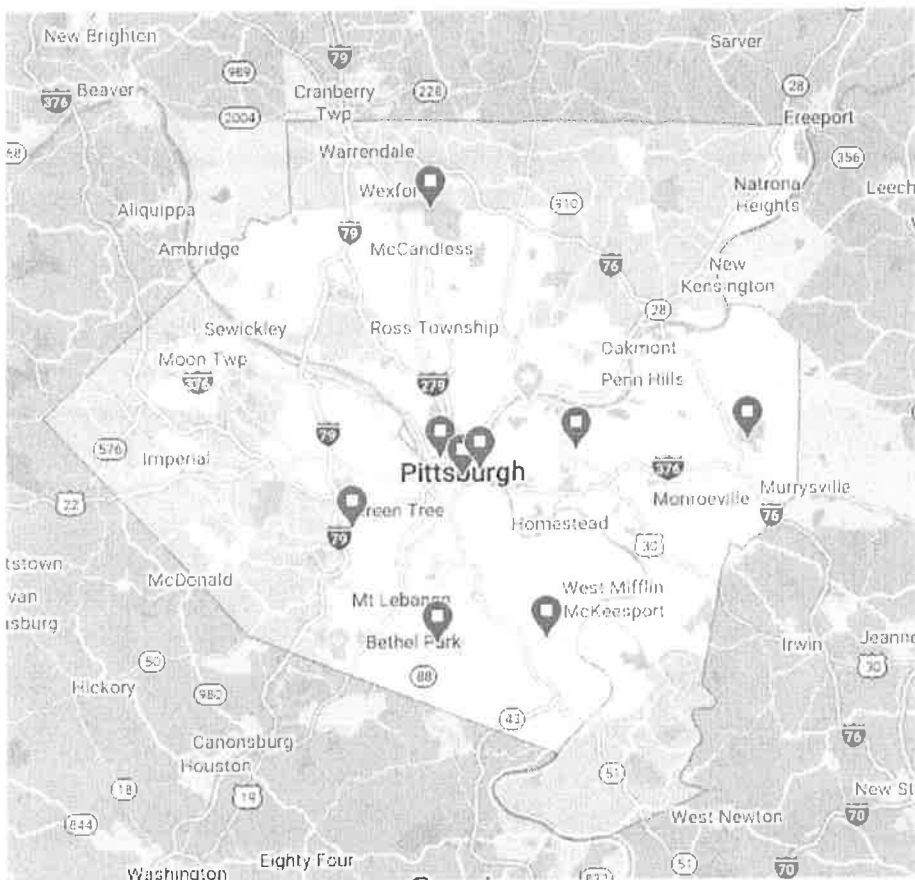
Voye, David

From: Erika Gidley <erika.gidley@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 15, 2020 10:11 PM
To: # Board of Elections
Subject: Early Voting Opportunities (9/17 mtg)

Warning! This email was sent from an external source. Please be sure you recognize the sender and use caution when clicking on links and/or opening attachments.

Mr. Tyskiewicz-

Good evening, thank you for the BOE current proposal to provide more voting access during COVID. While I understand Allegheny County is a lot of ground to cover, I created a map of the proposed additional offices and found a few noticeable gaps.



The following areas seem underserved:

1. Imperial
2. McKees Rocks/Ingram
3. Duquesne/Braddock/North Braddock
4. Tarentum/Natrona Heights
5. Elizabeth/Clariton

If a voter in these areas is working and dependent on mass transit, it seems very unlikely that they will be able to take this early voting opportunity.

1. Are there other outreach efforts being made to the registered voters in these areas?
2. Are all current locations easily accessible by mass transit (especially on a weekend/COVID limited schedule)?

I would encourage the BOE to consider more offices/outreach, but also applaud the effort to navigate early voting during a pandemic and contentious election season.

Thank you for your time-

Erika Gidley
Pittsburgh, PA 15201
412-980-3076

Erika Gidley

Voye, David

From: Kaitlin <kaitlinhensgreco@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 16, 2020 7:25 AM
To: # Board of Elections
Subject: Early Voting Centers

Warning! This email was sent from an external source. Please be sure you recognize the sender and use caution when clicking on links and/or opening attachments.

Good morning!

My name is Kaitlin Hens-Greco and I am a life long resident of Allegheny County. I have never missed an election.

I am writing to ask that you work to open early voting centers, where voters can vote or return ballots.

Early voting has wide popular support and is allowed in 38 states, including Pennsylvania! Let us take all possible steps to allow a safe and fair election!!

Thank you!
Kaitlin Hens-Greco

Sent from my iPhone

Voye, David

From: Annamarie Marano <maranoanna@verizon.net>
Sent: Wednesday, September 16, 2020 7:26 AM
To: # Board of Elections
Subject: Early Voting

Warning! This email was sent from an external source. Please be sure you recognize the sender and use caution when clicking on links and/or opening attachments.

In these pandemic times it is imperative that we give voters multiple, safe options to cast a ballot.

Please move to open early voting centers. So many other states already allow this.

Thank you.

Voye, David

From: judy wertheimer <wertheimer.jb@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 16, 2020 8:05 AM
To: # Board of Elections
Subject: Early voting centers

Warning! This email was sent from an external source. Please be sure you recognize the sender and use caution when clicking on links and/or opening attachments.

Please, please, please open early voting centers to ensure a safe vote! It's the least we can do to try to keep people safe and protect our rights as citizens!

Thanks!

Judy Wertheimer
6451 Monitor St
Squirrel Hill

Voye, David

From: Suzanne Ament <srament@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 16, 2020 8:40 AM
To: # Board of Elections
Subject: Ballot Drop Off Locations

Warning! This email was sent from an external source. Please be sure you recognize the sender and use caution when clicking on links and/or opening attachments.

As a concerned voter, I'm writing to support provision of multiple drop off sites for paper ballots around the County.

Given the delay in printing ballots for the November election, and the need for social distancing, time and safety constraints indicate that voters need multiple options for effective voting.

I hope you will support voters in providing safe drop off opportunities around the county.

Suzie Ament (Monroeville)

Voye, David

From: Stacey Vernallis <staceyvernallis@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 16, 2020 8:43 AM
To: # Board of Elections
Subject: Voting options-m Drop off locations are a must!

Warning! This email was sent from an external source. Please be sure you recognize the sender and use caution when clicking on links and/or opening attachments.

Members of the Board of Elections,

The window to ensure safe, systematic mail-in voting is closing, With the printing of ballots delayed by court cases, it is imperative that the county provide secure, staffed, satellite drop-off locations to make it easier for citizens to vote if they receive their mail-in ballots late or have concerns about the postal service. To this end, I strongly support the BOE's proposal.

The successful management of this all-important election is about communication and optics, not just policies and procedures. Thus, it is equally imperative that we publicize these satellite locations widely. Simply having them won't help if people don't know about them.

In this critically important election, please strive for excellence, not just adequacy, so that voters have the information they need well in advance, are confident that the system is fair and well-run, and know that every vote will be counted.

I appreciate your work. Let's get this done.

Voye, David

From: Lori Kantor <lwkantor@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 16, 2020 9:23 AM
To: # Board of Elections
Subject: Election security and safety

Warning! This email was sent from an external source. Please be sure you recognize the sender and use caution when clicking on links and/or opening attachments.

Members of the Board of Elections,

The proposal to offer additional locations and hours for safe and secure voting should be accepted. Allegheny County voters should not be limited to one weekday to cast an in-person vote in this critical election. By providing secure, staffed, satellite drop-off locations, voters with concerns about mail-in voting will have a better option than waiting for Election Day to make sure their voice is heard. Therefore, I strongly support the BOE's proposal.

Getting the word out about these satellite locations is also critical. I urge the board to use all media and messaging opportunities to amplify public announcements about the details of all voting options to every voter so that no one will miss out on their chance to vote safely.

Thank you,

Lori Kantor, Squirrel Hill

Voye, David

From: Kathy Sullivan <dnksull@icloud.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 16, 2020 9:26 AM
To: # Board of Elections
Subject: Voting!

Warning! This email was sent from an external source. Please be sure you recognize the sender and use caution when clicking on links and/or opening attachments.

Dear Members of the Board of Elections,

I strongly support the BOE's proposal that the county provide secure, staffed, satellite drop-off locations to make it easier for citizens to vote if they receive their mail-in ballots late or have concerns about the postal service.

Voters need to know that their vote will be counted and this provides a perfect opportunity to ensure that this will happen.

I appreciate all you to do ensure the integrity of not only this critically important election, but for all elections.

Voting matters!

Kathleen Sullivan (Baldwin)

Sent from my iPhone

Voye, David

From: Amy Raslevich <araslevich@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 16, 2020 9:42 AM
To: # Board of Elections
Subject: Satellite mail-in ballot drop-off locations

Warning! This email was sent from an external source. Please be sure you recognize the sender and use caution when clicking on links and/or opening attachments.

Members of the Board of Elections,

We are living in unprecedented times which require a creativity and ingenuity such as we as a country have never applied in this century. The convergence of a global pandemic, uncertainty around postal services and ballot delivery, judicial challenges to ballots as well as mail-in voting itself, and a society fractured by mistrust and misinformation demands that we ensure that every American can exercise the Constitutional right and duty to vote safely and securely.

I strongly support the BOE's proposal for the county to provide staffed and secure satellite drop-off locations for mail-in ballots. I also strongly urge the county BOE and other agencies to advertise the locations and their availability through as many different media and platforms as possible so that every voter in Allegheny County is aware of this option.

Allegheny County has an opportunity to be a national model for ensuring and protecting both the vote and the health of its citizens, and I ask that we as a community strive to reach 100% voting participation with 0 COVID-related cases. We rely upon you to ensure the integrity of our elections, which permeate into every corner of our lives. I strongly encourage the BOE to approve these satellite drop off locations, and to inform every citizen of the opportunity to cast a ballot safely and securely.

--

Amy C. Raslevich
5524 Darlington Road
Pittsburgh, PA 15217

Voye, David

From: Jan Gray <jggray1948@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 16, 2020 9:46 AM
To: # Board of Elections
Subject: Additional Election Drop Box Locations

Warning! This email was sent from an external source. Please be sure you recognize the sender and use caution when clicking on links and/or opening attachments.

It is a sacred right and responsibility for citizens of this country to vote. And along with that, there is a corresponding responsibility for local, state and federal government officials to make it as easy and safe as possible for them to do so.

In keeping with that responsibility, I believe it is imperative for the Board of Elections to approve the Allegheny County Election Division's plan to open additional offices for over-the-counter voting and drop off of mail-in ballots.

This very reasonable plan would help alleviate the extreme anxiety that many voters have because of coronavirus health concerns and the timely delivery of their ballots.

As a lifelong voter, and now a person in the most vulnerable age group for the virus, I strongly urge you to approve this plan. Please don't make it harder for folks to vote this year.

Janet Gray
3212 Shady Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15217
412-515-9493

Voye, David

From: Laura Kinzel <kinzel924@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 16, 2020 9:52 AM
To: # Board of Elections
Subject: Endorsing satellite drop-off locations

Warning! This email was sent from an external source. Please be sure you recognize the sender and use caution when clicking on links and/or opening attachments.

Members of the Board of Elections,

The window to ensure safe, systematic mail-in voting is closing. With the printing of ballots delayed by court cases, it is imperative that the county provide secure and staffed satellite drop-off locations to make it easier for citizens to vote. This is especially key given mail-in ballots may arrive late; also, many have concerns about the postal service. Therefore, I strongly support the BOE's proposal.

The successful management of this all-important election is about communication and optics, not just policies and procedures. Thus, it is equally imperative that we publicize these satellite locations widely. Simply having them won't help if people don't know about them.

In this critically important election, please strive for excellence, not just adequacy, so that voters have the information they need well in advance, are confident that the system is fair and well-run, and know that every vote will be counted and voice heard.

Thank you for your service,
Laura Kinzel
Regent Square

Voye, David

From: SR B <bermansr@msn.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 16, 2020 9:56 AM
To: # Board of Elections
Subject: in support of increasing drop-off ballot locations

Warning! This email was sent from an external source. Please be sure you recognize the sender and use caution when clicking on links and/or opening attachments.

To ensure that all citizens of Allegheny County have their right to vote in a safe, secure manner, I am strongly supporting the proposal to provide more secure, staffed, satellite drop-off locations.

Allegheny County can be a leader to the country and show that we are fair, thoughtful, and respect the rights of all of our citizens to vote by enacting easier voter mechanisms.

Sincerely,
Susan R. Berman
(Edgewood)

Voye, David

From: Shawn Sheridan <shawn.p.sheridan24@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 16, 2020 10:03 AM
To: # Board of Elections

Warning! This email was sent from an external source. Please be sure you recognize the sender and use caution when clicking on links and/or opening attachments.

Members of the Board of Elections,

The window to ensure safe, systematic mail-in voting is closing. With the printing of ballots delayed by court cases, it is imperative that the county provide secure, staffed, satellite drop-off locations to make it easier for citizens to vote if they receive their mail-in ballots late or have concerns about the postal service. To this end, I strongly support the BOE's proposal.

The successful management of this all-important election is about communication and optics, not just policies and procedures. Thus, it is equally imperative that we publicize these satellite locations widely. Simply having them won't help if people don't know about them.

In this critically important election, please strive for excellence, not just adequacy, so that voters have the information they need well in advance, are confident that the system is fair and well-run, and know that every vote will be counted.

I appreciate your work. Let's get this done.

Shawn Sheridan (Sewickley)

Voye, David

From: Donna Greco <donnamariegreco@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 16, 2020 10:12 AM
To: # Board of Elections
Subject: Ballot drop off locations

Warning! This email was sent from an external source. Please be sure you recognize the sender and use caution when clicking on links and/or opening attachments.

Members of the Board of Elections,

The window to ensure safe, systematic mail-in voting is closing. With the printing of ballots delayed by court cases, it is imperative that the county provide secure and staffed satellite drop-off locations to make it easier for citizens to vote. This is especially key given mail-in ballots may arrive late; also, many have concerns about the postal service. Therefore, I strongly support the BOE's proposal.

The successful management of this all-important election is about communication and optics, not just policies and procedures. Thus, it is equally imperative that we publicize these satellite locations widely. Simply having them won't help if people don't know about them.

In this critically important election, please strive for excellence, not just adequacy, so that voters have the information they need well in advance, are confident that the system is fair and well-run, and know that every vote will be counted and voice heard.

Thank You.

Sincerely,

Donna Greco
Squirrel Hill

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Donna Greco <donnamariegreco@gmail.com>
Date: Wed, Sep 16, 2020, 9:59 AM
Subject: Ballot drop off locations
To: <BOE@alleghenycounty.ushhh>

Members of the Board of Elections,

The window to ensure safe, systematic mail-in voting is closing. With the printing of ballots delayed by court cases, it is imperative that the county provide secure and staffed satellite drop-off locations to make it easier for citizens to vote. This is especially key given mail-in ballots may arrive late; also, many have concerns about the postal service. Therefore, I strongly support the BOE's proposal.

The successful management of this all-important election is about communication and optics, not just policies and procedures. Thus, it is equally imperative that we publicize these satellite locations widely. Simply having them won't help if people don't know about them.

In this critically important election, please strive for excellence, not just adequacy, so that voters have the information they need well in advance, are confident that the system is fair and well-run, and know that every vote will be counted and voice heard.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Donna Greco
Squirrel Hill

Voye, David

From: Bill Bartlett <eriegreen_bb@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 16, 2020 10:12 AM
To: # Board of Elections
Subject: early voting locations

Warning! This email was sent from an external source. Please be sure you recognize the sender and use caution when clicking on links and/or opening attachments.

I an Allegheny County resident and voter. I reside at 3039 Centre Ave; 15219.
I am writing to express support of the proposition to allow early voting in-person.
Additionally, I'll support anything y'all can think of to help make voting easy and widespread and secure.
Thank you. --Bill Bartlett

Voye, David

From: Eileen Cole <monkee270@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 16, 2020 10:16 AM
To: # Board of Elections
Subject: Satellite drop off of ballots

Warning! This email was sent from an external source. Please be sure you recognize the sender and use caution when clicking on links and/or opening attachments.

Members of the Board of Elections,

The window to ensure safe, systematic mail-in voting is closing. With the printing of ballots delayed by court cases, it is imperative that the county provide secure and staffed satellite drop-off locations to make it easier for citizens to vote. This is especially key given mail-in ballots may arrive late; also, many have concerns about the postal service. Therefore, I strongly support the BOE's proposal.

The successful management of this all-important election is about communication and optics, not just policies and procedures. Thus, it is equally imperative that we publicize these satellite locations widely. Simply having them won't help if people don't know about them.

In this critically important election, please strive for excellence, not just adequacy, so that voters have the information they need well in advance, are confident that the system is fair and well-run, and know that every vote will be counted and voice heard.

Thank you for your service,
Eileen Cole
Scott Twp

Voye, David

From: Kate Snow <katesnow@katesnow.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 16, 2020 10:18 AM
To: # Board of Elections
Subject: Satellite drop-off locations

Warning! This email was sent from an external source. Please be sure you recognize the sender and use caution when clicking on links and/or opening attachments.

Members of the Board of Elections,

The window to ensure safe, systematic mail-in voting is closing. With the printing of ballots delayed by court cases, it is imperative that the county provide secure and staffed satellite drop-off locations to make it easier for citizens to vote. This is especially key given mail-in ballots may arrive late; also, many have concerns about the postal service. Therefore, I strongly support the BOE's proposal.

The successful management of this all-important election is about communication and optics, not just policies and procedures. Thus, it is equally imperative that we publicize these satellite locations widely. Simply having them won't help if people don't know about them.

In this critically important election, please strive for excellence, not just adequacy, so that voters have the information they need well in advance, are confident that the system is fair and well-run, and know that every vote will be counted and voice heard.

Thank you,
Kate Snow

--
"The most miserable people are those who are obsessed with themselves; the happiest are those who lose themselves in the service of others." - Gordon B. Hinkley

Voye, David

From: stacy marinos <403renee@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 16, 2020 10:19 AM
To: # Board of Elections
Subject: Satellite Drop off containers

Warning! This email was sent from an external source. Please be sure you recognize the sender and use caution when clicking on links and/or opening attachments.

As a volunteer poll worker, I strongly support the BOE's proposal for satellite drop off containers around the county.

Thank You,
Stacy Marinos
Pittsburgh, PA

Sent from my iPhone

Voye, David

From: K McCurdy <kpmccurdy@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 16, 2020 10:25 AM
To: # Board of Elections
Subject: Satellite ballot delivery locations

Warning! This email was sent from an external source. Please be sure you recognize the sender and use caution when clicking on links and/or opening attachments.

Hi there,

I am emailing to voice my support for satellite ballot delivery locations for the upcoming election in particular and all elections going forward.

We should be able to deliver our ballots to places like libraries, a court, a town hall, and have security boxes at grocery stores and transit hubs like the Greyhound station, the train station, the Wilkinsburg bus hub, and community gathering centers.

I also support alerting voters of their vote status: ballot received, ballot counted. And if there was a problem like a signature mismatch then voters must be alerted in time to remedy that. We have the technology to do this now in 2020 moving forward.

I support:

Ranked choice voting

Automatic voter registration

Early voting

Opting out instead of opting in to vote

Paper ballot backup of machine voting

a Federal holiday for Election Day

Our BOE should be engaging regularly with the public and with full transparency. You are doing important, vital work. You are kind of like superheroes really, your work is that of human rights, one of the highest ideals of human endeavors in our time here.

Thank you for all you do.

Kathy McCurdy

Voye, David

From: Anna V Fisher <fisher49@andrew.cmu.edu>
Sent: Wednesday, September 16, 2020 10:27 AM
To: # Board of Elections
Subject: Support for the BOE proposal for satellite drop-off locations for mail-in ballots

Warning! This email was sent from an external source. Please be sure you recognize the sender and use caution when clicking on links and/or opening attachments.

Dear Members of the Board of Elections,

Safe and secure mail voting is very important in atypical year and more so during a pandemic. The window to ensure safe mail voting is closing and we need you to act swiftly to ensure that people are able to exercise their right to vote!

Given that the printing of mail ballots was delayed by court cases, it is of utmost importance that the county provide secure, staffed, satellite drop-off locations to make it easier for citizens to vote if they receive their mail-in ballots late or have concerns about the postal service.

Therefore, I strongly support the BOE's proposal. It is equally imperative that we publicize these satellite locations widely. Simply having them won't help if people don't know about them or have any doubts about their legitimacy.

Safe and secure elections are absolutely crucial to our county's ideals and its survival as a democratic republic. I urge to approve the BOE proposal for secure satellite drop off ballot locations, and to inform every citizen of the opportunity to cast a ballot safely and securely.

Anna Fisher (Squirrel Hill, 15217)

Voye, David

From: Trudy Holler <trudy.holler@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 16, 2020 10:28 AM
To: # Board of Elections
Subject: Satellite Drop Off Locations

Warning! This email was sent from an external source. Please be sure you recognize the sender and use caution when clicking on links and/or opening attachments.

Members of the Board of Elections,

The window to ensure safe, systematic mail-in voting is closing. With the printing of ballots delayed by court cases, it is imperative that the county provide secure and staffed satellite drop-off locations to make it easier for citizens to vote. This is especially key given mail-in ballots may arrive late; also, many have concerns about the postal service. Therefore, I strongly support the BOE's proposal.

The successful management of this all-important election is about communication and optics, not just policies and procedures. Thus, it is equally imperative that we publicize these satellite locations widely. Simply having them won't help if people don't know about them.

In this critically important election, please strive for excellence, not just adequacy, so that voters have the information they need well in advance, are confident that the system is fair and well-run, and know that every vote will be counted and voice heard.

Thank you for your service,
Trudy Holler
Highland Park

Voye, David

From: Brenda Tate <brendatate1949@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 16, 2020 10:37 AM
To: # Board of Elections
Subject: BOE PROPOSAL SUPPORT

Warning! This email was sent from an external source. Please be sure you recognize the sender and use caution when clicking on links and/or opening attachments.

To Members of the Board of Elections:

The window to ensure safe, systematic mail-in voting is closing. With the printing of ballots delayed by court cases, it is imperative that the county provide secure, staffed, satellite drop-off locations to make it easier for citizens to vote if they receive their mail-in ballots late or have concerns about the postal service. To this end, I strongly support the BOE's proposal.

The successful management of this all-important election is about communication and optics, not just policies and procedures. Thus, it is equally imperative that we publicize these satellite locations widely. Simply having them won't help if people don't know about them.

In this critically important election, please strive for excellence, not just adequacy, so that voters have the information they need well in advance, are confident that the system is fair and well-run, and know that every vote will be counted.

Best regards,

Your Name
Brenda Tate

Voye, David

From: Lynda Wrenn <lyndawrenn@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 16, 2020 10:54 AM
To: # Board of Elections
Subject: Satellite drop off locations

Warning! This email was sent from an external source. Please be sure you recognize the sender and use caution when clicking on links and/or opening attachments.

Dear Members of the Board of Elections,

Please adopt the BOE's proposal for satellite ballot drop off locations. This is a very unsettled time and there is real worry about the timeline for inclusive, fair voting. This election is so important and everything must be done to make sure that everyone's vote is received and counted.

It will be a huge relief to have this option available, especially when health concerns and transportation issues might prevent someone from going downtown to return it in person during the pandemic. This will also reduce crowding at the polls and allow for better social distancing, keeping voters and poll workers safer.

Thank you for the work that you do and for your thoughtful consideration of this proposal.

Lynda Wrenn
Point Breeze, 15208

Sent from my iPhone

Voye, David

From: Julie Fass <juliefass@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 16, 2020 10:57 AM
To: # Board of Elections
Subject: Early Voting Centers

Warning! This email was sent from an external source. Please be sure you recognize the sender and use caution when clicking on links and/or opening attachments.

I am writing to ask that you open early voting centers to help give everyone the chance to vote.

Thank you,
Julie Fass
4720 Bayard Street
Pittsburgh, PA

Voye, David

From: Pamela Grove <pagrove@msn.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 16, 2020 11:13 AM
To: # Board of Elections
Subject: Ballot Drop Off Boxes

Warning! This email was sent from an external source. Please be sure you recognize the sender and use caution when clicking on links and/or opening attachments.

Members of the Board of Elections,

The window to ensure safe, systematic mail-in voting is closing. With the printing of ballots delayed by court cases, it is imperative that the county provide secure and staffed satellite drop-off locations to make it easier for citizens to vote. This is especially key given mail-in ballots may arrive late; also, many have concerns about the postal service. Therefore, I strongly support the BOE's proposal.

The successful management of this all-important election is about communication and optics, not just policies and procedures. Thus, it is equally imperative that we publicize these satellite locations widely. Simply having them won't help if people don't know about them.

In this critically important election, please strive for excellence, not just adequacy, so that voters have the information they need well in advance, are confident that the system is fair and well-run, and know that every vote will be counted and voice heard.

Thank you for your service,

Pamela Grove
409 Alpine Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15213

Get [Outlook for Android](#)

Voye, David

From: Sharon Stern <sharonstern2@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 16, 2020 11:15 AM
To: # Board of Elections
Subject: Satellite Drop-off Locations

Warning! This email was sent from an external source. Please be sure you recognize the sender and use caution when clicking on links and/or opening attachments.

Members of the Board of Elections,

The window to ensure safe, systematic mail-in voting is closing. With the printing of ballots delayed by court cases, it is imperative that the county provide secure, staffed, satellite drop-off locations to make it easier for citizens to vote if they receive their mail-in ballots late or have concerns about the postal service. To this end, I strongly support the BOE's proposal.

The successful management of this all-important election is about consistent communications, not just policies and procedures. Thus, it is equally imperative that we publicize these satellite locations widely. Simply having them won't help if people don't know about them.

In this critically important election, please strive to assure that voters have the information they need well in advance, are confident that the system is fair and well-run, and know that every vote will be counted.

I appreciate your work. Thank you.

Sharon Stern (Spring Hill)

Voye, David

From: Joanne Brado <jeom5@msn.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 16, 2020 11:27 AM
To: # Board of Elections
Subject: Comment on Satellite Ballot Drop Off Locations

Warning! This email was sent from an external source. Please be sure you recognize the sender and use caution when clicking on links and/or opening attachments.

Members of the Board of Elections,

The window to ensure safe, systematic mail-in voting is closing, With the printing of ballots delayed by court cases, it is imperative that the county provide secure, staffed, satellite drop-off locations to make it easier for citizens to vote if they receive their mail-in ballots late or have concerns about the postal service. To this end, I strongly support the BOE's proposal.

The successful management of this all-important election is about communication and optics, not just policies and procedures. Thus, it is equally imperative that we publicize these satellite locations widely. Simply having them won't help if people don't know about them.

In this critically important election, please strive for excellence, not just adequacy, so that voters have the information they need well in advance, are confident that the system is fair and well-run, and know that every vote will be counted.

I appreciate your work. Let's get this done.

Joanne Brado (Allison Park)

Voye, David

From: Deborah Bogen <dbbogen@aol.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 16, 2020 11:40 AM
To: # Board of Elections
Subject: Additional Drop Off Locations for Ballots

Warning! This email was sent from an external source. Please be sure you recognize the sender and use caution when clicking on links and/or opening attachments.

Please take action to provide many drop-off venues for voters in Allegheny County. As an older voter with underlying health issues this is of particular interest to me, and to my similarly situated 85 year-old-husband.

Thank you for your expected response to this critical need.

Deborah Bogen
1112 N. Highland Ave.
Pittsburgh, PA 15206

Voye, David

From: Lisa Holman <lholman1@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 16, 2020 11:42 AM
To: # Board of Elections
Subject: We need satellite voting locations!

Warning! This email was sent from an external source. Please be sure you recognize the sender and use caution when clicking on links and/or opening attachments.

Please vote Yes!

Thank you,
Lisa Holman
Pittsburgh, PA 15217

Voye, David

From: Voye, David
Sent: Monday, September 14, 2020 6:07 PM
To: mahowco1@zoominternet.net; # Board of Elections
Subject: RE: Comments and questions for BOE September 2020

Bob,

Thanks for your email. I received your comments and questions.

From: mahowco1@zoominternet.net <mahowco1@zoominternet.net>
Sent: Monday, September 14, 2020 5:47 PM
To: # Board of Elections <BOE@AlleghenyCounty.us>
Subject: Comments and questions for BOE September 2020

Warning! This email was sent from an external source. Please be sure you recognize the sender and use caution when clicking on links and/or opening attachments.

What controls are in place to make sure that every ballot received by mail or over the counter makes it to the Northside Warehouse, is adequately protected, and counted on Election Day? What type of controls and audits are in place so that we can assure voters their vote is counted?

Will poll watchers at the voting locations be able to verify that the scanners are zeroed out prior to ballots being entered?

Will the scanners keep a running total of the number of ballots cast? If so, what measures will be taken to verify that the number of ballots cast agrees to the number of voters checked in?

At the end of voting will the scanners produce a tape of the total votes cast and precinct election results and will those results be posted at the precinct?

What will voters be told to do if they bring their mail-in or absentee ballot to their polling location?

Thank you for your service and responses.

Please email back to confirm that you received my comments and questions.

Thank you.

Bob Howard, 229 Seasons Drive, Wexford, PA

Marshall Township

Voye, David

From: kali284@verizon.net
Sent: Wednesday, September 16, 2020 11:45 AM
To: # Board of Elections
Subject: Comments for meeting on September 17, 2020

Warning! This email was sent from an external source. Please be sure you recognize the sender and use caution when clicking on links and/or opening attachments.

To the members of the Board of Elections, Allegheny County,

I am writing in support of the creation of additional drop off locations for mail in ballots in the suburbs of Allegheny County. I believe that doing so will increase voter "turnout" and increase the possibility of a fair and just election.

Downtown Pittsburgh is not known for its easy navigation and ease of parking and is not a feasible option for many people who live on the outskirts of the county, particularly for those who are dependent on public transportation, which is insufficient in many boroughs and townships.

Additionally, vote apathy is always an issue and is now complicated by the pandemic. Many, especially those of who are "high risk" for COVID-19 complications, chose mail in ballots as a way to participate in our voting process and minimize the risk. Now, with the known slow downs of the US Postal Service, we have lost faith that our vote will be counted, leaving us with no option but to drop them off.

A downtown only drop off will aggravate apathy, as people may have to take time off of work to get into town between 9 a.m. and 6 p.m., and many essential workers doing shift work will be less likely to spend their off time navigating downtown Pittsburgh.

Our world has greatly changed and I am asking this board to change with it and add drop off locations in various suburbs so that everyone has an opportunity to vote in the safest manner possible.

Thank you,

Colleen Kimberlin
South Park Township Resident

Voye, David

From: Melissa Compton <melissa.compton@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 16, 2020 11:48 AM
To: # Board of Elections
Subject: Proposal for Additional Voting Offices

Warning! This email was sent from an external source. Please be sure you recognize the sender and use caution when clicking on links and/or opening attachments.

To whom it may concern:

My name is Melissa Compton, and I am a resident of Fox Chapel in Allegheny County. My address is 755 Old Mill Rd, Pittsburgh PA 15238.

I am writing to express my strong support of the Proposal for Additional Offices that was described in the BOE release dated September 11, 2020.

I am a volunteer in the current election cycle and have participated in several phone banks on behalf of local and national candidates who will be on the ballot in Allegheny County. Many potential voters with whom I have spoken or texted have expressed concerns about voting by mail, and are more comfortable voting in person. Some have expressed concerns about the lines and potential exposure to COVID if they vote at the polls on Election Day.

Please vote to adopt the proposal to give voters safe options for making their voices heard in Allegheny County.

Sincerely,
Melissa Compton

Voye, David

From: Barbara Brandon <bhb2b2003@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 16, 2020 11:49 AM
To: # Board of Elections
Subject: Issues for the Board of Elections on September 17th

Warning! This email was sent from an external source. Please be sure you recognize the sender and use caution when clicking on links and/or opening attachments.

I have listed 8 issues framed as questions. I am assuming others may raise similar matters so some of these will be duplicative.

1. Will all voters have to wear masks at these satellite offices and at polling places on Election Day?
2. When will in-person over-the-counter ballots be tabulated? If the tabulation is done on Election Day, will the results be announced with the machine counts?
3. Will the Elections Division post a link to Google maps that will allow voters to find directions to these satellite offices?
4. If you applied for a mail-in ballot in mid-August but did not receive your mail-in ballot in October, when could you first vote in-person over-the-counter at the County Office Building?
5. Will the Elections Division post materials explaining the in-person over-the-counter procedure on its web site?
6. On Election Day will a voter who applied for a mail-in ballot be allowed to spoil an unvoted mail-in ballot and then vote a regular ballot?
7. Will polling places on Election Day be set-up so that a voted mail-in ballot can be quickly deposited at the polling place?
8. What was the rejection rate for provisional ballots after the June 2nd primary in the County and if you know what was the rejection rate for provisional ballots statewide?

Barbara H. Brandon

230 N. Craig St. # 307

Pittsburgh, Pa. 15213

bhb2b2003@gmail.com

Comments to the Board of Election for the Sept. 17, 2020 meeting

From William Towne, PhD

Greetings! I am a regular voter and an elected Judge of Election in Allegheny County with some concerns about the upcoming general election and recent Board meetings. I am also a PhD technology researcher seeking to enhance trustworthiness of elections, including participation in the Voting Village at DEF CON.

First, I would like to raise a concern about the Board's compliance with PA's Sunshine Act, especially section 710.1 which allows for public comment "on matters of concern, official action or deliberation which are or may be before the board or council prior to taking official action" and specifically states that "Any person has the right to raise an objection at any time to a perceived violation of this chapter at any meeting of a board or council of a political subdivision or an authority created by a political subdivision." Though official announcements for recent meetings state that submitted comments "will be read into the record," in its recent meetings, the Board has **not** done that but instead briefly and inadequately summarized comments at the beginning of each meeting, not allowed for any Sunshine Law objection to be raised at any point during the meeting, and ignored objections raised before the meeting. On this basis, the Board's official actions, including those preparing for and/or certifying the results of elections, could be nullified, a tool much more likely to be used by a non-winning candidate in this general election than in the primaries. Further, failing to comply with even the basic transparency requirements of PA law and/or the Board's own announcements works strongly and needlessly **against** public confidence in the Board's ability to run fair and transparent elections. Please follow these rules!

Trustworthiness could also be aided by increased transparency in the ballot counting process. For example, having livestreaming webcams overseeing the ballots constantly from the time the USPS delivers them until after results are certified could help increase public confidence, especially with closeups of key parts of the process such as scanning ballots in as having arrived and any discarding of ballots due to duplicate submission, the County having sent the incorrect ballot, etc. (Opening of ballots should be a wider angle as not all will contain secrecy envelopes; opening of mixed-up secrecy envelopes could be done closer-in). Other counties, such as King County WA, offer webcams for observation of ballot processing; there is both precedent and need for this in this election.

I understand from a statewide September 15, 2020 AP news report that the County will again not be checking signatures for a match against the district register, a check it also did not do in the primaries (as announced in your last meeting). Instituting a clear status indicator in the ballot tracking system with automatic update/notice and reasonable cure opportunity would be helpful before adding any future signature-checking step.

I am concerned about the apparent lack of official Judges of Election at the primaries; having local officials in the Judge and Inspector roles is required in law (as high as the constitution; see Article 7 §11). Issues like this, especially if there is consolidation of polling places as there was in the spring, could help undermine confidence in election administration. Further clarity on consolidation of polling places for the general election would also be appreciated; your last meeting included repeated assurance that we would be at all the original polling places with no backup plan but Covid-19 is still with us and still will be on November 3, no matter how many officials announce it will magically disappear before then.

I would like to have a small team of infectious disease experts observing a mock election set up before election day, with members of the public rather than employees as mock pollworkers and voters, to

observe how effective the county's procedures are likely to be in practice at preventing the spread of deadly disease. This team could produce helpful recommendations that literally save citizens' lives. We can definitely do better than what was done in the primaries!

I recognize that many more people will be voting by mail than in the past and would like to request that the Board increase clarity in communication to voters about the status of their request for a mail-in ballot. In the primaries, when completing the request online, I received an almost immediate email stating "Your Ballot Application Has Been Processed...Approved." When I completed the online application for the general election, there was nothing for weeks, at which point I mailed a paper application; about a month after putting the application in I got a message stating that the application was approved **on the date it was submitted**. If the application was processed on that date, the message could carry some information about why it wasn't being sent until about a month later.

In the primaries, many people (including myself) got a message stating that the ballot had been mailed when only the mailing label had been printed, which led to significant voter confusion. I never actually received a ballot and thus lost the ability to cast one in the primary. Official reports from the County well before election day also indicated that all mail-in ballots were counted on receipt, despite law preventing you from counting those ballots until election day. I hope that the accuracy of ballot status text can be fixed for the general election, along with the accuracy of ballot processing.

For ballots going to and from voters, I encourage you to use the USPS's Intelligent Mail Barcodes (see <https://about.usps.com/what/government-services/election-mail/#kit-600>), and incorporate USPS tracking information in an interface accessible to voters. Though time is tight for this election, I may be able to help with the technical aspects of incorporating that if you do not already have a mailing contractor helping you on that.

As Council Member Hallam proposed at the last meeting, I hope you will send postcards to **all** voters informing them of their polling place for this election, instead of just those voters whose polling place is different from a "usual" one that especially new or occasional voters might not have voted at before. If HB2626 or similar legislation is enacted, the postcard should also clearly describe non-mail options for returning the sealed & voted ballot to the Judge of Election at the polling place or destroying the ballot and voting provisionally at the polling place (e.g. if someone was coerced or made a mistake on their mail-in ballot). This will help combat misinformation and calm common concerns.

Regarding the extra office locations, I'd like to hear more details about plans for securing connections to SURE especially from locations not directly controlled by the County (e.g. Shop 'n' Save); this could open a cybersecurity hole to the voter registration system which might be used to cause some chaos on and before election day.

Every election, we pollworkers post information about rules and regulations pertaining to elections. One of these sheets, a white "General Information and Instructions Regarding Voting Rights and Responsibilities of Elections Officials," in the second point in section "Preparation for and Conduct of Primaries and Elections," states (emphasis added): "Before the opening of the polls, the elections officers serving as the election board for each election district must post at least three of these cards of instructions in the voting room outside the enclosed space *and one in each voting compartment*. The election officers are required to provide a card of instructions to voters requesting them, so long as

there are any on hand. (25 P.S. §§ 3042, 3049 & 3031.10(g)). However, the kit prepared for elections contains only three copies double-sided so they can't actually all three be legibly posted outside the polling space, and none for posting in voting compartments nor **any** to distribute to voters. This appears to violate the letter and spirit of the law. I previously raised this issue in a letter to the Elections Division requesting enough copies to comply, and David Voye's official response was to simply deny that the law says what the sheet clearly says it does. That was frustrating and disappointing.

In a similar spirit to those posted sheets, we should include with mail-in ballots a brightly-colored page of information about voter's rights and responsibilities especially with respect to intimidation, coercion, vote-buying, ballot secrecy, etc., including clear information about penalties and how to report violations securely. This is especially important in a state with a history of coercion somewhat suddenly transitioning to voting by mail in a system design that supports rather than hinders coercion (unlike other states that allow voters to submit multiple ballots with only the **last** one counted). Simply providing this information with mail-in ballots can help cut down on those sorts of issues. This is a step that we can take to improve the trustworthiness of our election, and would be relatively easy to do as we await court case resolution for ballot certification. Gov. Wolf has also stated that he will make resources available and steps like this can have a good return on investing in a well-run election.

For in-person voters, the procedures in place (which you asserted at your last meeting would definitely be in use for the general election this fall) offer an opportunity for an attacker to flip results at a precinct level. This is because the voting machines, containing blank ballots, are left unattended in areas with public access for days before the election. The locks on these machines are relatively easily pickable and the seals could be easily replaced with seals bearing the same number, after an attacker replaces ballots with new ones that have candidate positions reversed for target races on some or all of the ballots. The scanner would interpret votes on those ballots for the candidate originally in each position, even if that is not the name listed to the bubble the voter filled in. This variety of attack requires logistics work but not in-depth cybersecurity skills, and one might only need to flip percentages in a small number of precincts to tip a close race.

Counteracting that sort of attack on our elections is relatively easy with a Risk-Limiting Audit involving a **hand-count** (not scanner reprocessing, which could address other vulnerabilities) of a sufficiently large subset of ballots to assure the outcome of the election reflects the will of the voters. I request that Allegheny County put in place plans for such an audit/partial recount **now**, for the upcoming general election. The Board of Elections should anticipate that the results of this election **will** be challenged no matter what they are, and having previously prepared its audit recount procedure, including public transparency, would help greatly in supporting public confidence in the integrity of election administration instead of folks seeing the county scrambling and cutting corners with non-credible claims that it could not anticipate that need for recount. Please note that free, open-source "Arlo" software is available for free from VotingWorks to assist (among others); see also risklimitingaudits.org for more information.

Thanks to you and to the Elections Division for all your efforts under difficult circumstances. I thank you again for selecting a voting system in which most voters use hand-marked paper ballots and strongly encourage you to quickly take that next step of adding Risk-Limiting Audits to achieve software independence and provide stronger public assurance of the trustworthiness of our elections.

Free and fair elections are a privilege we should treat with care. If we fail to do so, we may lose them!

COMMON CAUSE PENNSYLVANIA TESTIMONY

Allegheny County Board of Elections

September 17, 2020

Thank you to the Allegheny County Board of Elections for the opportunity to submit public written testimony today. Common Cause Pennsylvania appreciates the opportunity to join voters, community members, and other stakeholder organizations in commenting on November 3, 2020 General Election preparations. We recognize that election officials are working hard to hold an election during a pandemic, time of social protest, and a presidential contest. While appreciative of this work, Common Cause Pennsylvania would like to highlight issues that we believe deserve increased attention before Election Day.

Common Cause Pennsylvania is a nonpartisan good government organization dedicated to holding power accountable to the people. On behalf of our 36,000 members across Pennsylvania, we encourage our election officials and lawmakers to consider the following issues as preparations continue for November 3.

Ensuring Safe and Effective In-Person Voting

While public comments by election administrators and Board of Election officials suggest the necessary quotas for poll-worker sign-ups have been met, Common Cause Pennsylvania would like to stress the need for a larger reserve pool of poll-workers, extensive safety measures, and effective, but socially-distant, trainings.

- Common Cause Pennsylvania is concerned with a possible high attrition rate for poll-workers, particularly in this election. A spike in COVID-19 cases that public health officials are predicting and the traditional flu season may lead to interested and trained poll-workers declining to work show up to the polls on Election Day. We believe Allegheny County should recruit an above-average number of reserve poll-workers to properly prepare for any anticipated poll-worker shortages.
- For poll-workers who do work polling locations on Election Day, proper personal protective equipment and other materials must be provided to all polling locations. We applaud the effort in the primary election to ensure that every poll worker was provided with PPE. It is essential that same level of protection be provided to poll workers in the November 3 election, despite the fact that significantly more polling locations will be open.
- We encourage safe, socially-distant poll-worker training, including training on how to operate the machines and the requirements around vote by mail ballot return. We also encourage comprehensive training that prepares poll-workers for entering and operating a polling location on Election Day. Many poll workers may be new in the General Election.

Adequate Communication with Voters

Whether it's the legislative changes of ACT 77 or adapting to the spread of COVID-19, there are many changes voters are facing with their election process. That is why election officials must communicate effectively with

voters. This includes methods of proactive messaging, as well as responding to voter concerns via phone, email, etc.

- Vote-by-mail basics must be communicated to voters. We commend Allegheny County for sending vote by mail applications and postcards to voters in the Primary Election. We strongly urge officials to maintain that level of voter education and, if possible, add additional information around the rules and mechanisms for voting by mail. This should include what updates to the Vote-By-Mail ballot tracker mean for voters in Allegheny County.
- Voters must be able to reach county elections staff with questions or concerns. If staff are not available when a voter calls, voters should be able to have their calls returned and questions addressed in a reasonable amount of time. While we are fully aware of the increasing time restraints the closer we get to Election Day, we believe voter confidence in the county is ultimately beneficial to election operations and helps mitigate issues on Election Day.

Accessible Provisional Ballots and Training

Provisional ballots are a critical part of Election Day infrastructure. It is essential that Allegheny County ensures that there are sufficient amounts of provisional ballots available at all polling places to handle the likely need for increased numbers of provisional ballots due to voter confusion with the vote by mail process. During the Primary Election, we received several reports of provisional ballot issues in Allegheny County.

- There were reports of polling locations not having adequate amounts of provisional ballots for voters who requested them. Data from the Department of state, curated from the counties, show large amounts of provisional ballots voted during the primary. Voters who didn't receive their vote-by-mail ballots in time or were confused by polling consolidation had to vote provisionally. Polling locations must have enough provisional ballots and envelopes to accommodate voters.
- We also heard about cases in which poll-workers either did not know about provisional ballots or had incorrect understandings/information related to them. With the potential for high amounts of provisional ballots voted, it is critical that poll-workers are properly trained to respond to provisional ballot requests.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony today.

Voye, David

From: Wendy Scott Paff <wsp102@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 16, 2020 11:58 AM
To: # Board of Elections
Subject: Ballot Boxes and Satellite Offices

Warning! This email was sent from an external source. Please be sure you recognize the sender and use caution when clicking on links and/or opening attachments.

Two to four satellite offices and/or ballot Boxes at the compass corners of the county would be very helpful. In addition, a ballot box in neighborhoods poorly served by PAT buses.

Wendy Scott Paff

Voye, David

From: Cindy Tipper <cindy.tipper@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 16, 2020 12:14 PM
To: # Board of Elections
Subject: satellite drop-off locations for mail-in ballots

Warning! This email was sent from an external source. Please be sure you recognize the sender and use caution when clicking on links and/or opening attachments.

Members of the Board of Elections,

The window to ensure safe, systematic mail-in voting is closing, With the printing of ballots delayed by court cases, it is imperative that the county provide secure, staffed, satellite drop-off locations to make it easier for citizens to vote if they receive their mail-in ballots late or have concerns about the postal service. To this end, we strongly support the BOE's proposal.

The successful management of this all-important election is about communication and optics, not just policies and procedures. Thus, it is equally imperative that we publicize these satellite locations widely. Simply having them won't help if people don't know about them.

In this critically important election, please strive for excellence, not just adequacy, so that voters have the information they need well in advance, are confident that the system is fair and well-run, and know that every vote will be counted.

We appreciate your work.

Cindy & David Tipper (Squirrel Hill)

Voye, David

From: Robin Mejia <rmejia@andrew.cmu.edu>
Sent: Wednesday, September 16, 2020 12:17 PM
To: # Board of Elections
Subject: We need satellite ballot drop-off locations for mail-in ballots

Warning! This email was sent from an external source. Please be sure you recognize the sender and use caution when clicking on links and/or opening attachments.

Dear members of the Board of Elections,

Please approve providing satellite drop-off locations for mail-in ballots at your meeting tomorrow. It is essential we do everything in our power to provide a fair and safe election for residents of Allegheny County by providing easy, secure ways for residents to return their ballots, regardless of where in the county they live.

Many Allegheny County residents who requested ballots are limiting travel because they are at risk for complications or death from covid-19. Others may not be able to easily travel downtown during business hours due to work or lack of transportation. Adding satellite drop off locations will help ensure that all residents are able to safely and securely exercise their right to vote.

Thank you,
Robin Mejia
Resident of Pittsburgh, PA (15062)

Voye, David

From: Lynda Wrenn <lyndawrenn@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 16, 2020 12:18 PM
To: # Board of Elections
Subject: Fwd: Satellite drop off locations

Warning! This email was sent from an external source. Please be sure you recognize the sender and use caution when clicking on links and/or opening attachments.

I am sending this again just in case the letters are case sensitive in your email address. Thank you!

Begin forwarded message:

From: Lynda Wrenn <lyndawrenn@gmail.com>
Subject: **Satellite drop off locations**
Date: September 16, 2020 at 10:53:49 AM EDT
To: boe@alleghenycounty.us

Dear Members of the Board of Elections,

Please adopt the BOE's proposal for satellite ballot drop off locations. This is a very unsettled time and there is real worry about the timeline for inclusive, fair voting. This election is so important and everything must be done to make sure that everyone's vote is received and counted.

It will be a huge relief to have this option available, especially when health concerns and transportation issues might prevent someone from going downtown to return it in person during the pandemic. This will also reduce crowding at the polls and allow for better social distancing, keeping voters and poll workers safer.

Thank you for the work that you do and for your thoughtful consideration of this proposal.

Lynda Wrenn
Point Breeze, 15208

Sent from my iPhone

Voye, David

From: R B <blue_bird2468@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 16, 2020 12:19 PM
To: # Board of Elections
Subject: Ballot Drop off

Warning! This email was sent from an external source. Please be sure you recognize the sender and use caution when clicking on links and/or opening attachments.

Members of the Board of Elections,

The window to ensure safe, systematic mail-in voting is closing, With the printing of ballots delayed by court cases, it is imperative that the county provide secure, staffed, satellite drop-off locations to make it easier for citizens to vote if they receive their mail-in ballots late or have concerns about the postal service. To this end, I strongly support the BOE's proposal.

The successful management of this all-important election is about communication and optics, not just policies and procedures. Thus, it is equally imperative that we publicize these satellite locations widely. Simply having them won't help if people don't know about them.

In this critically important election, please strive for excellence, not just adequacy, so that voters have the information they need well in advance, are confident that the system is fair and well-run, and know that every vote will be counted.

I appreciate your work. Let's get this done.

Robin Barack (Shadyside)

Sent from my iPhone

PUMP

Dear County Executive Rich Fitzgerald, Council Member Sam DeMarco, and Council Member Bethany Hallam, Members of the Allegheny County Board of Elections:

My name is Brian Magee, and I am the CEO of PUMP. PUMP is a nonprofit network of nearly 30,000 adults, primarily under the age of 40, in Pittsburgh and Allegheny County. Our mission is to make our region the most dynamic and diverse place by engaging, educating, and mobilizing all young people to create change. On behalf of PUMP, I urge the Elections Board to support the proposal for additional offices leading up to the 2020 Presidential Election to ensure a safe, accessible election for all voters.

PUMP envisions a region in which each person is engaged, valued, and represented. Democracy survives and thrives through open dialogue and purposeful engagement of its citizens. The right to vote is integral to this – and it must be preserved and expanded, especially during these uniquely challenging times.

As we approach the election on November 3rd, 2020, our region is rallying to contain the deadly COVID-19 virus, struggling through economic challenges, and grappling with our long history of racial inequities and injustice. This confluence of circumstances has exacerbated barriers to participating in the election. This is especially true for Black people, people with limited financial resources, people who are at high-risk for COVID-19, and many others in communities throughout Allegheny County.

We also recognize that the COVID-19 pandemic, combined with the sheer scale of the upcoming Presidential Election, may put a strain on the systems essential to helping our elections run smoothly. As more voters utilize the option to vote by mail, we know that the U.S. Post Office will experience an influx of ballots that need to be delivered to Allegheny County Elections prior to the deadline in order to be counted. Polling places may experience long lines and large crowds on Election Day, putting voters and poll workers at a higher risk of contracting COVID-19.

By expanding access to voting options, the Elections Board can reduce the strain on any one avenue. This will ensure that every voter can cast their vote with confidence that it will be received and counted.

PUMP strongly supports the recommendation for additional offices leading up to the November 3 election. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Brian Magee
Chief Executive Officer, PUMP
412-338-2133 x10
brian@pump.org

Get Active. Be Connected. Create Change.

PUMP

Dear County Executive Rich Fitzgerald, Council Member Sam DeMarco, and Council Member Bethany Hallam, Members of the Allegheny County Board of Elections:

My name is Brian Magee, and I am the CEO of PUMP. PUMP is a nonprofit network of nearly 30,000 adults, primarily under the age of 40, in Pittsburgh and Allegheny County. Our mission is to make our region the most dynamic and diverse place by engaging, educating, and mobilizing all young people to create change. On behalf of PUMP, I urge the Elections Board to support the proposal for additional offices leading up to the 2020 Presidential Election to ensure a safe, accessible election for all voters.

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PUMP strongly supports the recommendation for additional offices leading up to the November 3 election. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Brian Magee
Chief Executive Officer, PUMP
412-338-2133 x10
brian@pump.org

Get Active. Be Connected. Create Change.

Voye, David

From: bahh@zoominternet.net
Sent: Wednesday, September 16, 2020 12:35 PM
To: # Board of Elections
Subject: Comment for meeting Thursday September 17, 2020

Warning! This email was sent from an external source. Please be sure you recognize the sender and use caution when clicking on links and/or opening attachments.

Dear Board of Elections, My comment on setting up 6 remote locations for voting: 1) At these remote locations will the following controls be in place to ensure the integrity of the Election? 2) Will there be Majority and Minority Inspectors at each location? 3) Will there be Poll Watchers at each location? 4) What controls for totals will be in place for each Collection point each day and will these totals be reviewed & approved by the Majority and Minority Inspectors? 5) What safeguards are in place for the paper ballots that have been scanned? Will they be taken to a secure location? 6) Can Voters turn in their Mail-in-Ballots to be spoiled, then Vote in person? 7) How will these scanned Ballots be secured separately from the un-canned Ballots that are being mailed in daily? Thank you for giving me the opportunity to ask these questions. Sincerely, Barbara Heintz, Bradford Woods, PA

Voye, David

From: Emily Loeb <sugarloeb@hotmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 16, 2020 12:46 PM
To: # Board of Elections
Subject: Support for satellite drop-off locations

Warning! This email was sent from an external source. Please be sure you recognize the sender and use caution when clicking on links and/or opening attachments.

Members of the Board of Elections,

The window to ensure safe, systematic mail-in voting is closing, and with the printing of ballots delayed by court cases, it is imperative that the county provide secure, staffed, satellite drop-off locations to make it easier for citizens to vote if they receive their mail-in ballots late or have concerns about the postal service. To this end, I strongly support the BOE's proposal.

The successful management of this all-important election is about communication and optics, not just policies and procedures. Thus, it is equally imperative that we publicize these satellite locations widely. Simply having them won't help if people don't know about them.

In this critically important election, please strive for excellence, not just adequacy, so that voters have the information they need well in advance, are confident that the system is fair and well-run, and know that every vote will be counted.

I appreciate your work. Let's get this done.

Sincerely,

Emily Loeb (Point Breeze)

Voye, David

From: Opaque Senator <reala27@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 16, 2020 12:52 PM
To: # Board of Elections
Subject: Support for Satellite Drop Off locations for mail in ballots

Warning! This email was sent from an external source. Please be sure you recognize the sender and use caution when clicking on links and/or opening attachments.

Greetings to Who it may Concern,

My name is Russ Brown and I have been a resident of Allegheny County for 33 years. I have been made aware of an upcoming vote/debate over adding additional mail in ballot drop off locations for the upcoming election. I feel this is in the best interest for all of us to create fair, well attended elections in a post-COVID 19 world. Even without the virus present, any step making it easier to accomplish our most basic duty as a citizen of the United States should be encouraged. I hope to hear of the passage of this proposal and to see a positive shift in turn out due to this in the upcoming election. Thank you for your time and consideration of this proposal.

-Russell Brown
4129161346

Voye, David

From: Elaine Vitone <elaine@elainevitone.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 16, 2020 12:59 PM
To: # Board of Elections
Subject: proposal for satellite drop-off locations for mail-in ballots.

Warning! This email was sent from an external source. Please be sure you recognize the sender and use caution when clicking on links and/or opening attachments.

To Whom it May Concern,

Pittsburgh resident here (Highland Park), writing in regards to the proposal for satellite drop-off locations for mail-in ballots.

My husband and I have three kids enrolled in Pittsburgh Public Schools (a 3rd grader and TWIN kindergarteners). The only reason we are both able to keep our jobs is because we flew in my mother in law to live with us for the duration of remote-learning.

Every single day is still a struggle even in the best of circumstances. Adding one more thing—like voting—to the demands of keeping this family afloat in the middle of this insanity is incredibly daunting.

Please endeavor to make voting as easy as possible.

Please establish satellite drop-off locations for mail-in ballots.

Thank you.

Elaine Vitone
Pittsburgh, 15206

Voye, David

From: Anne Caffee <anne.caffee@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 16, 2020 1:00 PM
To: # Board of Elections
Subject: Open Up Early Voting Centers!

Warning! This email was sent from an external source. Please be sure you recognize the sender and use caution when clicking on links and/or opening attachments.

Dear BOE Administrators and Staff:

Please honor our Pennsylvania voters' request to open up early voting centers where voters can vote or return voted ballots.

Early voting has wide popular support and is allowed in 38 states, including Pennsylvania.

Please make early voting centers a reality for voters throughout Allegheny County, especially in outlying areas which do not currently have a place to prepare and/or drop off ballots.

This election is one of the most consequential elections in many decades. Please support all Pennsylvanians in their desire to participate in our democracy.

Thank you!
Sincerely,
Anne W. Caffee
435 S. Braddock Ave. #2
Pittsburgh PA 15221

--
Anne Caffee
Communicator. Advocate.
Tel: 412.951.2929
anne.caffee@gmail.com

*"The clearest way into the Universe is through a forest wilderness."
-- John Muir*

Voye, David

From: Elaine Stolick <estolick@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 16, 2020 1:08 PM
To: # Board of Elections; Downs, Amie
Subject: Early voting meeting questions for Thursday, Sept. 19 at 2pm

Warning! This email was sent from an external source. Please be sure you recognize the sender and use caution when clicking on links and/or opening attachments.

Amie,

I was really excited to hear that Allegheny County is considering early voting! I have a few questions for the meeting tomorrow:

1. Will the over-the-counter early votes be included in the count of in-person voting submitted on November 3rd?
2. Will people be required to wear masks in the buildings?
3. Will social distancing be available?
4. If I ordered a mail-in ballot and then decide to vote in person, whether early or on Nov. 3rd, should I bring in my mail-in ballot to prove I am not voting twice?

Thanks, Amie!

Elaine Stolick

Voye, David

From: Peg <gepperss@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 16, 2020 1:13 PM
To: # Board of Elections
Subject: Satellite Drop Off Locations

Warning! This email was sent from an external source. Please be sure you recognize the sender and use caution when clicking on links and/or opening attachments.

Members of the Board of Elections,

The window to ensure safe, systematic mail-in voting is closing. With the printing of ballots delayed by court cases, it is imperative that the county provide secure and staffed satellite drop-off locations to make it easier for citizens to vote.

This is especially key given the threat of illness from Covid, mail-in ballots may arrive late, and many have concerns about the status of our postal service. Therefore, I strongly support the BOE's proposal.

I believe it is equally imperative that we publicize these satellite locations widely so that all our community has knowledge & access. In this critically important election, please strive to ensure that voters have the information they need well in advance, are confident that the system is fair and well-run, and know that every vote will be counted and voice heard.

Thank you for your service,

Peg Pohuly

Voye, David

From: Jessica Fondy <j_fondy@hotmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 16, 2020 1:14 PM
To: # Board of Elections
Subject: In Favor of BOE Proposal for 9/17/2020 meeting

Warning! This email was sent from an external source. Please be sure you recognize the sender and use caution when clicking on links and/or opening attachments.

Members of the Board of Elections,

The window to ensure safe, systematic mail-in voting is closing. With the printing of ballots delayed by court cases, it is imperative that the county provide secure and staffed satellite drop-off locations to make it easier for citizens to vote. This is especially key given mail-in ballots may arrive late; also, many have concerns about the postal service. Therefore, I strongly support the BOE's proposal.

In this critically important election, please strive for excellence, not just adequacy, so that voters have the information they need well in advance, are confident that the system is fair and well-run, and know that every vote will be counted and voice heard.

Thank you for your service,
Jessica Fondy
South Side Slopes

Voye, David

From: Helen M. Hazi <hnhazi@verizon.net>
Sent: Wednesday, September 16, 2020 1:14 PM
To: # Board of Elections; Dave Buchewicz
Subject: Ballot drop off site welcome

Warning! This email was sent from an external source. Please be sure you recognize the sender and use caution when clicking on links and/or opening attachments.

The drop off site of the South Park Ice rink is greatly welcome. However, those of us who have already requested ballots need reassurance that they will come out in time despite the delay caused by the court case. When will this come out? If not soon then we need updates every 2 weeks to keep us in the loop and less anxious!

helen

Helen M. Hazi, Ph.D.
724-348-7009 (Pgh land line for phone calls)
hnhazi@verizon.net (Use for FaceTime/Duo/ZOOM)

My sister's advocate and once an avid learner curious about most things in the universe, but now knowing too much.....because NOW I am on **Vigil Day162** in a pandemic.

"If not this, then what? If not now, then when? If not me, then who?"--Helen M. Hazi, activist, June 4, 2020

Voye, David

From: Lo Medhi <lomedhi123@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 16, 2020 1:21 PM
To: # Board of Elections
Subject: comment for Thursday's BOE meeting

Warning! This email was sent from an external source. Please be sure you recognize the sender and use caution when clicking on links and/or opening attachments.

Members of the Board of Elections,

I strongly support the BOE's proposal to provide secure, staffed, satellite drop-off locations to make it easier for citizens to vote if they receive their mail-in ballots late or have concerns about the postal service. To this end,

It is equally imperative that we publicize these satellite locations widely. Simply having them won't help if people don't know about them.

In this critically important election, please ensure that voters have the information they need well in advance, are confident that the system is fair and well-run, and know that every vote will be counted.

I appreciate your work.

Laurie Heller (Squirrel Hill)

Voye, David

From: Jen Kacin <jen.kacin@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 16, 2020 1:21 PM
To: # Board of Elections
Subject: Ballot Drop Off

Warning! This email was sent from an external source. Please be sure you recognize the sender and use caution when clicking on links and/or opening attachments.

Members of the Board of Elections,

The window to ensure safe, systematic mail-in voting is closing. With the printing of ballots delayed by court cases, it is imperative that the county provide secure, staffed, satellite drop-off locations to make it easier for citizens to vote if they receive their mail-in ballots late or have concerns about the postal service. To this end, I strongly support the BOE's proposal.

The successful management of this all-important election is about communication and optics, not just policies and procedures. Thus, it is equally imperative that we publicize these satellite locations widely. Simply having them won't help if people don't know about them.

In this critically important election, please strive for excellence, not just adequacy, so that voters have the information they need well in advance, are confident that the system is fair and well-run, and know that every vote will be counted.

I appreciate your work. Let's get this done.

Jen Kacin (Garfield)

Voye, David

From: Annette Bassett <annettesan@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 16, 2020 1:29 PM
To: # Board of Elections
Subject: Election ballot dropoff locations

Warning! This email was sent from an external source. Please be sure you recognize the sender and use caution when clicking on links and/or opening attachments.

Members of the Board of Elections,

The window to ensure safe, systematic mail-in voting is closing. With the printing of ballots delayed by court cases, it is imperative that the county provide secure, staffed, satellite drop-off locations to make it easier for citizens to vote if they receive their mail-in ballots late or have concerns about the postal service. To this end, I strongly support the BOE's proposal.

The successful management of this all-important election is about communication and optics, not just policies and procedures. Thus, it is equally imperative that we publicize these satellite locations widely. Simply having them won't help if people don't know about them.

In this critically important election, please strive for excellence, not just adequacy, so that voters have the information they need well in advance, are confident that the system is fair and well-run, and know that every vote will be counted.

I have copied the above from another constituent, but I wholeheartedly agree. We desperately need safety and transparency in this critical election.

Thank you.

Annette Bassett (Bloomfield)

Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone

Voye, David

From: Amy Herlich <amy.herlich@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 16, 2020 1:34 PM
To: # Board of Elections
Subject: Support for Satellite Drop-off Locations for mail-in ballots

Warning! This email was sent from an external source. Please be sure you recognize the sender and use caution when clicking on links and/or opening attachments.

Dear Board of Elections,

I write this email in support for satellite Drop-off locations for mail-in ballots. Making the civic duty of voting accessible to all should always be a priority, but now it should be a priority with the element of public health safety. We are in the midst of a global pandemic, and not one voter should have to choose between exercising their right to vote or protecting their health or the health of their family, or being barred from voting because they are sick.

Using propaganda with statistically insignificant data to suppress voting rights is unfair (and furthermore, I'd like to say constitutional, but I'm not a lawyer) to citizens who want to have a say in their local, state, and federal government.

November 3 is a critical election. I support this proposal for its efforts of improving and increasing voter access.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Kind regards,
Amy Herlich

Voye, David

From: Fyock, Debra R <drf4@pitt.edu>
Sent: Wednesday, September 16, 2020 1:40 PM
To: # Board of Elections
Subject: Comment to the Board of Elections 09/16/2020

Warning! This email was sent from an external source. Please be sure you recognize the sender and use caution when clicking on links and/or opening attachments.

Dear Board of Elections,

Everyday I receive emails from a variety of organizations, giving me advice and imploring me to make a plan to vote. I receive daily calls from other organizations asking me if I have a plan to vote and offering advice. I just received a postcard from the Postal Service with their guidance to help me vote, and assurance that the mail would not let me down. I have seen local Pittsburgh organization's plans for billboards, mailers, signage on buses, all with the same purpose: to alert me, the public, as to how to go about voting in the General Election. So many people reaching out to me to make sure that I know how to make my voice heard this November 3rd.

And it is clear that this is necessary. Recently, when making calls for various candidates, I have spent almost as much time giving information about how to vote in Allegheny County, as I have answering questions about the candidates. On social media, not a day passes without many voting related questions being asked. In the past year, almost everything about voting in Allegheny County has changed. People simply do not know how to cast their ballot. There is NO reason that, less than 50 days before the election, our voters should not know how to vote.

Board Of Elections (BOE), Allegheny County Elections division: where are the phone calls, the emails, the mailers, the tv and social media spots, the billboards, the signage on buses, informing the public about where and how they can get accurate information to vote in this election.

It seems as if you are waiting for us to find you. If the public wants to get information about voting, they must first find and plow through the elections division website, or they can apply for the informative bi-weekly e-newsletter, if they know where to subscribe. Bethany Hallam offers a weekly Voter info-session for those who have heard of it. 3 resources.

I am concerned and frustrated as I hear from people who do NOT know how to vote in this election, and who do not know where to get accurate information on how to vote in this election.

BOE, Allegheny County Elections division- by all means possible, as soon as possible, you need to get the word out that YOU are THE source for trustworthy information about How To Vote in Allegheny County.

I look forward to seeing your broad based, active engagement with the public.

Thank you,

Debra Fyock
15210



The SEIU Pennsylvania State Council represents 80,000 health care, public and building services workers across the state. We write today to thank Chair County Executive Rich Fitzgerald and the Allegheny County Board of Elections for taking the first steps to ensuring voters have access to safe and fair elections this November, and encourage further measures to ensure that every eligible voter can participate safely in this election.

This pandemic has laid bare the need for expanded access to critical services and processes like our voting system. As we experienced in the primaries, there is a surge in request and use of absentee ballots thus requiring additional infrastructure to ensure a safe and fair process. In addition we know that COVID-19 has had a disproportionate impact on communities of color who often face more barriers to exercising their right to vote and have their voices heard.

Given the uncertainties of this time we applaud the proactive steps taken and we urge you to:

- Establish additional satellite election offices especially in our communities of color. We recommend the establishment of at least four additional satellite election offices in Mon Valley, Penn Hills, Southside Hilltop and Oakland.
- Procure additional ballot "drop boxes" to be placed in high trafficked and accessible locations throughout the county to allow the safe, convenient and secure return of vote by mail ballots. According to the National Vote at Home Institute¹, the recommended number of drop boxes per county should be one drop box per 15,000 ballots cast by mail. With potentially upwards of 350,000 ballots being cast by mail this year, that would mean over 20 drop boxes would be needed to meet this standard.

We understand that local governments are struggling in this moment as funding is being diverted to local pandemic response. We also understand that the recommendations we are making today require resources. Fortunately, those costs need not be born by Allegheny County tax payers thanks to generous philanthropic sources who recognize the challenges local governments face and have made resources available to ensure voting is safe and convenient this year. Several other Pennsylvania counties have announced recent funding from the Center for Tech and Civic Life to address these exact challenges. If Allegheny County has not yet applied for these funds, we urge the Board to do so quickly. These grants are a great

¹ National Vote at Home. "Vote at Home" What it is, Best Practices and Lessons Learned'.
<https://voteathome.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/FAQ-Best-Practices.pdf>

SERVICE EMPLOYEES
INTERNATIONAL UNION

PENNSYLVANIA
STATE COUNCIL

1500 N. Second Street
Suite 11
Harrisburg, PA 17102
717.232.1270
Fax 717.232.3007



opportunity for local election officials to receive additional funds necessary to ensure that processes are in place to provide access to ensure voters can safely and conveniently vote in this election.

Voye, David

From: jab@hydrationfitness.com
Sent: Wednesday, September 16, 2020 1:45 PM
To: # Board of Elections
Subject: Ballot

Warning! This email was sent from an external source. Please be sure you recognize the sender and use caution when clicking on links and/or opening attachments.

Members of the Board of Elections,

The window to ensure safe, systematic mail-in voting is closing. With the printing of ballots delayed by court cases, it is imperative that the county provide secure and staffed satellite drop-off locations to make it easier for citizens to vote. This is especially key given mail-in ballots may arrive late; also, many have concerns about the postal service. Therefore, I strongly support the BOE's proposal.

The successful management of this all-important election is about communication and optics, not just policies and procedures. Thus, it is equally imperative that we publicize these satellite locations widely. Simply having them won't help if people don't know about them.

In this critically important election, please strive for excellence, not just adequacy, so that voters have the information they need well in advance, are confident that the system is fair and well-run, and know that every vote will be counted and voice heard.

JoAnn Brickley
Hydration Health & Fitness
1408 South Negley Ave.
Pittsburgh, Pa 15217

412-877-0452

Voye, David

From: Jimmy Miller <jmiller3592@comcast.net>
Sent: Wednesday, September 16, 2020 1:52 PM
To: # Board of Elections
Subject: Satellite Drop Boxes for Mail Ballots

Warning! This email was sent from an external source. Please be sure you recognize the sender and use caution when clicking on links and/or opening attachments.

Members of the Board of Elections,

The window to ensure safe, systematic mail-in voting is closing. With the printing of ballots delayed by court cases, it is imperative that the county provide secure, staffed, satellite drop-off locations to make it easier for citizens to vote if they receive their mail-in ballots late or have concerns about the postal service. To this end, I strongly support the BOE's proposal.

The successful management of this all-important election is about communication and optics, not just policies and procedures. Thus, it is equally imperative that we publicize these satellite locations widely. Simply having them won't help if people don't know about them.

Also, this option will benefit many who wish to vote from the safety of their own homes but would rather drop off their ballot in person and without having to drive to the County Elections Office from the outer communities in our county.

In this critically important election, please strive for excellence, not just adequacy, so that voters have the information they need well in advance, are confident that the system is fair and well-run, and know that every vote will be counted.

Thank you,

James Miller (he/him/his)
University of Pittsburgh '15

Questions for Allegheny County Board of Elections meeting 2020-09-17

Ron Bandes

- 1) At these online meetings of the Board of Elections, could you please read every public comment in its entirety?
- 2) What is the plan for drop boxes in predominantly black and brown communities, especially in Pittsburgh wards 12 & 13?
- 3) If, after pollworker training has commenced, HB2626 passes the General Assembly and Governor Wolf signs it, how will you update pollworkers who have already been trained?

Thank you,

Ron Bandes
President, VoteAllegheny
Election Integrity Director, LWV of Greater Pittsburgh
Board Member, VEEEM
Member, B-PEP

Voye, David

From: Deborah Cherry <debbie.cherry@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 16, 2020 1:57 PM
To: # Board of Elections
Subject: Comments for Elections Board Meeting

Warning! This email was sent from an external source. Please be sure you recognize the sender and use caution when clicking on links and/or opening attachments.

Please take all actions possible to increase the number and availability of satellite voting locations, additional dropboxes, and the ability to allow someone else to bring a completed ballot to a dropbox.

There are many vulnerable people who are still sheltering in place, and not going out/severely limiting their exposures to only absolutely critical medical needs who CAN NOT risk going to polling places, or even into the City-County building, or ANY place that does not require masks and enforcement of masks and good social distancing. I have not gone inside anyplace other than 1 hospital for medically required infusions since the pandemic began here, and I am far from alone. If I do not receive my ballot in time to mail it reliably (and with lawsuits holding up printing, that is possible), I have NO WAY to deposit it currently. Can someone come out from a satellite location and retrieve it from a car at least? And there is the long standing problem of people who work during polling times, or dont have childcare.

And not everyone has a car/able to drive themself somewhere, can drive for long (if there are lines on these weekends and/or it is far from their house), much less at business hours, which the current dropbox at the City-County building. If I could give it to a friend to drop off, that would help so much. Let people designate someone to take their ballot and deposit it.

Voting is a right, don't disenfranchise people during a pandemic, or ANY time!

Deborah Cherry
Wilkinsburg