

# MINUTES

## MEETING OF THE ALLEGHENY COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2020, 2:00 P.M., IN CONFERENCE ROOM #1, ALLEGHENY COUNTY COURTHOUSE, PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA 15219.

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**BOARD MEMBERS:** HONORABLE RICH FITZGERALD-present  
HONORABLE BETHANY HALLAM-present  
HONORABLE SAM DEMARCO-present

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

**I. CALL TO ORDER** – The meeting of the Allegheny County Board of Elections commenced at 2:00 PM. Meeting called to order by Assistant Solicitor Opsitnick.

**II. PROCEEDING TO BOARD ORGANIZATION**

Soliciting nominations for position of chair. Member Fitzgerald was nominated by Member Hallam. Seconded by Mr. Fitzgerald. Approved 3-0. Member Fitzgerald is now Chair.

**III. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Chair Fitzgerald indicated that there would be a three-minute rule.

a. Juliet Zavon-Malvern Street, Pittsburgh, thanking Board of Elections for its update, urging more information and inquiring about Judicial Watch suit involving the County;

b. Terry Griffin-Anderson Street, Pittsburgh, Co-President League of Women Voters, discussed registration efforts, that write-in votes require the oval on the paper ballot to be completed. Grateful to partner with Allegheny County. Documents submitted attached to Minutes;

c. Ron Bandes-S. Negley Avenue, Pittsburgh, statement attached to Minutes;

d. Piper Walsh-North Sheridan Avenue, Pittsburgh, urges voting machines to be placed in the jail to minimize disenfranchisement. Noted that satellite voting is permitted;

e. Martina Jacobs-Ryan Court, Pittsburgh, submits Mr. Bandes document dated February 4, 2020;

f. Tim Stevens-Chair, B-PEP, urges marketing and outreach efforts. Indicates B-PEP is willing to partner along with clergy;

g. Lorraine Cross-B-PEP member, expresses concerns for senior citizens understanding voting process. Offered assistance to make communities more aware;

h. Phyllis Bianculli-Glen Gary, O'Hara Township, express concerns about poll worker training and voter training. Asks if registration list will be up to date at the polls given the shorter turnaround time after the registration cutoff. Asks if absentee ballots will be submitted to each polling location.

Chair Fitzgerald asks County representatives to respond. Mr. Tyskiewicz asks Mr. Evanto to explain the County's marketing effort. Mr. Evanto indicated that a website entitled AlleghenyVotes.com is being created including training videos to be continuously updated and to go live later on February 11, 2020. Mr. Evanto also described in detail the County's marketing effort as to voter awareness and education. Mr. Evanto indicated that the first demonstration of the new voting equipment would be March 15<sup>th</sup>.

Member Hallam inquired as to the marketing plan for incarcerated voters at the County jail. Mr. Tyskiewicz explained the process indicating that inmate voter registrations do occur. Mr. Voye further explained. Member Hallam offered her help.

Mr. DeMarco inquired as to the cost of the outreach. Mr. Evanto estimated a cost of \$400,000.

Chair Fitzgerald requested an explanation of poll worker training. Mr. Tyskiewicz indicated that a communication is going out to all local board members with a unique ID to permit signup and that training is scheduled for March 2 through April 25 at 8 locations geographically balanced. As the training is required for the local Election Board members, they will be paid \$20 each.

Member DeMarco asked if County can list FAQs on the website Mr. Evanto confirmed.

Member DeMarco asked County personnel to walk through the process of voting.

Chair Fitzgerald also requested that County personnel address the recently enacted Act 77 issues as well.

Mr. Voye indicated there will not be voter certificates and voters will sign the poll book only then receive their ballot in a folder, to approach a voting station to vote. The voted ballot would then be scanned by the voter and then dropped into a sealed and locked ballot box, each box being in a secure sealed and numbered bag.

As to mailed ballots, the deadline remains unchanged for the application date (and absentee ballots). High-speed letter openers will be used to open mailed ballot requests.

Chair Fitzgerald mentioned pending legislation to permit mailed and absentee ballots to be opened early, beginning on the date of the election at 7:00 AM.

Member Hallam inquired as to voting at the polling place. Mr. Voye further explained the provisional ballot options.

Mr. Voye indicated that the website pavoterservices.com could be utilized to determine whether one's ballot was received and returned.

Chair Fitzgerald asked how a mail-in ballot application can be obtained online. Mr. Voye explained. Mr. Voye further explained the difference between an absentee and mail-in ballot.

Mr. Tyskiewicz explained the spoiled ballot process.

Mr. Voye in response to a question from Chair Fitzgerald explained the robust chain of custody developed and to be used.

Member Hallam inquired where voted ballots would be returned to. Mr. Voye explained that eventually voted paper ballots would be returned to the County's election warehouse and central tabulating facility

Mr. DeMarco inquired whether or not the paper ballots would be stored in a secured room with camera and recording systems.

Chair Fitzgerald also mentioned that the ballots must be reconciled between voted and unvoted. Mr. Voye and Mr. Tyskiewicz explained.

Mr. Tyskiewicz explained the proposed satellite voting as well as over the counter voting for absentee and paper ballots indicating that the satellite locations would be in the County outside of the City of Pittsburgh in a County owned or leased building using pcs and printers connected to the PA SURE System.

#### **IV. NEW BUSINESS**

Member DeMarco thanked Mr. Voye and Mr. Tyskiewicz for their efforts.

Mr. Harhut described the scanners and a ballot marking device (ADA machines) as well as paper required and purchased.

Mr. DeMarco inquired as to the Judicial Watch matter. Mr. Opsitnick responded that there was no suit filed but a notice provided.

Mr. Opsitnick explained the similar situation as to the Public Interest Legal Foundation.

Mr. Voye explained certain multiple registration names and the active voter process.

Chair Fitzgerald indicated, in closing, that there was much to do.

#### **V. ADJOURNMENT** –Move to adjourn. Seconded by Member Hallam. Meeting adjourned at 3:15 PM.