

# MINUTES

## MEETING OF THE ALLEGHENY COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS

TUESDAY, MARCH 3, 2020, 3:00 P.M., PUBLIC MEETING, CONFERENCE ROOM #1,  
ALLEGHENY COUNTY COURTHOUSE, PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA 15219

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

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

**I. CALL TO ORDER** – The meeting of the Allegheny County Board of Elections commenced at 3:00 PM. Meeting called to order by Chair Fitzgerald.

**II. PUBLIC COMMENT**

- a. Juliet Zavon-Malvern Street, Pittsburgh. Asked about verifying receipt of mailed ballot and whether they were somehow targeted or subverted by zip code;
- b. Ron Bandes- S. Negley, Pittsburgh. Indicated that he attended poll worker training yesterday and asked about chain of custody and whether 2 board members of differing parties, would transport the voted ballots to the regional center;
- c. Nora Blythe Runsdorf-240 Lytton Avenue, Pittsburgh. Is judge of elections at Pittsburgh 4-7, Soldiers and Sailors Hall, commented as to the size of her district, indicating that that training was really well done and thanking all involved in the training.
- d. Ann Murphy-passed as to comments;
- e. Rodger Valenti-passed as to comments.

Mr. Tyskiewicz commented that in the future speakers can sign up online to speak 24 hours pre-meeting, similar to the County Council method.

Add-on speaker, Allison Stein of Fox Chapel indicated hostility by an polling place site owner toward campaign workers. Ms. Stein indicated that she had discussed the matter with Mr. Voyer and had submitted a letter of complaint about misconduct of an elected council member.

Chair Fitzgerald asked County staff to address the issues raised by the speakers. Mr. Voyer indicated, as to Ms. Stein, that there was no impropriety with a prohibition of all election signs

at a polling site. He referred to a church in Fox Chapel, indicating that Elections was looking into other options to locate a polling place for that district.

Mr. Tyskiewicz and Mr. Voye addressed Ms. Zavon's comments, indicating that if there is an email address provided on mailed ballot applications, voter will receive an email that the application is received. The barcode can then verify the receipt of an absentee or mail-in ballot.

Mr. Tyskiewicz discussed the County's chain of custody in response to Mr. Bandes' comment.

Member Hallam commented that at the last election the League of Women Voters provided a polling place spreadsheet and inquired as to whether or not Elections could use that.

### **III. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

At 3:20 PM the Board of Elections recessed to an executive session to discuss litigation. The Board of Elections returned to public session at 3:43 PM.

Mr. Szefi indicated the purpose of the executive session as to litigation against the Board of Elections and further indicated that Allegheny County continues its efforts to monitor and maintain accurate voter registration rolls.

Chair Fitzgerald indicated that recently approximately 69,000 inactive voters were properly removed from the rolls. Mr. Voye agreed.

### **IV. ELECTION PREPARATION**

a. Satellite Voting-Mr. Tyskiewicz described the County's proposal for satellite voting on certain sites on certain days and hours prior to the April 23<sup>rd</sup> primary election. Solicitor Opsitnick requested the Board of Elections move to approve the satellite voting plan as set forth by Mr. Tyskiewicz. Before voting on the motion, Member DeMarco asked whether Elections was able to deliver on the satellite voting plan. Mr. Tyskiewicz responded that Elections would be ready to execute the plan.

Moved by Mr. Fitzgerald. Seconded by Mr. DeMarco. Motion approved 3-0.

Mr. Tyskiewicz and Mr. Voye described local board member training and preparation for the April 23<sup>rd</sup> presidential primary as well as internal county personnel training.

Mr. Harhut discussed the equipment to be used at the election.

Member Hallam suggested that the Board of Election members take the training class together.

Chair Fitzgerald asked Mr. Voye for estimates as to the number of mailed-in ballots. Mr. Voye indicated that per the PA Department of State there will be close to 300,000 mailed-in ballots including 45,000 absentee ballots with likely 200,000-225,000 of said ballots being voted and returned.

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**V. NEW BUSINESS**

Mr. DeMarco requested financial estimates for security.

Ms. Hallam requested Elections to continually monitor voting at the Allegheny County jail.

**VI. ADJOURNMENT** –Motion for adjournment by Member DeMarco. Meeting adjourned at 4:10 PM.