

Voye, David

From: Brenda Forman <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Sunday, October 23, 2022 1:10 PM
To: # Board of Elections
Subject: BOE Remarks re: Konnech, PollChief

KONNECH (from October 7, 2022 edition of Allegheny Votes)

Earlier this year, the county began utilizing PollChief, an election management system, which is a product of the company, Konnech.

We're aware of the current investigation by the Los Angeles County District Attorney into Eugene Yu of Konnech, as well as Konnech's lawsuit for defamation against True the Vote. Our departments of Administrative Services, Information Technology and Law have communicated directly with the company regarding our data. The county's contract stipulates that our data is stored on US servers. We have received assurances that our data was not and will not be compromised. Our data remains in a secure data center and has also been backed up on a secure Microsoft Azure Cloud, located in the United States. We will continue to monitor the situation closely

Because I believe that the use of Konnech products is a threat to US National Security, and that we should immediately discontinue the use of Konnech products in Allegheny County, rather than cite the articles in their entirety, I am attaching a few well researched articles on Konnech that will help to prove that point.

Have Chinese Spies Infiltrated American Elections?
<https://kanekoa.substack.com/p/have-chinese-spies-infiltrated-american>

"...discovering a Konnech server's IP address switched locations between Zhejiang, China, and Grand Rapids, Michigan"

"Perfectly linking a voting technology company currently used in Australia, Canada, and the United States — through Konnech Inc., Eugene Yu, Yulian Network Co., Lin Yu, Red Date Software Co., and Hongzheng Technology Co. — to a Chinese Communist Party election company partnered with China's largest telecom giants in Jinhua City, Zhejiang Province, China"

It's Not Too Late To Have Konnech Removed From Your County
<https://theauthorityg.substack.com/p/its-not-too-late-to-have-konnech>

A Summary of Konnech Products and the Threats Posed Against the United States
<https://theauthorityg.substack.com/p/a-summary-of-konnech-products-and>

Why are there Chinese nationals who are partnered with Chinese telecom giants programming U.S. election software that is currently being used in Allegheny County?

Should we not err on the side of caution and not use Konnech products until these issues are investigated and resolved?

I DO NOT CONSENT TO USING KONNECH PRODUCTS, INCLUDING POLL CHIEF, IN THE ALLEGHENY COUNTY ELECTIONS BUREAU. MY VOTE IS MY ONLY VOICE, MY FIRST AMENDMENT RIGHT. USING THESE PRODUCTS IS, IN ESSENCE, SILENCING MY VOICE AND FURTHER LESSENING THE INTEGRITY OF OUR ELECTIONS.

QUICK FIX: PAPER BALLOTS. SAME DAY VOTING. HAND COUNTING. VOTER ID, ALL DISPLAYED ON LIVE CAMERA FOR FULL TRANSPARENCY.

Thank you.
Brenda Forman
Pittsburgh 15232

Voye, David

From: Michele Feingold <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Sunday, October 23, 2022 1:30 PM
To: # Board of Elections
Subject: public comment for Board of Elections meeting 10/24/22

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 spent Sunday morning promoting voter registration outside the Squirrel Hill Farmers Market, having conversations with dozens of voters. Many had already voted and were so glad we finally have no-excuse Vote by Mail in Pennsylvania. One man told me he and his wife travel so frequently, they never know if they'll be at home on election day. Others mentioned times they'd been suddenly called out of town on an emergency and therefore lost their chance to vote. Mobility issues or illness can strike unexpectedly at any time.

If we actually want people to exercise their civil right and civic responsibility to vote, no excuse vote-by-mail is essential. I suspect those who oppose it only want the votes that favor their beliefs, positions, and candidates to count. That's not democracy; that's authoritarianism – remember, that thing so many American soldiers died to defeat in World War II? It is dangerous authoritarianism to keep lying about the 2020 election results when over SIXTY courts ruled against those lies, including ones presided over by Trump-appointed judges. Heck, we now know even Trump knew he lost! Would the Big Lie cult members PLEASE just stop? Trust me, if we had actually derailed the Pennsylvania election results in November 2020, there would be a **lot** more Democrats in our gerrymandered State House today.

One young woman I met at the farmers market grew up in Oregon, the nation's first vote by mail only state, and had never experienced a different system. Her lived experience allows her to confidently tell the hyped-up conspiracy theorists who scream about vote-by-mail that they are simply wrong. The Oregon Secretary of State website says they have "a proud tradition of open, accessible and fair elections, with a modern vote-by-mail system that is the gold standard in U.S. elections administration." Let's be more like Oregon and move Pennsylvania towards the future. Check out their website to see how it's done.

Thank you to all who are promoting democracy and improved elections systems instead of incalculably dangerous, baseless lies.

Michele Feingold
[REDACTED]
Pittsburgh, PA 15217
[REDACTED]

Voye, David

From: Anna Fisher <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Sunday, October 23, 2022 1:37 PM
To: # Board of Elections
Subject: Public comment for Board of Elections meeting 10/24/22

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 am writing to say how much I appreciate the ability to vote by mail. It is great to know that even if I fall sick or am very busy on election day, I can still vote. It is great to know when by ballot is received and be assured that my vote will be counted. It also works so well for my retired parents to be able to vote by mail. We know from decades of voting by mail in other states in our country that voting by mail is very safe. I am fully supportive of voting by mail being available to all PA residents going forward.

Sincerely,
Anna Fisher, [REDACTED] Pittsburgh PA 15217

Voye, David

From: M J Costello <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Sunday, October 23, 2022 1:30 PM
To: # Board of Elections
Subject: Comments for Submission to the BOE Oct 24, 2022

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,

Is it legal within election code for county employees to work the polls?

Below is the Election Code Section 402 in question, and below is the link for the entire election code.

Thank you,

M J Costello
Allegheny County

Section 402. Qualifications of Election Officers.-- (a) Except as provided in subsection (b), election officers shall be qualified registered electors of the district in which they are elected or appointed. **No person shall be qualified to serve as an election officer who shall hold, or shall within two months have held, any office, appointment or employment in or under the Government of the United States or of this State or of any city or county or poor district, of any municipal board, commission or trust in any city, save only district justices, notaries public and persons in the militia service of the State; nor shall any election officer be eligible to any civil office to be voted for at a primary or election at which he shall serve, except that of an election officer.**

(b) The county board may appoint students notwithstanding their eligibility to vote to serve as a clerk or machine inspector pursuant to the following:

(1) The county board may appoint no more than two students per precinct.

(2) The judge of elections shall have direct supervision of the student.

(3) The county board may compensate the student.

(4) The county board shall comply with all applicable Federal and State laws.

(5) The student must at the time of the election for which the student shall serve:

(i) be at least seventeen (17) years of age;

(ii) be a United States citizen and a resident of the county in which he was appointed to serve;

(iii) be enrolled in a secondary educational institution with an exemplary academic record as determined by the educational institution;

(iv) be approved by the principal or director of the secondary educational institution; and

(v) have obtained the consent of their parent or guardian.

(6) The student may not serve as a judge of election or majority or minority inspector.

Reference:

1937 Act 320 - PA General Assembly (state.pa.us)

Voye, David

From: M J Costello <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Tuesday, October 18, 2022 2:40 PM
To: # Board of Elections
Subject: Request to the Allegheny County 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 Board of Elections,

This is a request for a more breakdown of the expenses associated with each of these categories.

Questions include poll worker costs, transportation and logistics of machines and supplies, 'Services', etc.

file:///C:/Users/Owner/Desktop/2022%20Operating.pdf

2022 Allegheny County Budget for Elections:		
51000	Personnel	2,120,619
52000	Fringe Benefits	881,090
54000	Supplies	92,500
56000	Repair and Maintenance	5,500
57000	Fixed Assets Cost	3,000
60000	Services	6,270,450
		\$9,373,159

Also, please submit this email as a submission into the record for the upcoming BOE meeting on October 24th.

Thank you,

Mary Jo Costello
Allegheny County

Submitted: October 18, 2022

Allegheny County – Elections Division – “Preparation of Voting Machines”

Tuesday, September 27, 2022, 8:00am, 901 Pennsylvania Avenue, Pittsburgh 15233

Notes prepared by: Karl Jarek, who assisted Matt Van Bibber observe the machine testing

Arrival Time: 7:55am

Departure Time: 11:25am

We were greeted by David Voye, Division Manager, Department of Administrative Services, Elections Division. David essentially stayed with us observers for most of our time at the warehouse.

Shortly after 8am the testing began of the DS850 machines, which are the high-speed scanners used to count the mail in ballots. There are 10 of these machines.

David explained that the county arranges for pre-voted ballots to be printed such that 9 ballots are printed for each precinct. According to David, the ballots are printed such that the first candidate for an office receives one vote, the second candidate receives two votes, the third candidate receives one vote, the fourth candidate receives two votes, etc. Certain ballots are also printed with overvotes and blank votes to test that these ballots get flagged for further analysis.

There are a total of 1323 precincts in Allegheny County. One of the precincts is split into two sections, and is therefore counted as two precincts, for a total of 1324 “precinct locations.” Nine ballots were supposedly scanned for each of these 1324 precinct locations for a total of 11,916 mail in test ballots.

At approximately 10:45am David provided us with a copy of the “Summary Results Report” which shows 11,916 ballots cast. The county-wide race totals (i.e., for U.S. Senator, Governor and Lt Governor) each totaled 11,916 ballots cast as would be expected. Results for the various local elections varied as to the number of ballots depending on the number of precincts that cast ballots for each office.

Lack of Transparency – Download of Ballot Counts to USB Drives

David did not notify us when USB drives would be installed on the 10 DS850s so that we could observe the download of results from each machine and then track the chain of custody of those USB drives to the tabulation room where the USB drive data is uploaded to the tabulation system.

While we were observing the DS250 machines in the next room, supposedly the ballot scan data was transferred to USB drives. When we asked about observing this process. David stated that the USB download process was already completed in our absence. He stated that they did not want us in the room when that was performed so that we could not see the passwords being entered into the scanners. This a dubious explanation because we were always kept at a distance from the machines and would not have been able to see any passwords typed in. Also, they could have asked us to turn around while passwords were entered, but then turn back around after the passwords were entered to observe the physical installation of the USB drives, the download process and then track the USB identification numbers from the respective DS850 machines ultimately to the upload process in the tabulation machines in the tabulation room (i.e., verify chain of custody).

Since we observers were not able to review and validate the chain of custody from the scanning machines to the USBs and then to the tabulation machines, we are not able to verify the accuracy of the final results.

Allegheny County – Elections Division – “Preparation of Voting Machines”

(Notes Continued)

Lack of Transparency – Ballot Scan Images and Cast Vote Records (CVRs)

We asked David if we could review ballot images and CVRs from the mail in ballot test process. The first two times we asked, David flat out denied our request just saying that “we are not reviewing ballot images today.” The third time we asked for a reason why we would not be permitted to review ballot images. David said that he would need to obtain approval from the county legal department.

We spoke with David’s supervisor, Jessica Garofolo, Director – Department of Admin Services, about access to the scan images and CVRs. After explaining that, as a representative of the League of Women Voters, we were prepared to have an attorney from the ACLU (who represents the League of Women Voters) get involved. At that point, Ms. Garofolo agreed to call the county legal department, after which she told us that the person who would have to approve access to the images and CVRs was in court and not reachable.

We were there to observe and validate the testing process. The ballot images and CVRs were from test ballots and are a critical part of the vote counting, tabulation and verification process. These were not actual ballots cast by electors which would violate any privacy issues. It makes no sense that David Voye would require approval from the legal department to permit us to validate ballot scans and CVRs that were generated in the publicly accessible machine testing process.

There have been reports indicating that at least one of the mail in ballot scanners was not capturing legible ballot images, and we wanted to assess this issue. The fact that David would not permit us access to that aspect of the ballot scanning process is highly suspicious in my opinion as a forensic accountant. This is another example of the lack of transparency exhibited by the county election division throughout the machine testing process.

After multiple follow-up requests to the county, Matt was able to obtain test ballot images and CVRs approximately 11 days after the machine tests on September 27.

I'm going to share a parable that applies to our electoral process

For years there has been a weed growing on the hillside off my patio.

The weed looks a bit like hay .. grows about 2-3 feet tall .. then falls over and dries in the fall.

Note I did not say DIES

Every fall I go out and pull this weed .. putting in bundles like hay .. and then carrying it up a goat path into the woods .. a challenge that requires much EFFORT.

A few days ago .. I did some research and discovered this weed is Japanese Stiltgrass

I learned that Japanese Stiltgrass it is nearly "impossible to get rid of"

You can use herbicides but that will damage nearby vegetation.

The bad news is that there is no EASY way to get rid of it. It has to be PULLED out .. at the ROOT .. and that process can take YEARS.

Allow me to connect the parable:

.. when the weed first appeared - I IGNORED it - it did NOT go away

.. there are a seemingly good reasons why I ignored it. My time and attention was mostly elsewhere:
Family - Work - Writing - Health

.. the result of my lack of attentiveness is that it MULTIPILED ..

.. through NEGLECT - it took over my lawn .. spread to my small garden and flower beds. And made its way to my next door neighbor.

We all know that NEGLECT & lack of AWARENESS never produces any GOOD outcomes.

Rather NEGLECT & lack of AWARENESS multiplies into even greater PROBLEMS

THIS dear friends is precisely what has been occurring in our electoral process.

WEEDS have been taking over ..

We have not been VIGILANT or AWARE about what has been happening in our elections

As a result, the INTEGRITY of the process has been CORRUPTED. Compromised.

Bad SEEDS producing BAD weeds have sprung up everywhere contaminating our electoral process.

The state of that DECLINE can NOT be addressed here.

Time does not permit that

But KNOW THIS ..

"We the People" are watching and acting.

We are going to work hard to pull out BAD weeds and to plant GOOD seeds of INTEGRITY back into our electoral process.

In the natural .. it will likely take years

But we are trusting God for the outcome .. and that is supernatural.

I am always made to wonder at the wise parables Jesus spoke .. that WISDOM echoes down through time to THIS day.

Why did Jesus speak in parables? Curious minds should want to know. Open minds would seek to understand.

But PARABLES are spiritually discerned and that requires one's spirit being awake.

This is why it is said:

"Wake up, sleeper,
rise from the dead,
and Christ will shine on you."

.. everything exposed by the light becomes visible—and everything that is illuminated becomes a light. - Ephesians 5

Here is a hard Truth

.. "while everyone was sleeping, the enemy came and sowed weeds" - Jesus

In His Light,

Fay Vietmeier

Allegheny Elections Tabulation Center

Observation by Matthew Van Bibber on September 27, 2022

Contents

Executive Summary.....	2
Ballots/Tabulation machines	2
Staff Evaluation.....	3
Areas of Concern to Address	4
Conclusion.....	4
Appendix	5
Ballot with Issue Images	5
Links	7
Laws	8

Executive Summary

This report covers my observations of the preparation of the voting machines on September 27, 2022 at the Allegheny County Tabulation Center, and an assessment of ballot images on October 15, 2022, in prep for the November 8, 2022 General Election. My intent for these assessments is to act as a nonpartisan constituent to promote transparent, fair, and accurate election results for all constituents. To gain access to the Tabulation Center for these assessments, I acted as an authorized observer and representative of the Republican Committee of Allegheny County per section 25 P.S. 3031.10(d).

September 27, 2022:

- Some positive improvements included the ability for observers to view machines, adding monitors for viewing by observers, and the viewing of passwords by observers.
- However, some items continue to be of concern:
 - Password sharing by multiple people.
 - Usage of only one USB drive on DS850s.
 - Election staff was civil but unclear and not transparent on answering questions or sharing the overall tabulation process.
 - No cameras added to the Tabulation room or above DS850 scanners.
 - Tabulation room servers and networking layout.

October 15, 2022 follow-up assessment status of the images and CVRs for the tabulating equipment per section 25 P.S. 3031.10(d) "... the voting system and its components are properly prepared and in proper condition and order for use". The reviewed included:

- Ballot images and CVRs for the DS850 and DS200 ballot scanners.
- Ballot images of the Express Vote ballot-marking device.
- Specific concerns after reviewing the initial batch of 25,000 ballot images:
 - Unclear and incorrect images from scanning on the DS850s (noted in this report), similar to the Speckin Forensics report.
 - County not doing proper machine maintenance.
 - Not all DS200 scanners scanning at the same contrast level.
 - Mail-in ballots not tested.

The voters of Allegheny County respectfully look forward to the Board of Elections action to the resolution and process improvements to resolve the concerns noted in this document.

Ballots/Tabulation machines

During preparation of the voting machines, the public and non-public parts, I was able to observe the DS850's, DS200's and the Express Vote machine testing.

During the testing I notice some suggested improvements being made that were in my previous reports. Some of the suggestions such as observers being able to view the DS850's. The DS850's are now turned so observers will be able to see them. They are adding video cameras above the DS850's supposedly, during the first week of Oct., for better view for Observers. Passwords were not put into the DS850's in front of the observers.

There were however other concerns pointed out in past reports, such as shared password handling and USB drive usage, that does not appear to have been improved. They are still sharing passwords with many people, and they are still using only one USB drive in the DS850's.

During the Sept 20 board meeting the topic of the "Speckin Forensics" report came up (see Appendix for link, start at 55min). Sam was asking the county about this report. Dave stated, "In the follow up um we did talk to our machine mechanic, which happened to be here for a preventative maintenance and he thinks it is a just unclean screen on the scanner", this is a very interesting a concerning statement. The reason this statement is concerning is because we were able to obtain the images and CVRs from the machine preparation. What was found so far reviewing some of the 25,000 ballot images is not only does the same machine in the Speckin report still have issues, but about four to five other machines appear to have issues as well. What did the machine mechanic do because we found issues? It does not matter if the issues are large or small, as the issues could get worse, and this could cause legal issues for the county if there is a close race and this is found then. We are currently working with the county on getting more information on the DS850's listed below.

I have put in "inspect" RTKs to the county for the machine 8520050452 that was in the Speckin report, for past elections, to see how it scanned and if it had issues during other elections and the county has denied the RTKs. This is very concerning that the county will not let us inspect past elections on this machine, now knowing that there ARE issues. The county needs to allow representatives and Speckin Forensics to review the past paper ballots, scanned images, CVRs and events from machine 8520050452 since at least the 2020 election.

Machine serial numbers with issues (see Appendix for a few examples ballot images):

Central Count – 8519110434
Central Count – 8519110440
Central Count – 8520050451
Central Count – 8520050455
Central Count – 8520050452

Central Count – 8519110436 (machine labeled B), the observers noticed it was kicking out the perfect, non-folded, machine generated ballots.

We did not get to see any mail-in ballots tested in the DS850's. They only appeared to scan the Official General Ballots.

Some new information that I learned was in the DS850's all data is stored on local storage then they put in the USB drives once all scanning is complete and download the data.

Clocks were off by a few min on some of the DS850's. (A and B machines)

Staff Evaluation

During this observation it was not as good as past experiences with staff. I was able to invite new observers to attend both the public and non-public part of the preparation of the voting machines. They felt like they were having issues with communication with some staff when asking questions. I did

notice this as well, even if there were a few questions asked twice, they county should answer them without giving observers any issues.

Areas of Concern to Address

DS850's not scanning properly. If machines are not scanning properly this could cause not only a legal issue but also cause scanned images to not show write-ins properly, requiring staff to go back and dig through the physical paper ballots. Depending on how the scanner is reading the images, it could cause count issues or kick ballots out to be adjudicated. I would like to see the county to allow us the representatives and Speckin Forensics to review the past paper ballots, scanned images, CVRs, events, logs and elections from machine 8520050452.

It does not appear that the county is doing proper maintenance on the tabulators as issues were found with the machines. What are the maintenance procedures and schedule for the equipment?

Why did the county not test mail-in ballots on the DS850's?

I talked to David V. about the sharing of passwords again as they are still giving out the shared election password to 12 or more people about a month before the election and it did not appear to be an issue to him.

Cameras were not installed above the DS850s as stated in Sept. 20 board meeting by David.

The camera blind spot in the tabulation room has NOT been addressed. I asked David about, and it does not appear at this time it will be addressed. The camera is down too low, and the large rack is blocking parts of the view of the room and also viewing access to the servers.

Concerns in my past reports about the server sitting out on a desk in the tabulation room along with the organization of the network wires and equipment.

Conclusion

In these observations and my past three observations I have outlined many concerns. Some of which were password management/sharing and USB drive usage that have not been fully addressed. To add to these concerns, is the question of are our tabulators functioning properly and being maintained properly. Until we get answers or corrections to the machines above, as a representative, I cannot say that all machines for the upcoming Nov 8th 2022 election are **"properly prepared and are in proper condition and order for use."** as outlined in 25 P.S. 3031.10(d). The county needs to allow us as representatives and to have Speckin Forensics come in to investigate the past ballots scanned and events that occurred with machine 8520050452. As stated in past observation reports, elections are considered critical infrastructure and the technology which supports them should not be treated as a common day to day computer system. It is possible if improvements are not made and these issues are not corrected, something could occur in the future if it has not already.

Central Count – 8520050455 (3606i.pdf) Line on the right side of image

**Special General Election Ballot
Ward 5 Dist 4**

Senator in the General Assembly 38th District Four Year Term Vote for One
<input type="radio"/> Lindsey Williams Democratic
<input type="radio"/> Lori Mizgorski Republican
<input type="radio"/> Write-In
Representative in the General Assembly 20th District Two Year Term Vote for One
<input type="radio"/> Emily Kinkead Democratic
<input type="radio"/> Matt Kruth Republican
<input type="radio"/> Write-In
County of Allegheny Proposed Home Rule Charter Amendment Special Election Question
Shall Article III, Subsection 6(b) of Allegheny County's Home Rule Charter be repealed in order to allow

Links

Sept. 20th 2022 board meeting video

<https://m.facebook.com/AlleghenyCounty/videos/board-of-elections-meeting-september-20-2022/414105930859433/>

Matthew Van Bibber's past observation reports

https://www.alleghenycounty.us/uploadedFiles/Allegheny_Home/Dept_-_Content/Elections/Board/6-23-22%20BOE%20Public%20Comment.pdf

Laws

25 P.S. 3031.10(d)

"One representative of each such political party, certified by the respective chairman of the county committee of such party, and one representative of each such organization of citizens, certified by the respective chairman or presiding officer of such organization **shall be entitled to be present during the preparation of the voting system and its components and to see that they are properly prepared and are in proper condition and order for use.**"