

Why does the county require a “cancellation of voter registration due to death” form to be filed to remove a person from the voter rolls once they have died?

The county doesn't require the form. It is an affirmative step that the next of kin can take to remove the name from the voter rolls more quickly, or in the event that no other notification of the death is made.

The Elections Division receives death certificates from the state on an ongoing basis and cancels that voter's registration upon receipt. If the death occurs out of state, the state is partner in a collaborative called ERIC (Electronic Record Information Center) which provides information on deaths and new voter registrations in other partner states, allowing us to remove those voters as appropriate.

When will the voter rolls be purged of deceased persons and those that have moved out of the county and state? How often is this reviewed? What is the process for doing this? Is there a flow chart that can be reviewed for this process? Should these practices be reviewed?

When an individual has moved out of the county and registered in another county, their voter registration in Allegheny County must first be canceled before the person may register in the new county. These requests are received and processed on an ongoing basis. If a person moves out of state, he or she may contact the office to cancel their registration directly. If he or she registers in a state that is a partner in the collaborative, we are notified of those registrations on an ongoing basis and remove those voters accordingly.

A voter who is inactive and hasn't voted in two consecutive federal elections can be removed from the voter rolls.

How can we be certain that the rightful voter is actually completing the mail-in ballot? How is ballot harvesting being controlled, especially in nursing homes and assisted living?

The declaration envelope requires the voter to affirm that they completed their own ballot and did so in secret. A person who receives assistance on their ballot must also have the individual who provided that assistance sign the declaration envelope. Any allegations or concerns that fraud has occurred should be referred to the Elections Division for further investigation.

The same rules apply regardless of where one resides.

What is the cut-off date to receive votes by mail?

Mail-in and absentee ballots, regardless of how they were returned to the Elections Division, must be received by 8 PM on Election Day in order to be counted. The only exception to this are the ballots of military and civilian overseas voters who have until the Tuesday after the election to return their ballots for counting.

Why are we using voting machines that are not transparent, accurate, accountable and vulnerable?

The voting systems used are transparent, accurate and accountable. They are not vulnerable.

The Elections Division works hand in hand with the Department of Information Technology (DIT) to maintain the security and integrity of the election process. While specific and detailed

information on security protocols is not publicly shared or available, the Elections Division website contacts information regarding testing and security measures completed by DIT each election cycle: <https://allegHENYcounty.us/elections/election-security.aspx>.

All system components are certified by the Commonwealth and are tested for logic and accuracy.

Why is the county using a barcode that is uniquely assigned to an individual voter?

The Elections Division changed its processes, and vendor, for the mailing of ballots due to concerns raised over this issue. The identifying mark now only identifies the municipality, ward and district to ensure that the correct ballot is mailed. It does not identify the voter in any way.

Are secrecy envelopes shuffled so that their order no longer has any correspondence to the order of the declaration envelopes which identify voters?

The process at the Elections Warehouse separates the secrecy envelopes from the declaration envelopes. The secrecy envelopes are then placed into a mail tray by several people working at the same table which mixes those together. Additionally, that tray is then removed from that table and taken to a letter opener for the secrecy envelopes to be opened and that tray is then given to an entirely different table for ballot extraction.

With approximately 160,000 mail-in and absentee ballots used on November 8, ballots are fully anonymous and cannot be matched to the declaration envelopes.

Can elections use a secrecy envelope with hash printing on the inside of the envelope as an actual security envelope?

As noted at the last Board of Elections meeting, the Elections Division could not do so for this election but will look into whether that can be done before the 2023 Municipal Primary Election.

Why don't we hand count ballots rather than using scanners?

Hand counting is too time consuming and prone to human error and is logistically impossible.

How are votes collected and tabulated?

At the polling place, ballots are scanned into a precinct scanner. The results are exported onto a memory stick that are later read into the elections system that assigns the data collected to the appropriate races. There is also a second memory stick, the physical ballots are retained, and tapes from the machines are turned into Elections and also retained by at least one poll worker as a backup.

Mail-in and absentee ballots are opened and are scanned by one of ten scanners at the Elections Warehouse.

What does Chain of Custody look like after the Judge of Elections personally delivers the ballots? Where does the JOE deliver the duffle bag of ballots, thumb drives and paperwork and what does that process look like? Who counts or tabulates our votes?

The ballots are tabulated at the precinct by the DS200 scanner. The Judge of Elections delivers the voted ballots and memory sticks from the scanner to one of eight regional reporting centers. There, the results are read into the database over a secure network connection. This activity does not use the internet.

Once all precincts in that region return their materials to the center, all ballots including voted, provisional, spoiled, surrendered and the official and unofficial memory sticks are transported to the elections warehouse. They are then kept in locked cages that are under 24/7 surveillance cameras.

Has the FBI or other government agency alerted the county on Konnech or a PollChief data breach? Did the county work with the vendor to determine what data was compromised? Has the county alerted the poll workers that there was a data breach and, if so, what of poll workers' information could have been leaked? What information was leaked?

No one contacted the Elections Division, but the Department of Information Technology reached out proactively to determine if any data had been compromised. We learned of no such breach and made no notifications.

The Los Angeles District Attorney's office withdrew the charges filed against the CEO of the company and acknowledged that the investigation began after a tip from True the Vote which is currently being sued by Konnech for defamation. A statement from the DA indicated that they would review the evidence, with a team with significant cyber security experience to determine whether any criminal activity occurred.

Does the Elections Division have a protocols and procedures manual and/or training to guide its workers through the tabulation process? Are protocols in place to insure cybersecurity?

The Regional Reporting Clerks are given verbal and written step-by-step instructions on the Election Night vote tabulation.

How secure are the passwords for the scanners?

There are four separate passwords for the ballot scanners. Passwords are only distributed to employees and poll workers on a need-to-know basis.

Are only verified, eligible ballots counted? Is tabulating machine data preserved? Are ballots and the counting process open to an independent, forensic audit?

The Elections Division only opens and counts those ballots that comply with the state law. Tabulating machine data and all other materials from the election are maintained for two years pursuant to state law. Additionally, the state conducts risk-limiting audits following each election.

Can poll workers be allowed to do partial shifts?

The county is currently conducting a pilot program with student poll workers to determine whether such an arrangement is feasible and ensures coverage of our 1,323 polling places.

Can we work with companies to allow employees to volunteer to work the polls without having to take time off to do so? In the alternative, can we work with local companies to promote volunteering as a poll worker?

We have partnered with a number of local companies to share information on voter registration, application deadlines, poll worker volunteers, and more. Several do provide opportunities for their employees to work on election day.

How did RocktheVote.org get my voter information?

Voter records are considered to be public records and their release and use are part of the Election Code. Information may only be used for elections, political activities or law enforcement and not for any commercial or improper purposes. Additionally, the data may not be published.

The Elections Division did not receive any request for voter records from RocktheVote, so you will need to contact other entities to determine who may have received any such request.

Our elections should require Voter ID, one day in-person voting only, clean voter rolls, no party affiliation on the ballot, a ballot option of “none of the above” and if it “wins” then the seat is not filled, no ballot drop boxes or satellite voting locations, mail-in ballots for those medically unable to vote and military only.

These items are measures that would need to be undertaken by the Pennsylvania Legislature and incorporated into the Election Code. They are not at the discretion of the Elections Division.

Will security be used to guard against any issues or problems at the ballot return box? Will the boxes be sealed and secured until they are transported to the Tabulation Center?

Ballot return boxes are always monitored by a staff member from Elections. The boxes are sealed and only opened when being transported to the Elections Warehouse by an election official. Once at the warehouse, the ballots are checked into the SURE system and then secured in a locked cage, under camera security, until they are removed on Election Day at 7 AM to begin the pre-canvassing process.

Why are assignments from PollChief not provided until the very last minute?

Returning poll workers are given the right of refusal at their location before someone else is assigned. Additional assignments are made as people cancel, or when responses are not provided.

What is being done about the manually manipulatable machines, the lack of regulation and bipartisan oversight of mail-in ballots and denial of election judges to train volunteers and participate, and the blocking the view of poll watchers if allowed in the building at all?

We aren't sure of what this question/comment is intended to refer to and so are unable to answer these questions.

In-person voting is conducted on paper ballots. For voters unable to use those ballots, an ExpressVote creates a ballot which allows the voter to review and ensure that it reflects their votes before they scan that ballot into the precinct level scanner.

All regulations are set by the Election Code and the Department of State, and the Elections Division conforms with those regulations.

Mail-in and absentee ballot pre-canvassing and canvassing are done at the Elections Warehouse where each candidate, or an authorized representative, and each party may be represented to watch the process.

An election judge's role is in the polling place on election day. It doesn't include a responsibility or role to train volunteers. We're not certain what this commenter means by having an election judge participate.

Poll watchers are allowed in polling places if designated by a candidate or party, and if they have the appropriate poll watcher certificate. Their roles and responsibilities are outlined in the Election Code.

Why is there not a paper trail or receipt to confirm that their vote was cast for the person that they cast the actual vote for?

The person actually views their own ballot before casting that vote. Any receipt that would print out the results of that vote would violate the secrecy provisions of the Pennsylvania Constitution.

Stop mail-in ballots and require voter identification.

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Count paper ballots locally at the polling place.

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Address air gap, server and other security concerns brought up by an IT expert.

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How were issues with removal of the USB drives and posting of the zero tapes/final results tapes resolved? Was anyone held accountable? How were the votes reconciled without the USB drives?

All USBs that were returned incorrectly or not removed from the scanners on election night were located and secured. Poll workers that didn't follow the proper procedures were contacted and retrained. The same will be done this election.

Is it legal without Election Code for county employees to work the polls?

We traditionally use court-appointed county employees to fill last minute poll worker vacancies.

What are the expenses for the elections division, including poll worker costs, transportation and logistics of machines and supplies?

Operating budget line item detail is available on the [Budget & Finance Department webpage](#). Additional detail, post-budget year, is contained in the county's Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) which is available on the Controller's office.