



BOARD OF ELECTIONS MINUTES

Thursday, February 11, 2021, 11:00 A.M.

Virtual – [BlueJeans](#)

I. CALL TO ORDER

The public meeting of the Centre County Board of Elections was convened at 11:02 AM by Chair of the Board, Commissioner Steven Dershem.

In attendance were Commissioner Michael Pipe, Commissioner Mark Higgins, Commissioner Steven Dershem, Administrator Margaret Gray, Solicitor Elizabeth Dupuis, Elections Coordinator Jodi Nedd, Voter Registration Coordinator Latisha Stefanko, Executive Office Supervisor Natalie Smith and Staff Assistant Jillian Savage.

County personnel present included Jeremie.

II. PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no comments received from the Public.

III. MINUTES

On a motion by Commissioner Pipe, seconded by Commissioner Dershem, the Board voted unanimously to approve the Minutes of the Board of Elections meetings held on Thursday, January 21 and Thursday, January 28, 2021.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

Campaign Finance Reports

Jodi Nedd reported that in the past individuals have come into the Elections Office to view candidate finance reports. She asked for guidance from the Board on how to approach the matter this year. Commissioner Pipe suggested adding candidate finance reports to the Right to Know Request. County Solicitor Betsy Dupuis asked how many requests the Election Office receives annually regarding the reports. Jodi responded that in an election like this, the office would receive around 6 requests. County Solicitor Dupuis stated that adding the reports to a Right to Know Request would be inconvenient considering the other requirements, time constraints and volume of requests Natalie Corman receives a month. Instead she suggested allowing interested individuals to request appointments through the Election Office to view the documents. Commissioner Dershem agreed. Commissioner Pipe has researched other counties and reported seeing websites like Department of State to view PFD's of the reports. Commissioner Dershem added the suggestion that only copies be handled by the public instead of the originals for office safety. Commissioner Pipe suggested that scanning the reports and emailing them would also help, stating since they are public documents there are no confidentiality issues with this. Commissioner Dershem agreed that giving people the option of appointment or email would be best. On a motion by Commissioner Pipe, seconded by Commissioner Higgins, the Board voted unanimously to give the Elections Team discretion to set up appointments or email copies of campaign finance reports to interested parties.

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V. OLD BUSINESS

On a motion by Commissioner Pipe, seconded by Commissioner Higgins, the Board voted unanimously to add items A and B under Old Business.

A. Update on Risk Limiting Audit

Jodi Nedd presented the results from the Risk Limiting Audit (RLA). Out of 85 precincts audited, 84 precincts matched their Election Day In-Person and Vote-By-Mail Ballot Totals. The count for same was not correct at Precinct 44, College West. The two polling locations for College West include the College Township Building and the Bryce Jordan Center – Founders Lounge. The errors did not affect any contests or outcomes. Certified Election Results for Precinct 44 reported 677 Election Day In-Person ballots cast. The RLA reported there should have been 360, creating a difference of 317 votes. Again, this did not affect any contests or outcomes. The Elections Office reached out to ES&S for a root cause analysis to identify the issue and ensure it would not happen again. The root cause analysis found that when ballots were rescanned at the Willowbank, due to the polling location results from the USB drive not reading, the results were added to the vote total instead of overwriting them. When comparing RLA results to the original tapes from Election Day In-Person voting at Precinct 44, the totals both came to 360. The recommendations for future post-election procedures were as follows:

Long-Term

- Work with PA Department of State to continue conducting Risk Limiting Audits after each Primary and General Election.
- During the Official Count, the Board will perform review of (a) numbered list of voters, (b) general returns of results cast, (c) Election Day results tapes, and (d) Election night reports for each precinct.
- No manual entries in Electionware will occur without the Board of Elections approval.
- Unique usernames and passwords will be created for everyone accessing Electionware.

Short-Term

- Re-certify the results of the 2020 General Election and give Elections Office Team the approval to rescan the results for Precinct 44 and prepare the necessary paperwork for re-certification on Thursday, February 18, 2021.

B. Update on Petition Packets

Jodi announced the petition packets are available. They can be picked up at reception in the Willowbank Building, they may also be printed from centrecountyvotes.com. When filing the petitions, an appointment will be need.

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VI. DISCUSSION ITEMS

VII. ELECTION ANNOUNCEMENTS

Tuesday, February 16, 2021

First day to circulate and file nomination petitions.

Tuesday, March 9, 2021

Last day to circulate and file nomination petitions.

Wednesday, March 10, 2021

First day to file nomination papers.

Tuesday, March 16, 2021

Last day to file objections to nomination petitions.

Wednesday, March 24, 2021

Last day for withdrawal by candidates who filed nomination petitions.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Commissioner Pipe, seconded by Commissioner Higgins, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 11:29 AM.

Respectfully submitted:

Jillian Savage

Staff Assistant, Commissioners' Office