



## BOARD OF ELECTIONS MINUTES

Thursday, April 13, 2023 2:00 P.M.

Willowbank Office Building

420 Holmes Street, Room 146

Bellefonte, PA 16823

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### I. CALL TO ORDER

The public meeting of the Centre County Board of Elections was convened at 2:01 P.M. by Chair of the Board Vicki Fong.

In attendance were Board Members Chris Exarchos, Vicki Fong, and Chris Fowler, Director of Elections Beth Lechman, Solicitor Betsy Dupuis, and Executive Officer Supervisor Erin Good.

County personnel present included Human Services Administrator Julia Sprinkle.

Guests present included Greg Stewart and Michele Schellberg.

### II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

### III. PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no comments received from the public.

### IV. ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

There were no additions made to the Agenda.

### V. MINUTES

The Board will consider approving the minutes from the April 4, 2023 Board of Elections meeting.

*Action: On a motion by Chris Fowler, seconded by Chris Exarchos, the board voted unanimously to approve the minutes from April 4, 2023 meeting.*

### VI. OLD BUSINESS

### VII. NEW BUSINESS

#### A. Ballot Return and Collection Plan

Beth Lechman stated she has the ballot return and collection plan for Centre County and distributed copies to the Board. Beth stated this plan has been in place since 2020 with minor edits made to it. One major edit for this year will be that the ballot boxes will have a cover over them and locked when ballots will no longer be collected. Another edit will be that the "push here to insert ballot" sign on the ballot boxes will be added with another color.

Chris Exarchos questioned who chose the ballot box sites in the past. Solicitor Betsy Dupuis stated most were Municipal sites that provide security and were also willing to house the boxes at the current sites. The ballot boxes sites were approved by a previous Board of Elections. Chris Exarchos questioned why Snow Shoe does not have a ballot

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box and why seven out of the eight boxes are located within half an hour of The Willowbank Building, which does not seem to be serving the whole County.

Michelle Schellberg gave comments on ballot boxes and requested they be removed.

Greg Stewart of Ferguson Township gave comments on ballot boxes and the delay of postage.

Chris Exarchos questioned who chooses the individuals that pick up the ballots from the ballot boxes. Beth stated each individual is a County employee and takes an oath the morning of the Election and is also accompanied by a Sheriff Deputy.

Michelle Schellberg questioned if the camera at Penn State is monitored by the County. Solicitor Betsy Dupuis stated that the university required the County to install the camera at Penn State, which is maintained by the County along with the Willowbank building, MDJ offices, and Centre Hall. All others are maintained by local municipalities' police departments.

Chris Exarchos expressed his concerns with the ballot boxes and stated the distribution of the ballot boxes are not fair to Centre County residents. He does not believe the ballot boxes are secure as they seem to be, and believes it would be more cost-effective for the County to pay for return postage versus dealing with the ballot boxes. He stated because of these reasons, he cannot support the Ballot Return and Collection Plan.

Chris Fowler stated he would like to see all mail-in ballot voting for the future due to its convenience. He did agree that it would be beneficial to see boxes available in rural areas and would love to reopen the idea of spreading the ballot boxes out across the County. He stated he will do some research and possibly have the ballot boxes' locations re-proposed in time for the Board for the November Election.

*Action: On a motion by Chris Fowler, seconded by Vicki Fong the board voted 2:1 with Chris Exarchos opposed to approve the Ballot Return and Collection Plan.*

VIII. ELECTION ANNOUNCEMENTS

- A. The next scheduled Board of Elections meeting is Thursday, April 27, 2023 at 3:00 PM at the Willowbank Building Room 146.

IX. EXECUTIVE SESSION REPORT

X. QUESTIONS FROM THE PRESS

XI. ADJOURN

On a motion by Chris Fowler seconded by Chris Exarchos, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 2:43 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Erin Good  
Executive Office Supervisor