



BOARD OF ELECTIONS MINUTES

Thursday, April 27, 2023 3:00 P.M.

Willowbank Office Building

420 Holmes Street, Room 146

Bellefonte, PA 16823

[Register](#) online to receive a notification when meeting agendas are posted.

I. CALL TO ORDER

The public meeting of the Centre County Board of Elections was convened at 3:00 P.M. by Chair of the Board Vicki Fong.

In attendance were Board members Chris Exarchos, Vicki Fong, Chris Fowler, Administrator John Franek Jr., Director of Elections Beth Lechman, Solicitor Betsy Dupuis, and Executive Office Supervisor Erin Good.

Guests present included Michele Schellberg and Greg Stewart.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

III. PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no comments received from the public.

IV. ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

There were no additions to the Agenda.

V. MINUTES

The Board will consider approving the minutes from the April 13, 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 13, 2023 meeting.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

Chris Exarchos would like to formalize the locations of the ballot boxes to be more readily accessible to all Centre County voters for the November 2023 Election.

Action: On a motion by Chris Exarchos, seconded by Chris Fowler, the board voted unanimously to approve to direct the staff to look at the possibility of a better distribution plan for the drop boxes to make them more readily available for the Centre County voters for the November 2023 Election.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

A. Appointment of the Board of Elections and Elections Staff as the Official Count Board and Provisional Ballot Boards for the 2023 Municipal Primary Election

Beth asked for the Board of Elections and Elections staff to be named as the Official Count Board and Provisional Ballot Boards for the 2023 Municipal Primary Election. Chris Exarchos asked if the names of the Elections staff should clearer. Beth stated that in the

BOARD OF ELECTIONS MINUTES
THURSDAY, APRIL 27, 2023
PAGE 2

past they have never named the individuals due to any last-minute changes that may occur.

Beth stated the Official Count Board will be the individuals who review the number list of voters versus the tapes on the machine's versus general return sheet and shore reports.

Beth confirmed that it will be Elections staff and the Elections Board who will be certifying the elections results.

Michele Schellberg gave comment on who has been pulled into help in previous elections.

Action: On a motion by Chris Fowler, seconded by Chris Exarchos, the board voted unanimously to approve the appointment of the Board of Elections and Elections Staff as the Official Count Board and Provisional Ballot Boards for the 2023 Municipal Primary Election.

B. Approval of a new process at the vote-by-mail center to recreate unscannable ballots

Beth stated in the past the Elections staff have waited to do the official canvass board and bring them to the Willowbank building at a later date. Beth is requesting for the absentee or mail in ballots that will not scan at the vote by mail center to be recreated by a two-party team that would recreate the ballots on an express vote at the vote by mail center instead of bringing them back to the Willowbank building to scan at a later date.

Beth stated in the last election, there were 57 unscannable ballots due to a physical defect of the ballot. Administrator John Franek Jr. stated this would be for efficiency reasons. Beth also stated this would help keep the unscannable ballots in their Precincts.

Action: On a motion by Chris Fowler, seconded by Chris Exarchos, the board voted unanimously to approve the new process for unscannable ballots.

Beth stated she found out yesterday that there were 85 ballots that were sent out without the Bald Eagle Area School District- Region 1 on the ballot and it has been taken care of. Staff mailed a replacement ballot to those voters. Staff will hold and segregate them and if they don't get a replacement ballot back and will be a discussion for the Board if they would like to count it or not.

Election Board/Official Count Board/Provisional Ballot Board Meeting Schedule (This schedule is tentative, and adjustments may need to be made):

Thursday, May 18, 2023 at – 2:00 PM

- Adjudication of Civilian Absentee ballots and Mail-In ballots
- Canvass and tabulate In-Person Election Day ballots
 - 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
- Canvass and tabulate Military/Civilian Overseas ballots

Friday, May 19, 2023 – 10:00 AM

- Canvass and tabulate In-Person Election Day ballots
- Adjudication of Civilian Absentee ballots and Mail-In ballots

BOARD OF ELECTIONS MINUTES
THURSDAY, APRIL 27, 2023
PAGE 3

- Adjugate, tabulate, and canvass provisional ballots
- 2% Statistical Audit of In-Person Election Day ballots
- Canvass and tabulate Military/Civilian Overseas ballots

May 23, 2023 - 3:00 PM

- Certify Unofficial Results

Tuesday, May 30, 2023 – 3:00 PM

- Certify Official Results

VIII. ELECTION ANNOUNCEMENTS

- The next scheduled Board of Elections meeting is Tuesday, May 9, 2023 at 1:00 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 3:26 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Erin Good
Executive Office Supervisor