



## BOARD OF ELECTIONS MINUTES

Tuesday, May 9, 2023 1:00 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 1:02 P.M. by Chair of the Board Vicki Fong.

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

Guests present included Michele Schellberg, Jen Dellantonio, and Greg Stewart.

### II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

### III. PUBLIC COMMENT

Jen Dellantonio of Rush Township gave public comment on a voter who was not a Centre County resident and is on the active voter list.

### IV. ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

There were no additions to the agenda.

### V. MINUTES

The Board will consider approving the minutes from the April 27, 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 27, 2023 meeting.*

### VI. OLD BUSINESS

### VII. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Discussion of whether to count ballots for voters that fail to return a replacement mail-in ballot in lieu of their original mail-in ballot. The original mail-in ballots were missing the Bald Eagle Area School District-Region 1 write-in provision on the ballot.

Beth stated the Bald Eagle Area School District Region 1 original ballots would be segregated as the Elections Office receives them. Chris Exarchos asked if the new ballots that were mailed out had a new barcode and if it would be considered an active barcode. Beth stated that they would, and they would only except one barcode from each voter in the system.

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Chris Exarchos asked why the Board needs to take any action at all if the ballot is still a legal ballot. Beth stated she can only count one ballot for each voter and is asking for the Boards' decision on what ballot should be counted.

Michelle Schellberg asked how many ballots have been received back out of the 85 ballots that were sent out.

*Action: On a motion by Chris Fowler, seconded by Chris Exarchos, the Board voted unanimously for the ballots with the missing Bald Eagle School District where the original ballot has been returned but the corrected ballot has not been returned that they will count the original ballot; in cases where the corrected ballot has been returned as well, they will count the corrected ballot and not the original ballot.*

- B. Discussion on the date range of valid ballots for the Municipal Primary held on May 16, 2023. Recommendation is to set the range in compliance with prior court decision as follows: date of mail-in ballot distribution, April 1, 2023, to Election Day, May 16, 2023.

Beth stated the Supreme Court decided on the date range that is accepted on ballots, and April 1, 2023 was the date when any ballots left the Elections office and it would go through May 16, 2023 for the accepted date range a voter places on their ballot for the Municipal Primary Election.

Solicitor Betsy Dupuis stated they have followed the recommendation for the accepted dates by the Supreme Court in the past.

*Action: On a motion by Chris Fowler, seconded by Chris Exarchos, the Board voted unanimously to set the range in compliance with the prior court decision from the date of mail in ballot distribution of April 1, 2023 to May 16, 2023.*

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 mail-in Election Day ballots
- Adjudication of Civilian Absentee ballots and Mail-In ballots
- Adjudicate, tabulate, and canvass provisional ballots
- 2% Statistical Audit of In-Person Election Day ballots
- Canvass and tabulate Military/Civilian Overseas ballots

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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 16, 2023 at 6:00 A.M. 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 1:48 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Erin Good  
Executive Office Supervisor