



BOARD OF ELECTIONS MINUTES

Thursday, May 19, 2022, 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 2:02 PM by Chair of the Board Commissioner Steven Dershem.

In attendance were Commissioner Michael Pipe, Commissioner Mark Higgins, Commissioner Steven Dershem, Administrator John Franek, Jr., Director of Elections Beth Lechman, County Solicitor Elizabeth (Betsy) Dupuis, and Elections Coordinator Jodi Nedd.

II. PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no comments received from the public.

III. ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

There were no additions to the agenda.

IV. MINUTES

V. PRIMARY ELECTION

A. Adjudicate, canvass and tabulate in-person election day ballots, civilian absentee ballots and mail-in ballots.

County Administrator John Franek, Jr. administered the oath to the Official Return Board.

Seal numbers 22040 and 22094 were removed from ballot receptacle 12 containing unscannable and issue ballots from the Vote-by-Mail Center.

i. Issue Ballots Processed on Tuesday, May 17, 2022 at Vote-by-Mail Center

1. Thirty-six unscannable ballots were scanned through the DS200. Seventeen of thirty-six ballots were recreated using the ExpressVote.

Action: On a motion by Commissioner Pipe, seconded by Commissioner Higgins, the Board voted unanimously to count the thirty-six ballots.

2. The Board reviewed twenty-seven "naked ballots," outer envelope contains a ballot not contained in an inner envelope.

Action: On a motion by Commissioner Dershem, seconded by Commissioner Higgins, the Board voted unanimously to reject the twenty-seven ballots.

3. The Board reviewed three ballots in outer envelopes that had no voter signature on the outer envelope.

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Action: On a motion by Commissioner Pipe, seconded by Commissioner Higgins, the Board voted unanimously to reject the three ballots.

4. The Board reviewed one ballot flagged for a signature issue on the outer envelope, signed on the wrong side.

Action: On a motion by Commissioner Dershem, seconded by Commissioner Higgins, the Board voted unanimously to count the one ballot.

5. The Board reviewed forty-nine ballots that had no voter provided date on outer envelope. After a substantive discussion of guidelines, the Board counted one ballot that was dated in the righthand section and rejected the other forty-eight ballots.

Action: On a motion by Commissioner Pipe, seconded by Commissioner Higgins, the Board voted unanimously to count one ballot and reject forty-eight ballots.

Commissioner Pipe recommended the Board create a resolution concerning the ballot with the outer envelope that has no voter provided date. The resolution will clarify guidelines to what will be rejected by the Board in future elections.

6. The Board reviewed one ballot that was not inside the inner envelope (side-by-side).

Action: On a motion by Commissioner Pipe, seconded by Commissioner Higgins, the Board voted unanimously to reject the one ballot.

7. The Board reviewed two ballots with outer envelopes damaged, one by USPS and one by the voter.

Action: On a motion by Commissioner Pipe, seconded by Commissioner Higgins, the Board voted unanimously to count the two ballots.

8. The Board reviewed ten ballot outer envelopes where husband signed wife's envelope and ten ballot outer envelopes where the wife signed husband's envelope.

Action: On a motion by Commissioner Pipe, seconded by Commissioner Higgins, the Board voted unanimously to table until later.

After a substantive discussion, the Board rejected the twenty ballots with signatures on the wrong envelope.

Action: On a motion by Commissioner Pipe, seconded by Commissioner Higgins, the Board voted unanimously to reject the twenty ballots.

9. The Board reviewed one ballot uncertain to why it was flagged.

Action: On a motion by Commissioner Pipe, seconded by Commissioner Higgins, the Board voted unanimously to count the one ballot.

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10. The Board reviewed two ballots with an incomplete date.

Action: On a motion by Commissioner Pipe, seconded by Commissioner Higgins, the Board voted unanimously to reject the two ballots.

i. Issue Ballots Processed Wednesday, May 18, 2022 at Vote-by-Mail Center

1. Two unscannable ballots were scanned through the DS200.

Action: On a motion by Commissioner Pipe, seconded by Commissioner Higgins, the Board voted unanimously to count the two ballots.

2. The Board reviewed six “naked ballots,” outer envelope contains a ballot not contained in an inner envelope.

Action: On a motion by Commissioner Dershem, seconded by Commissioner Higgins, the Board voted unanimously to reject the six ballots.

3. The Board reviewed one ballot in outer envelope that had no voter signature.

Action: On a motion by Commissioner Pipe, seconded by Commissioner Higgins, the Board voted unanimously to reject one ballot.

4. The Board reviewed nine ballots that had no voter provided date on the outer envelope.

Action: On a motion by Commissioner Pipe, seconded by Commissioner Higgins, the Board voted unanimously to reject the nine ballots.

5. The Board reviewed one ballot with identifying marks on the inner envelope.

Action: On a motion by Commissioner Pipe, seconded by Commissioner Higgins, the Board voted unanimously to reject the one ballot.

6. The Board reviewed two ballots with an incomplete date.

Action: On a motion by Commissioner Pipe, seconded by Commissioner Higgins, the Board voted unanimously to reject the two ballots.

The Board canvassed 163 ballots, 43 ballots were counted and 120 were rejected.

B. Canvass and tabulate military/civilian overseas ballots.

Canvassing and tabulation of military/civilian overseas ballots will start on Friday, May 20, 2022.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

VII. ELECTION ANNOUNCEMENTS

Tuesday, May 24, 2022

Last day for County Board of Elections to receive voted military and overseas absentee ballots (submitted for delivery no later than 11:59 PM on May 16)

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VIII. MEETING SCHEDULE

Friday, May 20, 2022

10 AM Adjudicate civilian absentee and mail-in ballots Willowbank 146
Canvass and tabulate in-person election day ballots,
civilian absentee ballots, mail-in ballots, and military/
civilian overseas ballots.
Adjudicate, Tabulate, and Canvass Provisional ballots
2% Count of In-Person Election Day ballots

Monday, May 23, 2022 *If Needed.*

10 AM Adjudicate civilian absentee and mail-in ballots Willowbank 146
Canvass and tabulate in-person election day ballots,
civilian absentee ballots, mail-in ballots, and military/
civilian overseas ballots.

Tuesday, May 24, 2022

4 PM Certify Unofficial Results Willowbank 146

Thursday, June 2, 2022

1 PM Certify Official Results Willowbank 146

IX. EXECUTIVE SESSION REPORT

X. QUESTIONS FROM THE PRESS

XI. ADJOURN

On a motion by Commissioner Dershem, seconded by Commissioner Higgins, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 3:47 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lora Day

Dept 3 Clerk

Elections