



BOARD OF ELECTIONS MINUTES

Thursday, October 21, 2021, 9:00 A.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 9:00 AM by Chair of the Board Commissioner Steven Dershem.

In attendance were Commissioner Michael Pipe, Commissioner Mark Higgins, Commissioner Steven Dershem, Administrator Margaret Gray, Director of Elections Beth Lechman, and Executive Office Supervisor Natalie Smith.

County personnel present included Deputy Administrator John Franek, Jr., and Lee Sheaffer.

Guests present included Jennifer Dellantonio, Michelle Schellberg, and Cathy Zarillo.

II. PUBLIC COMMENT

- A. Jen Dellantonio of Philipsburg regarding purging voter rolls, Election Day processes for the vote by mail room, ballot box retrieval and questions regarding the 2020 November Election count.
- B. Michelle Shellberg of Port Matilda regarding involvement in Election preparations.
- C. Cathy Zarillo of State College regarding the number of ballots ordered for the November Election.

Director of Elections Beth Lechman clarified the purging requirements for voter rolls. She also offered an explanation of Election Day processes that will take place at the Penn Stater and opportunities for public participation.

III. ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

There were no additions to the agenda.

IV. MEETING MINUTES

The Board will consider approving the minutes from the October 14, 2021 Board of Elections meeting.

Action: *On a motion by Commissioner Pipe, seconded by Commissioner Higgins, the Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes from the October 14, 2021 Board of Elections meeting.*

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V. NEW BUSINESS

Poll Worker Training

Director Beth Lechman reported that poll worker trainings were conducted at the Penn Stater on October 6, 7 and 13 and were offered three separate times each day. There was an average of 30 poll workers in attendance at each class.

Deputy Administrator John Franek, Jr. will be overseeing operations at the Penn Stater on Election Day. He reviewed the process for the pre-canvassing of absentee and mail-in ballots for the 2021 Municipal Election.

Commissioner Dershem noted with a smaller election the Board has had an opportunity to fine tune the pre-canvassing process. Previous procedures will remain in place, however enhancements have been made after having an opportunity to reflect on past elections. Commissioner Pipe offered to share a video of the vote-by-mail room training for better understanding of the process.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

VII. OPEN DISCUSSION

Municipal Election Office Updates

Beth reported that 12,355 ballots have been mailed as of this morning and approximately 850 returned.

Machines and election day materials are being packaged and prepared for delivery.

The public test of election equipment will be conducted on Thursday, October 28 at 10 AM in Room 116 of the Willowbank Building.

Jen Dellantonio asked and expressed concern about electronic poll books.

VIII. ELECTIONS MEETING SCHEDULE

Thursday, October 28, 2021

Board of Elections – 10 AM – Willowbank 146

Tuesday, November 2, 2021

Board of Elections – 6 AM – Willowbank 146

IX. ELECTION ANNOUNCEMENTS

Monday, October 18, 2021

Last day to REGISTER before the November election

Tuesday, October 26, 2021

Last day to apply for a mail-in or civilian absentee ballot

Tuesday, November 2, 2021

MUNICIPAL ELECTION

Last day for County Boards of Elections to receive voted mail-in and civilian absentee ballots. Must be received by 8:00 PM.

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X. QUESTIONS FROM THE PRESS

XI. ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Commissioner Pipe, seconded by Commissioner Higgins, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 9:43 AM.

Respectfully submitted:

Natalie Smith
Executive Office Supervisor, Commissioners' Office