

BOARD OF ELECTIONS MEETING Absentee Challenges NOVEMBER 16, 2018

PRESENT: Gerald Lawrence and Joseph Possenti, Board Members
Francis Catania, Board Solicitor
Laureen Hagan, Bureau of Elections

Mr. Lawrence called the November 16, 2018 meeting of the Delaware County Board of Elections to order, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance – 4:04 p.m.

Motion made by Mr. Possenti allowing the Bureau of Elections to use the Absentee Ballot votes recorded on the Return Sheet for Rose Valley as the official count in absence of the missing 70 ballots, seconded by Mr. Lawrence and carried unanimously.

The Board next heard the matter of an Absentee Challenge filed by Laura Wentz for a ballot cast in Upper Darby Township 4th District, 11th Precinct. Ms. Wentz stated she had concerns that the envelope used for the ballot was very different than other Absentee ballots and the voter's address was for a property where a voter Ms. Wentz knows has lived for 12 years. Ms. Wentz further stated that the Absentee Ballot Report posted in the Precinct indicated voter as Not Applicable (N/A).

Mr. Lawrence explained what and who Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act are and the unique federal laws governing the UOCAVA voters and their ballots.

Upon Mr. Lawrence's and other Board explanations Ms. Wentz withdrew her challenge and the Board directed Mrs. Hagan to count the ballot.

The Board next heard the matter from Middletown 3-1 where a voter casting an absentee ballot did not enclose the returned ballot inside a secrecy envelope. The local Board voided the ballot and Mrs. Hagan asked for the Board members verification of this action.

Motion made by Mr. Possenti to uphold the local Board's decision to Void the ballot, seconded by Mr. Lawrence and carried unanimously.

The Board next heard the matter regarding irregularities in counts of Absentee Ballots in Prospect Park 4th Precinct and Middletown 2nd District, 2nd Precinct. Board of Elections agreed to not pay the local Boards and prior to 2019 Primary hold a mandatory training class for these Boards and Rose Valley.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Frank Daly, resident of Media Borough and representative on behalf of Democratic Party expressed his concern over a "disturbing pattern" of challenges to absentee ballots cast in Media during the 2018 General Election without proper basis. Believes person filing challenge must state publicly why and on what grounds they are challenging.

Jill Bennett Gaieski, resident of Swarthmore stated there were 20 challenges to absentee ballots in Swarthmore Borough during the 2018 General Election and the challengers could not state why the ballots were being challenged.

Laura Wentz, resident of Upper Darby reported issues with a Judge of Elections not offering Provisional Ballots to voters whose names were not in voter registration book. Voters were leaving until Ms. Wentz sent them back inside to demand a Provisional Ballot.

Mr. Lawrence asked if there was any further matters and hearing none, meeting adjourned at 4:35 pm.