

BOARD OF ELECTIONS MEETING POST GENERAL ELECTION NOVEMBER 19, 2018

PRESENT: Carmen Belefonte, Chairman, Gerald Lawrence and Joseph Possenti, Board Members
Francis Catania, Board Solicitor
Laureen Hagan, Bureau of Elections
Mary Jo Headley, Voter Registration Office
James Kerns, Voting Machine Department
Theodore Wysor, Voter

Chairman Belefonte called the November 19, 2018 meeting of the Delaware County Board of Elections to order, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance – 10:08 a.m.

Motion made by Mr. Possenti approving the Minutes of the September 24, 2018 Pre General Board meeting, seconded by Mr. Lawrence and carried unanimously.

Mr. Catania presented Mr. Wysor to the board as a voter who had been listed as a federal voter when he completed an FPCA in 2016 and never completed an application in 2018 but voted provisionally as this prohibited him from voting on the machine. Mr. Catania informed the board that an FPCA is good for 1 calendar year and as a listed Federal voter Mr. Wysor was not registered. After some discussion and clarification, a motion was made by Mr. Possenti to allow Mr. Wysor's provisional to count and 2nd by Mr. Lawrence. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Catania then informed the board that there were a few incidents that occurred on election day as follows: a complaint regarding Hillcrest that was being tracked down, a son who tried to return his father's absentee ballot and berated the staff in the election bureau as well as Jefferson Hospital wanted ballots made available to people admitted on election day etc.

Motion made by Mr. Possenti to certify the election results of the General Election, seconded by Mr. Lawrence and carried unanimously.

Motion made by Mr. Possenti to certify the election results of the 7th Congressional Special Election results, seconded by Mr. Lawrence and carried unanimously.

Motion made by Mr. Possenti to receive reimbursement from the department of state for the UOCAVA absentee ballots sent to Military and Overseas Voters, seconded by Mr. Lawrence and carried unanimously.

Motion made by Mr. Possenti to ratify the unofficial election returns reporting form of the General Election, seconded by Mr. Lawrence and carried unanimously.

OFFICE OF VOTER REGISTRATION:

Ms. Headley had nothing to report at this time.

VOTING MACHINE WAREHOUSE:

Motion made by Mr. Possenti to approve changes to the following polling sites: Upper Darby 1-4, Middletown 2-1, 2-2, 2-3 (room change), Nether Providence 4-1, 4-2, Nether Providence 6-1, Chester City 2-1 and Chester City 11-1, seconded by Mr. Lawrence and carried unanimously.

BOARD SOLICITOR:

Mr. Catania informed the board that there were 70 absentee ballots cast and 70 envelopes were counted as on the return sheet but no absentee ballots. When Judge of Elections was contacted he was very cavalier in attitude in regards to not being able to locate the ballots. Mr. Catania then stated that this issue was sent to the DA's office.

Mr. Catania then informed the board that there was an issue in Marcus Hook 2 in which the Judge of Election refused to allow a watcher in the polling location at closing. Calls were made to allow the watcher in and Judge was spoken to by Mr. Catania. Mr. Catania suggested that the Judge not be paid and invited to come before the board.

Another incident reported was in Radnor where there was an objection to a sign and the pastor wanted the Judge of Elections to remove the sign and the judge said that the pastor could remove the sign. Mr. Catania stated that the board cannot be policing the signage. There were also complaints of a security guard in Springfield but that is still being tracked down and in another precinct someone with a briefcase.

Mr. Catania then informed the board that bad behavior on election day was reported to the Sheriff office, Constable or Police depending on the situation and to his understanding the Sheriff's office did not dispatch anyone.

Mr. Catania then moved on and recommended that perhaps in light of the absentee ballot issues that have arose maybe the absentee ballot applications should not be sent to the precinct and mentioned that there are 6-7 other counties in PA that do not send absentees to the precincts. This was followed by much discussion and the board was intrigued on how this would work but felt that there would need to be a time for opponents to central count to be heard on the matter.

Mr. Belefonte inquired as to the status of the new voting systems and Mrs. Hagan stated that the county is waiting for the EAC to certify several additional systems and informed the board that County Council has attended demonstrations of each of the five systems. Mr. Lawrence stated that there should more communication between the Election Board and County Council. Mr. Belefonte agreed that they should meet as a group so that the Election Board can be involved in the decision for the new machines.

The board then mentioned that County Council had invited someone who had made conclusions about our current machines that were incorrect and Mr. Belefonte suggested that there be a letter of refusal to this issue and that there should be more communications and meetings with County Council.

There was then discussion on more central polling places or regional centers which is not currently allowed. There was continued discussion on this topic in regards to party by laws and that there may be some resistance but in other locations. There was a brief discussion regarding consolidation and the board mentioned Chester City may wish to consolidate and see how it works out.

Next there was discussion regarding polling site behavior complaints filed with both the Bureau and the Democratic Party. Mr. Lawrence mentioned the extraordinary number of complaints this election without reason being known, which is a must per case law. Discussion continued that reports filed without details creates a lot of extra work for everyone involved only to have the matter withdrawn.

Mr. Possenti stated that the Election Board is in good hands and the board thanked the different offices for all their hard work.

Mr. Belefonte asked if there was anything further matter and hearing none. Meeting adjourned at 11:05 a.m.