September 17, 2020 PRE GENERAL ELECTION MEETING OF THE DELAWARE COUNTY ELECTION BOARD

PRESENT: Gerald Lawrence, Chairman
Jim Byrne
Ashley Lunkenheimer
William Martin, County Solicitor

Also Present: Laureen Hagan, Bureau of Elections
Marianne Jackson, Bureau of Elections
Jim Savage, Voting Machine Warehouse
Crystal Winterbottom, Voter Registration

Pledge of Allegiance.

Board Review of Meeting Minutes. Mr. Byrne moved a motion to accept minutes of the August 20, 2020 and September 3, 2020 meetings and seconded by Ms. Lunkenheimer. The motion carried with unanimous vote of Board members to approve them.

Public Comments. Mr. Lawrence explained that comments received would be attached to publicly available meeting minutes. Mr. Martin read public comments received after those Board members received from Ms. Hagan and read in advance of the meeting.

Comments relating to agenda items:

Jason Magidson – Comment on scanner configurations since voters are using a new process.

Lynn Fitzgerald – Important voters understand how to use the new voting system to ensure proper voting with their ballots.

Paula Brown – Preference to keep Darby Borough 2-1 polling location at Pennwood Middle School.

Pam Magidson – Scanners should be programmed to notify voters about issues with how they completed their ballots to ensure ballots are completed as intended.

Angela Maskart- Darby Borough 2-1 polling location should remain at Pennwood Middle School. Darby Borough 3-1 polling location should remain at Walnut Street School.

Andy Reilly – Under-voting alarms should be turned off to minimize voter confusion and delaying the voting process and to avoid violating a voter's right to vote in privacy.

Martin Burman- Bureau of Elections should notify voters if their ballots completed at the poll location are returned with under votes.

David Dee – Scanners should alert voters to improperly completed ballots to ensure all intended votes in races are counted.

Susan Benston – Scanners should not be programmed to confirm under-voting to maintain voter privacy and to minimize delays in the voting process. Voters have a right to vote or not in specific races.

Christine Katubi- Preference to keep polling location at Pennwood Middle School.

Gina Sage- No alarm should be placed on the voting machine to avoid delays and violating voter privacy.

Amy Binder – Favors turning on under vote alarm.

Bonnie Hallam – Favors turning on under vote alarm.

Tim Tuinstra - Favors turning on under vote alarm.

Lawrence Richards -Darby Borough 2-1 polling location should remain at Pennwood Middle School.

Barbara Jones- Keep Darby Borough 2-1 polling location at Pennwood Middle School.

PA Supreme Court Decisions. Mr. Martin summarized two related, but independent, decisions the PA Supreme Court handed down today (09/17/2020). The Green party presidential candidate was removed from the ballot in the first decision. This was the last remaining factor preventing the state from finalizing the ballot. There were five (5) decisions made in the second decision:

> (1) hand-delivered ballots may be accepted at other county board election office addresses; including at drop boxes.
>
> (2) ballots will be accepted for counting until 5:00 P.M. on Friday, November 6, 2020, providing they are postmarked on or before November 3rd or there is no proof that they were mailed after November 3rd, for example having a Nov. 4th postmark or later.
>
> (3) county election boards are not required to give voters the opportunity to correct incorrect or incomplete ballots;
>
> (4) returned ballots not enclosed in a privacy or so-called secrecy envelope must be disqualified, meaning they will not be counted;
>
> (5) poll watchers must be residents of the county within which they intend to serve in that function.

Mr. Martin said the Election Code suggests any challenges would go to the Delaware County Election Board and then up to the Courts, as necessary. Mr. Byrne commented the Board should be mindful that federal court decisions could be forthcoming. Ms. Lunkenheimer emphasized there must be a strong focus on the use of the secrecy envelope in voter training efforts.

Director of Elections Report.   Ms. Jackson updated the Board on questions and issues members previously expressed relating to the Center for Tech and Civic Life (CTCL) grant. She reported that members were provided information in advance of the meeting in response to their earlier requests for information on dropbox ballot collection and security. A discussion ensued about what is provided in the county's plans on these topics. Good-faith efforts will be made to have dropbox signage emphasize one voter/one ballot usage and to appropriately identify three bipartisan collection teams of two people per team collecting ballots. Ms. Lunkenheimer

suggested Mr. Martin should be consulted as to the most appropriate means for identifying individual political party affiliation when organizing bipartisan collection teams.

Ms. Jackson explained that what were previously referred to as satellite offices are now known as voter service centers and will be located in Upper Darby, (City of) Chester, and Media. Information was provided to members before the meetings regarding the Chester site and hours of operation for each of the centers. Planning is ongoing regarding the mobile voter service centers concept of transporting equipment for setting up as many as 12 stations in community locations across the county. Ms. Jackson said Board members will receive more information as plans are more fully developed. Efforts are underway to identify several community venues with reliable internet connection and safe, secure and ADA-compliant areas capable of serving large numbers of voters, giving them the option to request ballots, complete them, and deposit them all in one visit. Anticipated opening for all service centers is October first. Hours at the Chester location would be weekdays from 9:00A.M. – 2:00 P.M. to coincide with Chester City Hall's hours of operation and on Saturday from 10:00 A.M. – 2:00 P.M. Hours at the Upper Darby location are expected to be on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 7:30 A.M. to 2:00 P.M and Saturdays from 10:00 A.M. – 2:00 P.M. Hours at the Media location on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from regular business hours of 8:30 A.M.- 4:30 P.M. with extended hours on Tuesday and Thursday from 8:30 A.M. – 800 P.M and Saturday from 9:00 A.M. – 12:00 P.M. noon. Mr. Martin will have the pre-read memos Board members received posted for public consumption or share with Board members why that is not possible.

Polling location changes. Mr. Savage detailed poll location changes as follows:

1. Darby Borough 2-1 petition received to move from Pennwood Middle School to Darby Borough Recreation Center. Mr. Lawrence said the petition is denied in the absence of a motion being made;

2. Bipartisan agreement for Radnor 1-1 and 2-3 to move to Wayne Presbyterian Church. Radnor 3-1 to move Sulpizio Gym. Radnor 5-1 to move to Sacred Heart Academy. Radnor 4-2 to move to Ithan Elementary School;

3. Bipartisan agreement for Haverford 6-3 to move to Chestnutwold Elementary School;

4. Bipartisan agreement for Tinicum 2 to move to trailer leased to Messina Electric;

5. Bipartisan agreement for Upper Providence 3 to move to Rosetree Elementary School.

Ms. Lunkenheimer moved a motion to vote on bipartisan agreements to move poll locations as presented and Mr. Byrne seconded. The motion carried with the unanimous vote of the Board to approve them.

Mr. Savage detailed one poll location change recommended by the Voting Machine Department as follows:

1. East Lansdowne (East) to move to East Lansdowne Borough Hall. Ms. Lunkenheimer moved a motion to vote on the recommendation to change the poll location and Mr. Byrne seconded. The motion carried with the unanimous vote of the Board to approve the recommendation.

Homeless precincts. Mr., Savage explained there are currently five (5) homeless precincts for which resolutions are being sought-- Clifton Heights-4, Haverford 1-3 and 1-4, Darby Borough 3-1, and Norwood-2.

Ballot scanner warning notices. Ms. Hagan explained the new voting machines can provide a silent on-screen message indicating whether a ballot was successfully received, They can provide overvote or undervote notices. Pennsylvania law requires voters to be notified if their ballot is blank (no vote) or if there is an overvote. However, the Board can decide if voting machines should also display silent on-screen messages regarding undervotes as well. Ms. Hagan recommended that on-screen undervote notices not be provided since doing so could potentially lead to long lines given anticipated heavy voter turnout and possibly compromise voter privacy should voters request assistance from poll workers. A discussion ensued regarding the pros and cons of activating the undervote alarm. Ms. Lunkenheimer moved a motion to turn on the undervote alert for only the 2020 general election and was seconded by Mr. Lawrence. The motion carried 2-1 with Ms. Lunkenheimer and Mr. Lawrence voting yes and Mr. Byrne voting no.

Interim Director of Elections report. Ms. Jackson reported that election website is being revamped to make it more user friendly and provide more information in response to voter requests that election information be updated on the website. A voter hotline will be established to answer election-related questions from voters. The number will be 610-891-VOTE once the hotline is operational.

Chief Clerk of Elections report. Ms. Hagan reported that more than 91,000 ballot applications have been processed to date by the Bureau of Elections. The County can begin a testing process since the state certified ballots on September 17th. It's expected that ballots will start mailing out the week of September 28th. She added that any voter who opted in the spring to receive a ballot for the November general election will automatically be sent one. Any voter who previously applied for a ballot and does so a second time will receive a message that the duplicate application has been declined. Ms. Hagan emphasized that the first ballot request will be honored by mailing ballots to applicants. A "ballot pending" messages indicates a ballot request has been processed and a ballot will be mailed out.

Voter Registration report. Ms. Winterbottom reported that the backlog of processing voter registrations has been reduced to just a few days and continues to improve. Mr. Lawrence urged people organizing voter registrations drive to bring the registrations in early to ensure timely processing. Please don't drop thousands of registrations off at the last moment, giving limited staff too little time to process them.

Public comments. Mr. Martin read public comments received after the start of today's meeting.

Sandhya Taghavi - Detailed poll worker manual is needed as a ready reference.

Dr. Carolina Edwards – Where can voter questions be directed regarding dropbox security and the opportunity for bipartisan representatives to observe the process for picking up deposited ballots?

David Dee – Can I vote in person if I already have a mail-in ballot?

Mr. Martin read public comments received today since 3:00 P.M.

Maria Kane - Who will observe the verification and counting of absentee and mail-in ballots?

Cynthia Long – Questions relating to dropbox location, advertising, costs for staff to empty dropboxes, and integrity/protection against one person delivering multiple ballots.

Carl Balis – Suggest turning on undervote alert.

Ruth Moton – What security is in place to prevent tampering and how is help being solicited from the public?

Michael Martin – How will signatures on mail ballots be compared and verified against signatures on file and by whom?

 Mr. Lawrence adjourned the meeting after stating there was no other business.