

**October 21, 2020 PRE PRIMARY MEETING OF THE DELAWARE COUNTY  
ELECTION BOARD**

**PRESENT:** Gerald Lawrence, Chairman  
Ashley Lunkenheimer  
James Byrne

Also Present: Laureen Hagan, Bureau of Elections  
Marianne Jackson, Bureau of Elections  
Crystal Winterbottom, Interim Voter Registration Office

Pledge of Allegiance.

Board review of meeting minutes. Mr. Byrne remarked that someone witnessed multiple ballots being deposited into a drop box at the Government Center and indicated the incident should be referred to the district attorney's office. Mr. Lawrence directed Ms. Hagan to ensure meeting minutes were updated accordingly.

Drop box security plan. Ms. Jackson provided several updates.

- Thirty-two (32) drop boxes have been activated for public use and trained two-person teams of previously furloughed county employees are being dispatched to retrieve ballots for purposed of consistent routing and pick-up times. Nine (9) additional sites are being finalized and other municipalities have expressed interest in hosting a drop box. Currently we have 40sets of surveillance equipment for 41 drop boxes. One drop box with appropriate staffing will be installed inside the municipal building at Chadds Ford Township's request with access limited to the building's hours of operation from 8:00am - 4:30pm.
- Personnel will be assigned 24/7 to only monitor drop box surveillance video feeds.
- Forty-one drop boxes should be available to Delaware County voters by Monday for the collection of ballots.
- A discussion ensued regarding timing of municipalities responding with expressions of interest in drop boxes; adequate lighting for surveillance cameras; in-person staffing by the Election Bureau for a drop box located inside the Government Center building and during voter service center hours of operation; and equity of indoor installation and limited access to a drop box in Chadds Ford.
- Information previously provided, at Mr. Byrne's request , regarding voter service center and mobile voter services security.
- Mr. Byrne asked about logistics, staffing, and political party presence at the Subaru Park event.

Emergency appointments. Mr. Parks recommended the Board grant authority to Christina Iacono in the Bureau of Elections to make emergency appointments for filling local election board vacancies. Ms. Lunkenheimer made a motion to delegate responsibility to Ms. Ms. Iacono for making emergency appointments and seconded by Mr. Byrne. A discussion ensued regarding election code provisions for making emergency appointments. The motion carried with the unanimous vote of board members to approve it.

Pre-canvass and canvass process. Mr. Parks recommended the Board grant authority for Bureau of Election staff to make determinations required in the pre-canvass and canvass process, for example, as per the election code , examining absentee and mail-in ballots in consultation with the solicitor and bringing questionable ballots to the Board for review. Ms. Lunkenheimer made

a motion to delegate authority regarding responsibility for the pre-canvass and canvass process and seconded by Mr. Byrne.

Public Comments on pre-canvass and canvass motion.

Carol Miller – Are watchers permitted to observe the pre-canvass and canvass process?

The motion carried with unanimous vote of Board member to approve it.

Blue Crest Vantage sorter. Mr. Parks explained the Blue Crest Vantage sorter can measure the thickness of a returned ballot envelope and is determined to be of a certain thinness, suggesting the presence of a naked ballot inside the envelope.

- He queried whether this feature should be activated in order to notify voters of a potential naked ballot issue and provide an opportunity for them to correct it.
- A discussion ensued about how such ballots would be recorded in the system and potentially corrected by voters, what the law provides for in this regard, whether any other county has adopted such a policy, and how suspected naked ballots would be segregated for further review.
- Ms. Hagan reported that as of last night 139,150 ballot applications were processed and have sent out 136,921 ballots to voters. The backlog of hard copy applications has been brought current with approximately 1400 ballots sent out. Online applications totaling 5500 there are to be processed are about two weeks old.
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Public comments. Ms. Lunkenheimer made a motion to hear public comments and Mr. Byrne seconded.

Carol Miller- What's the process for requesting a ballot in person? What if the ballot is defective?

Councilwoman Christine Reuther – My understanding is if affirmation is not signed then, as with a naked ballot, it would not be counted. Why do ballots have to be marked received if it's known that it won't be counted and effectively prevent a voter from voting with a provisional ballot or a replacement ballot?

Michael Puppio – Board's motion might invite litigation that would provide clarification. Disparities could be created when contacting people regarding the status of their ballot since not everyone has access to or used email. Important to trust the voter. The process must end at some point.

Jamil Kahn – Poor sound quality

Olivia Thorn – Poor sound quality

Val Antonello? – Poor sound quality

Cynthia Long – Questions about the privacy and equity of sending out emails regarding a voter's ballot status.

Jodine Mayberry – Many people are using a mail in ballot for the first time and should be allowed to correct defects.

Leah Hoopes – Concerned current law doesn't provide for voters to correct ballots and about additional costs to train staff on the process.

Andy Reilly – Rule for curing naked ballots should be done on state-wide basis and supervision is needed for voters correcting their ballots to ensure they don't change it.

Mr. Lawrence tabled the motion.

Director of Elections report. Ms. Jackson reported that poll worker training was posted on the website and hands-on equipment training sessions will be held along teleconferences with equipment manufacturer representatives to answer poll worker questions. A pick-up/drop-off process is being developed for poll workers that will feature multiple sites. A mock election is scheduled on October 30<sup>th</sup> for internal training purposes to better understand the flow for processing ballots. Seeing a high volume of people visiting the voter service centers.

Chief Clerk report. Ms. Hagan reported that operations are in good shape with the addition of some new staff members.

Voting Machine Warehouse report. Mr. Lawrence reported on Mr. Savage's behalf that his department is working with Bureau of Elections staff to distribute printed ballots to appropriate locations.

Voter Registration report. Ms. Winterbottom reported there are 422,000 registered in Delaware County. Backlog of processing voter registrations has been nearly eliminated and processing is expected to be completed tomorrow.

Public Comment. Mr. Lawrence invited comments from the public.

Michael Puppio – Public should be educated that depositing more than one ballot without appropriate authorization forms is a violation of the election code. Public should also be educated to not vote a naked ballot. The County bears a responsibility to communicate with poll workers about training.

Deb Biancaniello – Are there enough workers?

Andy Reilly – Critical mistake was made in having cameras at drop boxes except for one at Government Center. Boxes should've been staffed to ensure people are only dropping off their own ballots. There's an acknowledgement that ballot harvesting is wrong but there is insufficient security in place to discourage it.

Richard Gibney – Concerning comment made at a County Council meeting that seemed to minimize people depositing multiple ballots for family members into a drop box. The DA's office is acknowledging that this is happening. Why were pop-up voting centers only in Chester and not offered in other parts of the County?

Leah Hoopes – She was insulted by being named in an injunction and referred to online by a County Council member. Was anyone in the Voting Machine Warehouse responsible for picking up ballots?

Cynthia Long – More detail was provided regarding drop box issues raised earlier by Mr. Puppio. Larger signs are needed. Some training modules are grayed out on the website and are not available. The emphasis on online training disadvantages people without computer access. What are the dates for in-person training?

Donald Swanson – He was concerned after receiving a phone call indicating only 60 votes were cast at his poll location, but he knew there were 161 voters since he was the last person to vote as was his custom.

Mr. Lawrence adjourned the meeting after stating there were no other public comments to consider.