

**April 16, 2020 PRE PRIMARY MEETING OF THE
DELAWARE COUNTY ELECTION BOARD**

PRESENT: Gerald Lawrence, Chairman
Ashley Lunkenheimer (via phone)
James Byrne (via phone)

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

Mr. Lawrence called the meeting to order 9:30 a.m.

Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. Lawrence welcomed everyone and informed the public that the Bureau of Elections, Voting Machine Warehouse and Voter Registration have been deemed essential per the Governor and he personally agrees that without the hard work of these 3 office there would be no election and without elections there would be no democracy.

Ms. Hagan advised the Board of items in need of review; first item was the release of ballots as there is still one matter before the court to consider. The board should consider when the release should be as at this moment there are already 12,500 requests processed and at least another 10,000 in que with more coming in daily and a sooner rather than later release may be more manageable. The next item discussed was the notice that online applicants receive, and Ms. Hagan stated that the responses were canned responses from within the State system, however if the Board wished we can add more detailed information. Ms. Hagan stated that the mailed responses give the registration deadline date and the email and address can be added.

Mr. Lawrence agreed and instructed the Bureau of Elections to add the address and email to the responses received by the mail in applicants and add the additional information to the responses received by the online applicants as well. The rest of the Board agreed unanimously, The next item discussed were drop boxes. Ms. Hagan stated that one company stated that they could get the boxes for the June 2nd Primary. Ms. Hagan stated that they range between \$2,00.00 - \$3,000.00 a box and it would be like the ones that the District Attorney has for the medication drop off. Ms. Lunkenheimer stated that these would be long term investments. Ms. Hagan informed the Board that the company did inform her that if properly cared for they could last decades. Mr. Lawrence then stated that they are not disposable but large steel boxes and will pass on additional information as received. Mr. Lawrence also stated that he understands the concerns from voters on both sides in regard to being vandalized.

Ms. Hagan spoke to the Board about possibly considering adding postage to the return envelope in light of the current conditions. Mr. Lawrence stated that Philadelphia is going to be doing it. He went on to say that there would be a cost but that there are some who may not have the money and that there would be a cost and convenience to consider. Mr. Byrnes stated that he understands this position, however voting is a privilege. Ms. Lunkenheimer stated that for some the price of a stamp may be taxing in today's situation both financially and there should not be a poll tax to vote. She suggested that the Board recommend that County Council fund the postage. Ms. Lunkenheimer moved that the Board recommend County Council to fund or request that the state fund the postage on the return envelope and Mr. Byrne seconded the motion. Motion carried 2 (Mr. Lawrence & Ms. Lunkenheimer) – 1 (Mr. Byrne).

The next topic of discussion was the possible consolidating and joining of precincts and polling locations if there are not enough poll workers or locations and possible training options. Mr.

Lawrence expressed that with concerns about getting enough workers possibly look geographically. Ms. Hagan stated that there are guidelines from the state. Some of the considerations should be the size of the space and if consolidated polls would fit safely as well as look at it geographically, is the voter forced to travel a distance.

Mr. Lawrence stated that another issue to decide on next week is the database and scanner settings which will be explained. The decision of what the scanner would reject and will be discussed next week for programming next Thursday at 9:30 am. Any public comment send to publiccomment@co.delaware.pa.us.

Voting Machine Warehouse. Mr. Savage discussed the spreadsheet of polling place change status and informed the board that one vulnerable polling location fell through the cracks and it was in Yeadon 3 Grace Court but have two possible alternatives. Mr. Savage stated that the locations in red has no alternative location yet but include Edgmont 2 (White Horse Village), Middletown 3-3 & 4-1 (Granite Farms and Lima Estates) and Radnor 4-2 (Rosemont Presbyterian Village). Mr. Savage went on to inform the board that there were 2 other location Darby Borough 3-1 (Darby Fire Patrol #2) that no longer exists and Upper Darby 4-6 (private basement) that also must move. Mr. Savage did inform the board that there was polling consolidation in Chester City of polling locations for Chester City 1-4, Chester City 2-3 & 4 which will move to the Days Inn which currently houses Chester City 2-1. There was some more discussion on the dimensions and logistics of the move.

Mr. Byrne made a motion to approve the move of Chester City 1-4, 2-3 & 4 to the Days Inn and it was seconded by Ms. Lunkenheimer. Motion approved 3-0.

Mr. Byrne and Ms. Lunkenheimer thanked the dedicated staff for the continued changes and hard work.

Public Comment. None.

Meeting adjourned 9:57a.m.