



Delaware County Bureau of Elections  
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May 24, 2021

**Transmitted via email**

Mr. Thomas J. McGarrigle, Chair  
Delaware County Republican Party

Ms. Colleen Guiney, Chair  
Delaware County Democratic Party

Dear Party Leaders McGarrigle and Guiney,

First off, I want to congratulate you both on having precincts where turnouts far exceeded, and in some cases more than doubled, the Primary turnouts of 2015, 2017 and 2019. Overall, we had a successful election with higher turnouts, fewer provisional ballots, more complete poll-worker training, smoother pick-up/drop-off sites and no precincts with extended hours.

Secondly, I want to address complaints we had in certain precincts. Months before I became Delaware County Director of Elections, the Chief Clerk of the Bureau of Elections, Laureen Hagan, and Delaware County Information Technology programmer John Barton, placed the order for ballots for the 2021 Primary Election. The statutes require us to compare 2015, 2017 and 2019 turnouts, identify the highest number for each precinct and add 10% to that number (Section 1007, Paragraph 3). Ms. Hagan and Mr. Barton prepared the data and ordered ballots for 20% more than the highest turnouts, and then rounded up to factors of 50. (If the 20% increase equated to 51-99 ballots, the order for that precinct was rounded up to 100 ballots; if the 20% increase equated to 101-149, that order was rounded up to 150; and so on.)

As we received calls on Election Day for more ballots from some of our precincts, we worked to print and ship additional ballots and advised poll workers to have voters use the touch writer. Please note, in all cases, even if the poll workers temporarily exhaust all paper ballots, voting can continue on the touch-writers. A review of the unofficial results for in-person voting indicates:

- 391 precincts had surplus Republican ballots,
- 21 precincts had shortages of 1-19 Republican ballots,
- 11 precincts had shortages of 20-50 Republican ballots, and
- 5 precincts had shortages of 51-73 Republican ballots.
- Unofficial ballots-cast totals indicate that in-person Election Day Republican voting in the 38 precincts with shortages had increased by anywhere from 24% to 115% (an average of 61%), over the previous highs from 2015-2019.
- 426 precincts had surplus Democratic ballots,
- 2 precincts had shortages of Democratic ballots, one with 24 and another with 30.
- Unofficial ballots-cast totals indicate that in-person Election Day Democratic voting in these two precincts with shortages increased 129% and 79% respectively, over the previous highs from 2015-2019.

In closing, the Election Code does not account for these kinds of turnout shifts that are going to be most pronounced in a Municipal Primary, as detailed in the enclosure.

Moving forward, I assure you we will do the following:

- Order more ballots.
- Have more rapid-response contingencies.
- Consult with you ahead of the election to determine if there may be boroughs, towns, wards or precincts to flag for above-average voter interest.

Please feel free to call me at 610-891-4862 with any questions or concerns. I hope this information is helpful and thank you for the opportunity to be of assistance.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James P. Allen", with a horizontal line underneath the name.

James P. Allen  
Director of Election Operations

Enclosure

cc: Board of Elections

Republican Party: Precincts with exceptional increases

Precinct	2015 Turnout	2017 Turnout	2019 Turnout	Ballots Ordered	2021 Turnout	Increase from highest 2015-2019
Springfield 6-2	33	82	74	100	173	110.98%
Springfield 6-1	75	77	80	100	171	113.75%
Springfield 4-3	98	110	102	150	210	90.91%
Thornbury 3	81	53	82	100	157	91.46%
Springfield 6-3	63	72	71	100	152	111.11%
Springfield 7-3	114	118	139	200	247	77.70%
Haverford 9-4	44	55	64	100	138	115.63%
Springfield 2-3	107	116	104	150	185	59.48%
Springfield 4-2	100	120	164	200	232	41.46%
Springfield 7-1	99	76	116	150	182	56.90%
Springfield 4-1	76	90	95	150	181	90.53%
Bethel 2	80	82	100	150	176	76.00%
Media East	70	75	82	100	123	50.00%
Upper Darby 4-11	31	28	38	50	73	92.11%
Haverford 9-2	52	71	81	100	122	50.62%
Upper Darby 1-3	59	76	75	100	121	59.21%

Democratic Party: Precincts with exceptional increases

Precinct	2015 Turnout	2017 Turnout	2019 Turnout	Ballots Ordered	2021 Turnout	Increase from highest 2015-2019
Upper Darby 3-11	7	13	35	50	80	128.57%
Haverford 5-3	39	52	97	150	174	79.38%

printing of ballots is started, his name shall be substituted in place of that of the candidate who has died or withdrawn.

Section 1007. Number of Ballots to Be Printed; Specimen Ballots.--(a) The county board of each county shall provide for each election district a supply of official election ballots for:

(1) the general primary election held in even-numbered years in which candidates for the office of President of the United States are not nominated in an amount of at least 10% greater than the highest number of ballots cast in the election district in any of the previous three general primary elections at which candidates for the office of President of the United States were not nominated;

(2) the general primary election held in even-numbered years in which candidates for the office of President of the United States are nominated in an amount of at least 15% greater than the highest number of ballots cast in the election district in any of the previous three general primary elections at which candidates for the office of President of the United States were nominated;

(3) the municipal primary election held in odd-numbered years in an amount of at least 10% greater than the highest number of ballots cast in any of the previous three municipal primary elections in the election district;

(4) the general election held in even-numbered years in which candidates for the office of President of the United States are not elected in an amount of at least 10% greater than the highest number of ballots cast in the election district in any of the previous three general elections at which candidates for the office of President of the United States were not elected;

(5) the general election held in even-numbered years in which candidates for the office of President of the United States are elected in an amount of at least 15% greater than the highest number of ballots cast in the election districts in any of the previous three general elections at which candidates for the office of President of the United States were elected; and

(6) the municipal election held in odd-numbered years in an amount of at least 10% greater than the highest number of ballots cast in any of the previous three municipal elections in the election district.

(b) The county board of each county shall also, in addition to the number of ballots required to be printed for general distribution, maintain a sufficient supply of such ballots at the office of the county board for the use of absentee electors or mail-in electors and for the use of any district, the ballots for which may be lost, destroyed or stolen. They shall also cause to be printed on tinted paper, and without the facsimile endorsements or permanent binding, copies of the form of ballots provided for each polling place at each primary or election therein, which shall be called specimen ballots, and which shall be of the same size and form as the official ballots, and at each election they shall deliver to the election officers, in

addition to the official ballots to be used at such election, a suitable supply of specimen ballots for the use of the electors. At each primary, a suitable supply of specimen ballots of each party shall be furnished. ((b) amended Nov. 27, 2019, P.L.673, No.94)

(1007 amended Oct. 31, 2019, P.L.552, No.77)

Section 1008. Forms of Ballots on File and Open to Public Inspection; Ballots and Responses to Be Furnished to Candidates