

November 9, 2021 Post-Election Meeting of the Delaware County Board of Elections

In attendance:

Gerald Lawrence, Chair
Ashley Lunkenheimer, Board Member
John P. McBlain, Board Member
J. Manly Parks, Solicitor
Jim Allen, Director of Elections

Michael Puppio, Springfield
Tom Danzi
Michael Ruggeri, Haverford
Elijah Johnson, Lansdowne
Debbie Truscello, Upper Providence
Lawrence E. Weigand III, Marcus Hook
Jamilla O'Neill, Chester City
Donna Cantor, Middletown
Louis Defor
George Badey, Radnor Twp.

Mr. Lawrence called the meeting to order

Pledge of Allegiance

Consideration of Agenda.

Approval of Minutes: No minutes to approve.

Elections Director Allen reported on the election. Board comments followed.

Of note, the Court of Common Pleas approved the Board's list of special safeguards and procedures to follow in processing any ballot envelopes returned from "File 4." Mr. Allen explained the procedures, including signature verifications, which were performed with the 429 return envelopes that were received from "File 4." He noted that in most cases, voters impacted by "File 4" returned the corrected envelopes from a second re-mailing to those voters. Regardless of whether the original or corrected envelopes were returned from "File 4," in all cases, the Board verified signatures against the corresponding voter-registration records, consistent with the Court order, Mr. Allen reported.

Ms. Lunkenheimer made the motion and Mr. McBlain seconded the motion to have Board staff open and process the first 412 ballot envelopes from the File 4 returns, consistent with staff recommendations.

Comments were made by members of the audience, including Michael Puppio, Tom Danzi, Michael Ruggieri, Elijah Johnson, Debbie Truscello and Lawrence E. Weigand III. Board unanimously approved the motion to process the first 412 ballot envelopes listed per the recommendations in the report from Mr. Allen.

Mr. Allen then presented considerations for the remaining ballot envelopes that were returned from File 4. Ms. Lunkenheimer moved and Mr. McBlain seconded a motion to count ballot 413. Motion was approved 3-0. Ms. Lunkenheimer moved and Mr. McBlain seconded a motion to count ballot 414. Motion was approved 3-0. Mr. McBlain moved and Ms. Lunkenheimer seconded a motion to follow staff recommendations on ballots 415 through 429. Motion was approved 3-0.

Recommendations were still pending on Absentee Ballots envelopes that initially were sent to voters with incorrect return envelopes. Ms. Lunkenheimer moved and Mr. McBlain seconded a motion to table this item until the November 12, 2021 meeting. Motion approved 3-0.

Recommendations were still pending on Provisional Ballots. Ms. Lunkenheimer moved and Mr. McBlain seconded a motion to table the matter until the November 12, 2021 meeting as well. Motion approved 3-0.

The Board next considered treatment of ballot envelopes from the USPS 8:09 pm delivery on Election Night. Mr. Parks explained that a Postal Service worker arrived with ballots by 7:55 pm on Election Night but then was summoned to return to the Post Office to retrieve additional on-time mail-in-ballot envelopes. However, the worker did not get back to the Bureau of Elections with those additional envelopes until 8:09 p.m. Mr. McBlain moved and Ms. Lunkenheimer seconded a motion to consider approving processing of the batch from 8:09 p.m. Board and public comments were heard. Motion failed 2-1, meaning staff would preserve the "8:09 p.m." ballot envelopes sealed, and no ballots from the envelopes would be counted.

Public comments were heard.

Next meeting was scheduled for November 12, 2021 at 2 p.m. in the County Council Meeting Room.

Meeting was adjourned.