

**ELECTION BOARD**  
**November 2, 2020**

**Present at the meeting were:**

Gary Eby  
Brenda Watson  
Patti McLaughlin  
Bill Bunt  
Bonnie Delancey  
Shannon Hines

**Present from the Public via Phone/In Person:** Brian Allen, Karen Anderson, Alane Balchunas, Karen Barclay, Susan Chopp, Noah Cline, Donna Cohick, Gene Cohick, Ben Cramer, Evelyn D’Elia, Dave Hammar, Doug Hudgins, Ann Miller, Joanne Rherder, Cindy Roney, Marty Smith, Melanie Wertz, and Jacob Zentichko

The Election Board met on Monday, November 2, 2020 at 11:30 a.m. The meeting was conducted via telephone conference and in person in the Extension Office Meeting Room. The meeting was recorded by the County.

**Public Comments:** Karen Anderson asked how many mail-in ballots had been received by the County. She also questioned if they had been sorted or reviewed for deficiencies. Ms. Anderson provided information on the role of a canvas observer and stated that each party and each candidate are able to have a canvas observer. She stated that the canvas observer’s role is to collect ID numbers from deficient ballots and then call the voter to encourage them to go to the polls to vote. She said a canvas observer would be present at the County on Election Day and asked what would work best to get the information on the deficient ballots.

Melanie Wertz questioned the training that will be provided to the Election Day volunteers. She stated that the volunteers were very concerned about mask wearing and she provided her phone number to them to call and report if masks were not being worn. Ms. Wertz also commented that she would be sending a revised volunteer listing.

Alane Balchunas questioned who would be providing face shields.

**Approval of the Minutes:** Patti McLaughlin made a motion to approve the minutes from the October 26, 2020 meeting. Commissioner Watson seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried.

**Meeting Business:** Election Litigation Update: Solicitor Bunt stated that as of last week the Supreme Court decision stands for counting mail-in ballots postmarked and received after Election Day but prior to 5:00 p.m. November 6<sup>th</sup>. He said that a guidance had been provided on how to segregate these ballots and the County would be following this guidance. He said it is clear by law that ballots that are not in secrecy envelopes cannot be counted. Solicitor Bunt also stated that the declaration on the outer envelope must be completed and signed. He said he is expecting further guidance from the Commonwealth on mail-in ballots received after Election Day.

Election Day Process: Commissioner Eby reiterated that on Election Day, ballots would start to be opened at 7:00 a.m. He said that all volunteers would be sworn in and instructions would be provided regarding the processing of the ballots. He stated that a fluid system needed to be developed for ballots that may have deficiencies. Patti McLaughlin stated that the questionable ballots should be separated and then reviewed all together at a later time. Boxes will be provided to deposit questionable ballots into for later review. Commissioner Eby asked what plan was in place if processing is not completed by a certain time. Commissioner Watson stated that the process cannot stop until all precincts come in, and she recommended evaluating where the processing is at that time. The Board agreed that they would touch base when the precincts come in to determine the next steps. Discussion occurred regarding segregating the ballots received after Election Day. Commissioner Eby stated that all Election Day processing would occur in one building instead of multiple locations.

**Public Comments:** Alane Balchunas questioned which building the Election Day processing would occur in.

Melanie Wertz asked when she would be contacted asking for additional volunteers for additional days of ballot processing. She said the Democratic Party wants representation during the processing. Ms. Wertz stated that she had been gathering names of volunteers that may be able to help on additional days but said that letting her know sooner rather than later is appreciated. It was decided that the official party observer would be notified if additional volunteers are needed.

Alane Balchunas asked what time of day the questionable ballot information will be provided to the observer, so that that voter can be contacted to go to the polls to vote.

Karen Anderson said that she had trained at the State levels on pre-canvas and canvas observing. She commented that the point of the training was on curing the questionable ballots and contacting the voters to go to the polls to vote. She stated that the voter ID number on the back of the mail-in envelope is the voter identifier. Ms. Anderson said she would text that number to the State and someone would then contact the voter. She said the issue is that the questionable ballot information needs to be communicated timely so that the voters can be notified. She said she would take a picture of the number or the information could be communicated to her via a list. Solicitor Bunt recommended that no commitment be made to either party on communicating voter information on questionable ballots to an observer. Ms. Anderson stated she would be contacting the ACLU if the County did not comply. Ms. Anderson said she needed to know today if a canvas observer will be able to notify voters of an incomplete ballot. She said this procedure is part of the election code. Again, Ms. Anderson stated that not allowing notification is illegal and she would be contacting the ACLU. Solicitor Bunt provided information from the election code regarding ballot and precinct listing comparison. Ms. Anderson reiterated that the questionable ballots cannot sit in a box without notifying the voters of the ballot deficiency. She stated that the person had the right to know their mail-in ballot was not going to be counted due to a deficiency and that they can go to the polls to vote. Ms. Anderson asked if she could take photos of the voter ID numbers again. She stated that she could provide the statute if necessary. The Board stated that they will consult legal counsel on the issue.

Alane Balchunas asked who the Board will consult for legal advice on the canvas observer issue Ms. Anderson brought up. She asked if they would go to the Secretary of State for legal advice.

Commissioner Watson made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Patti McLaughlin seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried.