

ELECTION BOARD

May 2, 2022

Present at the meeting were:

Gary Eby
Brenda Watson
John Cappawana
Bill Bunt
Bonnie Delancey
Shannon Hines

Present from the Public via Phone/In Person: Diane Bowman, Dana Cotton, John Schulze, and Melanie Wertz

The Election Board met on Monday, May 2, 2022 at 11:00 a.m. The meeting was conducted via WebEx video/telephone conference and in person in the Commissioners' Meeting Room. The meeting was recorded by the County.

Public Comments: Commissioner Watson welcomed John Cappawana to the Election Board and stated he was in replacement of Commissioner Allen.

Approval of the Minutes: Commissioner Eby made a motion to approve the minutes from the April 11, 2022 meeting. Mr. Cappawana seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried.

Meeting Business: Election Day Procedures: Bonnie Delancey, Election Director, commented that all mail-in ballots had been mailed out. She also said that ballots for the polling locations had also been received. Ms. Delancey said that emails had been sent to each County Party Chair on who will be in attendance on election night and she was awaiting responses.

Solicitor Bunt stated that an Executive Session was needed to discuss a legal issue. The Board went into Executive Session at 11:03 a.m.

The Election Board reconvened at 11:06 a.m.

Public Comments: Dana Cotton stated that she had received a letter from Ms. Delancey stating that anyone on the ballot was not eligible to be a watcher on election night. She commented that Election Code 25 P.S. 2650 Section B entitles candidates to be present in person for computation and canvassing of returns. Solicitor Bunt said that candidates may be present on Friday during final count, but not during election night. Ms. Cotton commented that she was running for party office, not a public office and was not clear on why a candidate could not be present on election night. Solicitor Bunt commented that each County party are asked to designate representatives for election night, but reiterated that the representatives may not be candidates on the ballot. He said if the Election Board wishes to change this process, they may do so. Ms. Cotton stated that based on the Election Code the practice is not correct.

John Schultz thanked the Board for having draft minutes available prior to the meeting. He asked what the telephone number for the Election Office is on Election Day. He also questioned if someone is available to answer the phone after 4:00 p.m. Mr. Schultz asked if he could get a guarantee that final election results from the 2021 general election and the 2022 primary election

be posted on the website. Solicitor Bunt stated that the Board of Commissioners intends to place the election results, including write-ins, on the website moving forward. Mr. Cappawana stated this is something he has also asked for in the past.

Dana Cotton asked about watcher certificates. Bonnie Delancey stated that individuals requesting a certificate, send an email or letter to the Voter Registration Office for a watcher certificate. Ms. Cotton asked when the write-in results will be available as the Democratic Party will need this information in order to reorganize. Solicitor Bunt explained the process. Ms. Cotton asked if there is a State deadline for results to be submitted, as she said the Democratic State Party reorganizes on June 17th and the County Party reorganization needs to occur prior to that date.

Diane Bowman asked about obtaining a watcher certificate. Bonnie Delancey repeated her previous response. Ms. Bowman stated that Dauphin County offers certificates to the parties and candidates without retrieving them and said she did not understand the need to have the watcher certificates retrieved. She questioned why a candidate on the ballot cannot be a watcher while ballots are counted. Solicitor Bunt repeated his previous response. Ms. Bowman asked when party elections would be available. She also questioned if a sampling of the machines are available to be viewed. Ms. Bowman said she has had previous experiences where this happened. Solicitor Bunt stated that this issue was brought up during the previous Presidential Election, and the Board did not allow this. Ms. Bowman asked if there are sample ballots to view and Bonnie Delancey said they are available for viewing in the Voter Registration/Election Office. She questioned what the Board's policy was on unelected positions that should be on the ballot in two years during the municipal election and she provided an auditor example.

Dana Cotton asked if it would be possible for historical election data be placed on the County website. She asked if she could receive this information if she requests it.

John Cappawana made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:26 a.m. Commissioner Eby seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried.