

**ELECTION BOARD**  
**October 17, 2022**

**Present at the meeting were:** Brenda Watson  
Gary Eby  
Bill Bunt  
Shannon Hines

**Present from the Public via Phone/In Person:** Mary Ann Brownawell, Crystal Failor, Sarah Geesaman, and Deb Shrawder

The Election Board met on Monday, October 17, 2022 at 11:00 a.m. The meeting was conducted virtually via WebEx video/telephone conference and in person in the Commissioners' Conference Room. The meeting was recorded by the County.

**Public Comments:** None

**Approval of the Minutes:** Commissioner Eby made a motion to approve the minutes from the October 10, 2022 meeting. Commissioner Watson seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried.

The meeting went into Executive Session at 11:07 a.m.

The meeting reconvened at 11:14 a.m.

**Meeting Business:** Sarah Geesaman, Election/Voter Registration Clerk, stated that 2,633 absentee and mail-in ballots were mailed out, and to date, 786 had been returned. Solicitor Bunt asked how that compared to the spring election for staffing purposes.

Ms. Geesaman said that the office receives numerous phone calls each day regarding the hours of the Election Office. She said the callers voice frustration that they cannot get to the office by 4:00 p.m. due to their work schedules. Due to this, she suggested that the Election Office increase their hours one evening a week leading up to election day to accommodate voters.

Ms. Geesaman also discussed election day work flow due to the need to pre-canvas and canvas at designated times. The Board discussed the location for pre-canvas and canvas activities. She also stated that she is working with EMA/911 Deputy Director, Wes Smith, regarding an Everbridge communication test to the Judges of Election in the event of an emergency. Ms. Geesaman provided an update on the HAVA grant as well. She said staff had recently participated in an election security webinar.

**Undated Ballots:** Solicitor Bunt stated that many communications have been received from the Department of State regarding dated versus undated ballots. He said his recommendation is that mail-in and absentee ballots that are properly signed and correctly dated should be counted. Solicitor Bunt said based on the most current directive from the Department of State, his recommendation is that properly signed but undated ballots should be counted, but segregated. He also recommended that ballots that are properly signed, but incorrectly dated, such as a birth date is written, should be counted but also segregated. He said by segregating the ballots in

question, they can later be removed from the total election count if the issue is clarified by the Commonwealth.

Solicitor Bunt also provided information on a post-election audit. He said this is the first year for this type of audit, but he is not sure what it will entail. He commented that as additional information is provided by the Department of State, he will provide an update.

Solicitor Bunt commented that no new directives had been received regarding naked ballots and reminded attendees that ballots received not inside a secrecy envelope will continue to not be counted. He said they will be separately segregated. Commissioner Watson said that mail-in and absentee ballots should be checked by Election staff for signatures and dates, prior to being opened on election day.

Deb Shrawder, Election/Voter Registration Deputy Director, commented that mail-in and absentee envelopes have been received that were not stamped. She said as they are received the envelopes are stamped appropriately. The Board discussed that as the ballots are opened on election day, unstamped ballots will need to be stamped.

The Board discussed offering evening hours at the Election Office. Commissioner Eby commented on the possible impact to other offices and the need to adjust work schedules to avoid overtime. The Board discussed having Voter Registration/Election staff come up with a schedule for possible evening hours for review and a plan to advertise the hours.

Commissioner Eby made a motion that Voter Registration/Election set up an extended hour schedule and have one consistent evening per week open later than 4:00 p.m., leading up to election day. Commissioner Watson seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried.

**Public Comments:** Mary Ann Brownawell asked if Perry County is accepting ballots that are postmarked after the election day deadline.

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