

ELECTION BOARD
October 31, 2022

Present at the meeting were: Brenda Watson
Gary Eby
Brian Allen
Bill Bunt via WebEx
Shannon Hines

Present from the Public via Phone/In Person: Dana Cotton, Bonnie Delancey, Sarah Geesaman, Patricia Gutheil, Kelly Rader, John Schulze, Representative Perry Stambaugh, and Wes Smith

The Election Board met on Monday, October 31, 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 Allen made a motion to approve the minutes from the October 24, 2022 meeting. Commissioner Eby seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried.

Meeting Business: Bonnie Delancey, Election/Voter Registration Director, provided the following update on mail-in, absentee, and military ballots:

	<u>Mailed</u>	<u>Returned</u>
Mail-In	2,487	1,792
Absentee	547	277
Military	8	5

She said she continues to work on watcher certificates for the Republican party and commented that she has questions for Donald McClure. Ms. Delancey said the watcher certificates for the Democratic party were mailed to Dana Cotton. She stated that the news reported that approximately 400 ballots were mailed out of Perry County illegally, which she said is incorrect. Representative Stambaugh said the ballots were not illegal, but commented that the state election system was marking them as not verified. He said the per the Department of State the issue seems to be centered around permanent mail-in ballots being marked as unverified. Representative Stambaugh commented that in his opinion the discrepancy on the not verified list will be rectified and ballots will be verified correctly. He said he was satisfied with the explanation provided in a communication by the Secretary of the Department of State.

Bonnie Delancey commented that the State system was down and the printer provided by the State was also not operational. She said she was awaiting a new printer from the State.

Solicitor Bunt said a concern was expressed to him regarding how mail-in ballots are opened and how confidentiality is maintained. He stated that the outer envelopes are all opened and then the

inner secrecy envelope is removed and separated from the outer envelope. Solicitor Bunt said that once there is a stack of inner envelopes, they are then opened.

Public Comments: Dana Cotton asked how ballots that have deficiencies such as missing dates, missing signatures, or incorrect dates are being handled. She also questioned how many ballots with deficiencies had been received. Ms. Cotton asked if a voter would call into the Voter Office to inquire about their ballot and if it was filled out correctly, would the staff inform them if the ballot was correct or not.

John Schultz asked what information was covered during the election training. He also questioned if all precincts were represented at the training. Mr. Schultz asked if the poll workers who attended the training were instructed to provide the information to any

Sarah Geesaman, Clerk in the Voter/Election Office, stated that the walkway between the Veterans Memorial Building and the Freedom Building needs to be fixed. She also said the threshold of the Freedom Building's main entrance will be repaired by the door vendor due to its height.

Dana Cotton asked if there are any changes to the polling locations in the County.

Commissioner Eby made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:19 a.m. Commissioner Allen seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried.