

**ELECTION BOARD**  
**November 7, 2022**

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

**Present from the Public via Phone/In Person:** Diane Bowman, Dana Cotton, Bonnie Delancey, Sarah Geesaman, Patricia Gutheil

The Election Board met on Monday, November 7, 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:** Dana Cotton asked if she could get a listing of mail in ballots that were rejected due to signature or date issues. She also questioned if a voter would come into the Voter Registration Office because their ballot was rejected, could he/she cure the ballot. Ms. Cotton asked how many ballots had been rejected to date and if those individuals could vote by provisional ballot. She stated that there are approximately 20 people that she is aware of that did not receive their ballots. Ms. Cotton commented that it seems as though the ballots are being mailed to a voting address and not a mailing address. Bonnie Delancey said she would address these address issues with Ms. Cotton after the meeting. Lastly, she asked if she could receive a listing of the names of the Judges of Elections of each precinct.

**Approval of the Minutes:** Commissioner Eby made a motion to approve the minutes from the October 31, 2022 meeting. Commissioner Allen seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried.

**Meeting Business:** Solicitor Bunt said the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania had advised of the following items:

- Order of the Supreme Court stating that for the November 8<sup>th</sup> general election, all mail in ballots would be considered correctly dated if the date on the outer envelope fell within the date range of 9/19/22 – 11/8/22. Absentee ballots dated within 8/30/22 – 11/8/22 will be considered correctly dated.
- Notification from the Department of State that provisional ballots will be given to a person who has completed a mail in ballot that has been rejected by the County Board of Elections and coded as such. Solicitor Bunt stated that a voter may go to their polling location to receive a provisional ballot if their mail in ballot had been rejected per this latest directive. He confirmed that a voter could not go to the Voter Registration Office and cure a ballot. Discussion about the provisional ballot procedure occurred.

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  | 2,552         | 2,192           |
| Absentee | 603           | 416             |
| Military | 10            | 6               |

She questioned if the election day and night work schedule was acceptable to the Board.

Sarah Geesaman, Voter Registration/Election Clerk, commented that she and Deb Shrawder have been learning the voting machines in order to trouble shoot issues on election day. She asked if she and Deb would be able to go out with the Clear Ballot representative on election day to polling locations should there be issues. The Board said if there is the ability with staffing to allow this it would be fine. Ms. Geesaman also discussed work locations for election night workers with the Board. A discussion of election night work duties occurred.

Solicitor Bunt commented that he was notified of another election lawsuit had been filed. He said this does not change the procedures the County has in place. Solicitor Bunt stressed the importance of segregating ballots and read a directive on provisional ballots. Additionally, he commented that observers will need to sign in on election day to have a record and cannot participate on election day procedures.

Sarah Geesaman reminded the Board that cell phones cannot be used to record or photograph during election day procedures

Commissioner Eby said that a deadline to receive watcher certificate information by the County from the political parties must be determined. He said the Voter Registration staff should not have to make multiple phone calls to party representatives for watcher information, as it is the responsibility of the representatives to get this information to the County in a timely manner.

**Public Comments:** Dana Cotton asked if someone requested a mail in but did not receive it, could that person come into the Voter Registration Office to vote. The Board discussed this issue and instructed Ms. Cotton that the person should go to the polling location and vote via provisional ballot. Ms. Cotton asked if a person reported that they did not receive a mail in ballot, but then the Voter Registration Office receives the ballot, would the signatures be compared to the provisional ballot. She asked if there was a way to flag if a ballot was reported as being not received. Ms. Cotton asked what phone number voters with issues should call to talk to someone at the County.

Dr. Patricia Gutheil asked the Board to explain the observer process.

Dana Cotton questioned the location of election night activities and final count activities.

Commissioner Allen made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:39 a.m. Commissioner Eby seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried.