

ELECTION BOARD
November 4, 2024

Present at the meeting were:

Brenda Watson
William Lyons
R. Franklin Campbell
Bill Bunt
Sarah Geesaman
Shannon Hines

Present from the Public: Andrew Burke, Noah Cline, Sarah Geesaman, Dave Hammar, Douglas Hudgins, Steve Palmer, Jerry Philpott, Dave Pundock, Faith Pundock, Jake Sternberger

The Election Board met on Monday, November 4, 2024 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: Jerry Philpott asked if there had been any challenges to mail in ballots in Perry County to date. He also asked about military UMOVA as well. Solicitor Bunt said no.

Steve Palmer asked if there is a requirement to post the number of pending mail-in ballots and wondered if it will be posted. Solicitor Bunt said an update will be provided during the meeting.

Meeting Business: Commissioner Campbell made a motion to approve the minutes from the October 28, 2024 meeting. Commissioner Lyons seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried.

Sarah Geesaman, Election Director, said tomorrow is election day. She commented that the polls open at 7:00 a.m. and close at 8:00 p.m. and voters must vote in their precincts. Ms. Geesaman noted that the ballot drop box would be available until 6:00 p.m. that evening and on election day from 7:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m. and reminded everyone that you may only drop off your own ballot.

Ms. Geesaman provided the following ballot figures to date:

- 5,720 mail-in/absentee ballots had been mailed out or processed over the counter
- 5,073 ballots had been returned

Sarah Geesaman said Perry County has the highest ballot return rate per Channel 8 news.

Ms. Geesaman stated that on election day, the precanvas will be held at the Penn State Cooperative Extension Office. She said there are eight teams of two and there will be a designated area for observers. She commented that the precanvas will begin at 7:00 a.m. and the precanvas workers should be there at 6:45 a.m. for direction.

Sarah Geesaman asked Sheriff Hammar about assistance on election day and Sheriff Hammar said to let him know what was needed.

Ms. Geesaman said the canvas would begin at 8:00 p.m. in the Freedom Building. She stated that Zoe Burd would be swearing in all election workers. She commented that final count would take place on Friday at 9:00 a.m.

Sarah Geesaman noted some issues with traffic control for election night and said she was working on this with Wes Smith.

Solicitor Bunt stated that as of today, the outer ballot envelopes must be signed and dated. With regard to provisional ballots, he said if a person does not sign or properly date their mail-in/absentee ballot they have the right to vote provisionally. He said during final count all provisional ballots would be reviewed to confirm which should be counted. Solicitor Bunt said these seem to be the rules for this election, but said it could change in the future. He provided an example of a disabled voter being unable to vote by provisional ballot. He commented that he had a petition ready to address this issue. Solicitor Bunt said the petition, pending Judge approval, would have the disabled voter get a designated agent form online, complete the form, have the designated agent bring the form to the election office and get the provisional ballot, have the designated agent return the provisional ballot back to the voter, and then the designated agent returns the voted provisional ballot to the election office by 8:00 p.m. on election day. He said this would allow a disabled voter to vote should there be an issue with their mail-in/absentee voter. He said information was received over the weekend regarding challenges, but Perry County is not one of the counties involved with the challenges. He asked if anyone had any questions on the disabled voter process.

Commissioner Campbell thanked the election staff for their work.

Commissioner Watson commended the election office and staff.

Public Comments: Doug Hudgins thanked Sarah Geesaman and her office for all their hard work during a stressful time.

Commissioner Campbell made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Lyons seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 11:15 a.m.