

LANCASTER COUNTY ELECTION BOARD MEETING
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 12, 2023

The Board of Elections met today for an Election Board Meeting.

Present at today's meeting:

John B. Trescot, Chairman
Christina L. Hausner, Vice-Chairman
BOARD OF ELECTIONS

Jacquelyn Pfursich, Esquire
COUNTY SOLICITOR

Also present:

Jody Blouch
LANCASTER

Ray D'Agostino
WEST LAMPETER

Susan Douglas Reed
WEST LAMPETER

Jan Eaby
EPHRATA

Sharon Greelish Cody
LANCASTER

Jerry Henige
WILLOW STREET

Kent Kroehler
LANCASTER

Danielle Lindemuth
ELIZABETHTOWN

Joe Lyall
LANCASTER

Christa Miller, Chief Clerk/Registrar
BOARD OF ELECTIONS

Joshua Parsons
EAST HEMPFIELD

Julie Rudisill
LANCASTER

Amy Ruffo
LANCASTER

Inmo Sulyok
LANCASTER

Wendy Voulopas
EAST HEMPFIELD

Michael Yoder
LANCASTER PATRIOT

Commissioner Trescot called the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Commissioner Trescot announced postponing approval of the April 5, 2023, Election Board meeting minutes because Judge Wright is not present today, and Ms. Hausner was not present at the last Election Board meeting.

**Lancaster County Election Board Meeting
Wednesday, April 12, 2023**

Proposed Polling Place Changes
Christa Miller, Chief Clerk and Registrar

Ms. Miller stated there are no changes to the polling places. The only thing Ms. Miller reiterated was that polling place #0705 was removed due to a last minute meeting they had, but Election and Voter Registration Office will still be looking to move it to its own precinct for the November Election, and especially going into 2024.

Mr. Sulyok, Lancaster County Resident, brought to the Board's attention a concern he has with the proposed changes in polling places, and the lack of notification. Mr. Sulyok said that, in his opinion, when changes in polling places are initiated, a notification is required at a minimum of the key elected individuals in each precinct, or election district. There are seven key elected individuals, they are the three elected local Board of Elections officials (the Judge and two inspectors), and four elected political committee people. Those seven people should be contacted with regard to any proposed changes in polling places. That has not been done with Polling Place #5202 West Lampeter Township – Lyndon District. There were only two people that were contacted. Mr. Sulyok offered two recommendations regarding Polling Place #5202 West Lampeter Township – Lyndon District: that this change in polling place be delayed at least for one week to inspect this polling place and make a determination that this location is suitable, and that the Board would adopt a policy so that, whenever polling place changes are considered, that the Election and Voter Registration Office would notify the seven local elected people in that particular precinct as a routine procedure.

Ms. Miller stated typically they do not contact local committee people about changes made to polling locations. They do contact the Judge and the inspectors. There was discussion regarding adopting a practice in the future of notifying respective political parties as far in advance as possible with regard to proposed polling place changes. Ms. Miller said the reason they are looking to move is because the current location is very small. The new location is a much larger space, has more parking, and is right on the main road.

The Board was in agreement to make a motion to approve the polling place changes as is.

ELECTION BOARD RESOLUTION NO. 2 OF 2023

On motion of Ms. Hausner, seconded by Commissioner Trescot;

WHEREAS, at a public meeting on Wednesday, April 5, 2023, the Lancaster County Board of Elections approved posting notification of proposed polling place changes effective with the May 16, 2023 Municipal Primary, and of a hearing to be held in the Commissioners' Public Meeting Room on April 12, 2023, at the 11:00 am Board of Elections meeting.

WHEREAS, proper notices of said changes were posted by the Chief Clerk of Elections.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LANCASTER COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS, that the Board hereby designates the following polling places changes, effective with the 2023 General Primary Election.

FROM

TO

#0703: Lancaster City – Seventh Ward, Third Precinct

Crispus Attucks Center
407 Howard Ave
Lancaster, 17602

Crossroads Mennonite Church
401 Church St.
Lancaster, 17602

#0801: Lancaster City – Eighth Ward, First Precinct

Lancaster County Convention Center
25 S Queen St.
Lancaster, 17603

Christ Lutheran Church
2 W Strawberry St.
Lancaster, 17603

#0901: Lancaster City – Ninth Ward, First Precinct

Christian Science Church
200 W Lemon St.
Lancaster, 17603

Ruoff Towers
315 N Prince St.
Lancaster, 17603

#0902: Lancaster City – Ninth Ward, Second Precinct

Otterbein United Methodist Church
20 E Clay St.
Lancaster, 17602

Christian Science Church
200 W Lemon St.
Lancaster, 17603

**Lancaster County Election Board Meeting
Wednesday, April 12, 2023**

#1605: Elizabethtown Borough – Third Ward, Third Precinct

Elizabethtown First Church of God
144 S Market St.
Elizabethtown, 17022

Elizabethtown Public Library
10 S Market St.
Elizabethtown, 17022

#4301: East Earl Township – Blue Ball District

Garden Spot Fire Rescue Station 3
4305 Division Hwy
Blue Ball, 17519

East Earl Township Building
4610 Division Hwy
East Earl, 17519

#5202: West Lampeter Township – Lyndon District

Lancaster County Environmental Center
1 Nature's Way
Lancaster, 17602

Charles F. Snyder Funeral Home
2421 Willow Street Pike
Willow Street, 17584

#5805: Manor Township – Washington Boro District

Blue Rock Fire Rescue Station 7
505 Market St.
Washington Boro, 17582

Washington Boro Church of God
15 Rockfish St.
Washington Boro, 17582

#6504: Rapho Township – Elm Tree II District

Acorn Farms
3141 Mt Joy-Manheim Rd.
Mount Joy, 17552

Crossings Community Church
8 S Erisman Rd.
Manheim, 17545

Motion passed.

John B. Trescot, Chairman – Yes
Jeffery D. Wright – Absent for the vote
Christina Hausner – Yes

Absentee and Mail-In Ballot Date Range
Christa Miller, Chief Clerk and Registrar

Ms. Miller reported that in the fall for the 2022 General Election, the Pennsylvania State Supreme Court gave an order for date ranges, that the Election and Voter Registration Office needed to accept absentee and mail-in ballots. Then in February, they put another opinion out, that they would not be giving date ranges, going forward, and that County Board of Elections would need to set their own date ranges in order to count the mail-in ballots.

The March 31, 2023, is the first date that the Election and Voter Registration Office sent out military and overseas ballots. That will go through election day on May 16th.

On motion of Ms. Hausner, seconded by Commissioner Trescot, it was agreed for the County of Lancaster, directed by the Lancaster County Board of Elections, to canvass and count mail-in and absentee ballots that are signed and dated with dates ranging from March 31, 2023 through May 16, 2023.

Motion passed.

John B. Trescot, Chairman – Yes
Jeffery D. Wright – Absent for the vote
Christina Hausner – Yes

Curing of Mail-In Ballots
Christa Miller, Chief Clerk and Registrar

Ms. Hausner noted that she is moving this motion forward for the purpose of discussion; however, it does not necessarily signify her agreement with the motion.

On motion of Ms. Hausner, seconded by Commissioner Trescot, it was agreed for the Board of Elections, acting on behalf of the Election and Voter Registration Office, to permit voters to cure mail ballot defects that appear on the voter declaration on the return mail ballot envelope and

**Lancaster County Election Board Meeting
Wednesday, April 12, 2023**

to permit the Election and Voter Registration Office to post online a list of voters whose mail ballots contain defects on the voter declaration. There shall be no duty of the Election and Voter Registration Office to contact those voters whose mail ballots have a defect to alert them to the defect.

Motion did not pass.

John B. Trescot, Chairman – Yes
Jeffery D. Wright – Absent for the vote
Christina Hausner – No

Commissioner Trescot stated they were hoping that the Commonwealth Court would make a decision about curing ballots, but that did not happen. It was tossed back to all 67 counties for them to decide what to do. Commissioner Trescot looked at what happened last November, when 400 mail-in ballots, out of about 44,000 ballots, were not counted because of incorrect signatures and date ranges. He put forward a proposal to help these people to vote without burdening the Election and Voter Registration Office and the polling places, and that is, as the mail-in ballots come in, the Election and Voter Registration Office will maintain a list on the County's website of ballots that are incorrectly dated, or not signed. The County will not contact anyone. The list will have the name and their precinct. That will be the extent of the obligation of the Election and Voter Registration Office of notification.

The next thing was looking at how to cure a ballot without a secrecy envelope. In the interest of not opening the outer envelope, and not having people see how someone voted, Commissioner Trescot decided to eliminate the curing of the secrecy ballot. If the ballot comes in without the secrecy envelope, the ballot will not count. To correct that ballot, the decision was that, if someone checks the list, and their name is on the list, they can come to the Election and Voter Registration Office up until the close of business on Election Day, present a government issued ID, correct the error on the exterior of the envelope only, not to the ballot, and then their ballot will go back to be counted on Election Day.

Ms. Hausner stated she has reservations about posting a list of voters who have submitted defective ballots. The reason is that, in her experience, voters are very disturbed to know that their party registration is known. Ms. Hausner does not believe that voters who submitted a defective ballot would want that fact published; therefore, she does not support the County posting that list. Ms. Hausner is also reluctant, as a temporary appointee to this Board, to deviate from the policy that has been adopted in the past by Commissioners D'Agostino and Parsons.

A number of citizens expressed their concerns about the motion to permit voters to cure mail ballot defects, and to post online a list of voters whose mail ballots contain defects. Others were in favor of the motion.

Ms. Hausner is not in support of the motion; however, she put forward a motion explaining what she would support. The following motion is not on the floor for consideration.

On motion of Ms. Hausner, seconded by Commissioner Trescot, it was agreed that the Board of Elections, acting on behalf of the Election and Voter Registration Office, shall permit voters to vote by provisional ballot prior to May 16, 2023 at the Election and Voter Registration Office, 150 North Queen Street, Lancaster, between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. to address mail ballot defects. The Election and Voter Registration Office shall request the appointment of a Judge of Election and Minority Inspector prior to May 16, 2023 to accept the provisional ballots in the Election and Voter Registration Office.

Motion did not pass.

Christina Hausner – Yes
Jeffery D. Wright – Absent for the vote
John B. Trescot, Chairman – No

Commissioner Trescot stated instead of trying to jump through another hoop, they will try and do a much better job of educating people about the procedure, if they get a notification from the Election and Voter Registration Office.

Update on the 2023 Primary Election
Christa Miller, Chief Clerk and Registrar

Ms. Miller reported that the voter total at the moment is 344,970 voters in Lancaster County. There are 19,026 of mail-in and absentee ballot requests, and they are conducting poll worker training. The first bulk file of mail ballots will be mailed out on Friday, April 14, which will give people plenty of time to mail them back. The Election and Voter Registration Office will begin doing early mail-in ballots at the counter on Monday, April 17.

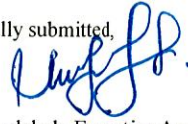
The Board addressed questions raised by members of the public.

On motion of Ms. Hausner, seconded by Commissioner Trescot, the meeting adjourned at 1:02 p.m.

Motion passed.

Lancaster County Election Board Meeting
Wednesday, April 12, 2023

Respectfully submitted,



Lydia Kovalchuk, Executive Assistant
Commissioners' Office