

LANCASTER COUNTY ELECTION BOARD MEETING
WEDNESDAY, JULY 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
Judge Jeffery D. Wright
BOARD OF ELECTIONS

Lawrence George, County Administrator/Chief Clerk

Also present:

Christa Miller, Chief Clerk/Registrar
BOARD OF ELECTIONS

Jacquelyn Pfursich
SOLICITOR

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

Commissioner Trescot announced the approval of the May 19, 2023 Election Board meeting minutes.

Certified Primary Election results

Christa Miller, Chief Clerk, Registrar, Board of Elections

Ms. Miller reported there were 74,686 voters in the spring; 45,708 were Republican, 28,727 were Democrats and 251 others. There were 138 ballots with no signature or no date; 67 with no secrecy envelopes. It was a smooth municipal election.

Mail in Replacement Ballot Discussion re: cost, future preventative actions & suggestions to improve mail in ballots envelopes.

Christa Miller, Chief Clerk, Registrar, Board of Elections

Ms. Miller said 18,584 new ballots had to be mailed out in the spring election because of an error on the ballot that was caught pre-election; only 3,400 reached mailboxes. Of those, only 750 were sent back to the office. About 550 sent back their replacement ballots and 205 of those had to be remarked. The cost on that was about \$25,000, which will be covered by the state grant as part of the Election Integrity Program.

Going forward, Ms. Miller said changes include having a checklist with the Department of State on all the moving parts of the ballot and having a proofreader from the County who formerly worked in Voter Registration go over the ballot to check for errors.

Ms. Miller said one of the suggestions they are going to implement to improve mail-in ballot envelopes is changing the color of the secrecy envelope from white to yellow. Instructions will let people know to place their ballot in the yellow envelope. Another change to be made is on the outer envelope instead of "Date" it will read "Date of Signature" to reduce confusion. Commissioner Trescot said the changes are to try to make it easier for voters to not make errors.

Electronic Poll Book Pilot Findings

Christa Miller, Chief Clerk, Registrar, Board of Elections

Ms. Miller said she is not asking for this to be approved now because the state budget has not been approved. This would be covered under the Election Integrity Grant. Seven precincts piloted these during the municipal election all with different turnout amounts and the pilot went well. Scanning names in of the sign in books was easy with the poll book.

Commissioner Trescot said a written summation of the costs and benefits of doing the poll books would be good to have because the cost of doing this is significant and it has to come before the Board of Elections and the Board of Commissioners.

Ms. Miller said there is an option to purchase the poll books and a fee of \$75,000 for software and licensing or an option to lease them for 6 years and then after the third year the iPad cost is included in the lease to get new ones.

November General Election Update

Christa Miller, Chief Clerk, Registrar, Board of Elections

Ms. Miller said currently there are 343,661 voters for the fall election. Mail ballots are low. The earliest the ballots would go out is the first week of October. About five or six polling locations will be changing such as Rapho Township. Those will be brought before the board in October.

On motion of Judge Wright, seconded by Ms. Hausner, the meeting adjourned at 11:26 a.m.

Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lynn Commero".

Lynn Commero, Executive Assistant
Commissioners' Office