

LANCASTER COUNTY ELECTION BOARD MEETING
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2022

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

Present at today's meeting:

Ray D'Agostino, Chairman
Joshua G. Parsons, Vice-Chairman
John B. Trescot
BOARD OF ELECTIONS

Also present:

Tom Lisi, Reporter
LNP

Duncan Hopkins
LANCASTER STANDS UP

Jonathan Fox
EAST LAMPETER TOWNSHIP RESIDENT

Christa Miller, Chief Clerk/Registrar
BOARD OF ELECTIONS

Jackie Pfursich
COUNTY SOLICITOR

Tim Stuhldreher, Writer
ONE UNITED LANCASTER

Commissioner D'Agostino called the meeting to order at 9:15 a.m.

Commissioner D'Agostino announced approval of the July 27, 2022, Election Board minutes.

On motion of Commissioner Parsons, seconded by Commissioner Trescot, it was agreed for the County of Lancaster, acting on behalf of the Election and Voter Registration Office, to approve the maintenance of the 2020 General Election Records until at least December 31, 2024:

Purpose: To ensure that records from the 2020 General Election are preserved for current or future litigation.

Ms. Pfursich explained the reason for this is because of ongoing litigation and the number of right to know requests that are being appealed to the Office of Open Records. She said they may be appealed further to the Court of Common Pleas.

Ms. Miller said there was a letter from the Department of State to all counties informing them they are getting right to know requests and office of open records appeals.

Commissioner Trescot asked Ms. Pfursich how many right to know requests the Solicitor's Office has been receiving and if they are tracking costs associated with that. He said he does not think it is fair for the taxpayers to keep paying for something that has no proof or existence behind it as going beyond the statutory requirement. She said because it is not reimbursed from a specific pool of money outside of the Solicitor's Office budget, they do not usually track costs associated with right to know requests. They do, however, maintain logs of requests as well as responses and can include time associated with the responses. Commissioner Trescot said because these are not normal right to know requests, it is costing the County taxpayers money for the Solicitor's Office keep responding to requests and nothing has changed and no evidence has been found that there was any problem with the election. He is requesting that the Solicitor's Office keep track of costs associated with these and for outside counsel that may have to be used for responding to lawsuits that are coming up since the 22 months have done by.

Commissioner D'Agostino said the County does not have a choice in who submits right to know requests and people have the right to request all kinds of document whether they agree with it or not.

The reporters had questions about the right to know requests and appeals.

Motion passed unanimously.

- Continued -

**Lancaster County Election Board Meeting
Tuesday, September 13, 2022**

NPC Contract Update

Ms. Miller said this was approved by the Board of Commissioners and signed by NPC and the amendment has been added to the contract. The contract outlines that if there are changes, how is the Voter Registration office going to handle that, how test decks come in and how they are approved and when the rest of the ballots are uploaded after a test deck is approved. She said it is more quality assurance going forward.

New DOS and Updated County Voter Registration Form

Ms. Miller explained that the Department of State has come out with a new form that is a combined voter registration and mail ballot form. The point of the form is supposed to be that someone can fill out a voter registration form with the option to create a mail ballot. She said this has created confusion across the state and that people are using it as just a mail ballot application when that is not the intent of it. They are not signing because when it gets to the second page, they are signing for a mail ballot and not actually their voter registration form. The office is dealing with them as they come in and calling people if a phone number is provided and sending the forms back to people. She said it is going to cause voter confusion, which is why her office would like to keep the regular voter registration form on the county website.

Commissioner Parsons said it is another example of the Department of State causing chaos into elections.

Commissioner Trescot said he has seen the new form and does not think it is a great way of doing things but does not think it is deliberate. He said he would like to see the motion changes to be clearer.

Commissioner D'Agostino said the Governor mandated this and election directors across the state are not in favor of this.

Mr. Lisi had questions about the form.

On motion of Commissioner Trescot, seconded by Commissioner Parsons, it was agreed for the County of Lancaster, acting on behalf of the Election and Voter Registration Office, to approve the continued use of the single purpose voter registration form.

Motion passed unanimously.

County Election Integrity Compliance Report

Ms. Miller explained the purpose of the report.

Mr. Fox had questions about the report.

Update on November Election Preparedness

Ms. Miller said the voter total is 348,991 and additional 1,000 that need to be processed. Mail ballot total currently is at 31,201 and includes absentee ballots. There is poll worker training in two weeks. Ballots will be mailed out by the of this month. Ballot sorter has arrived and training has begun. Ballot extractors will be delivered by the end of the month.

On motion of Commissioner Parsons, seconded by Commissioner Trescot, the meeting adjourned at 9:57 a.m.

Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,



Lynn Commero, Executive Assistant
Commissioners' Office