

**BERKS COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
October 27, 2022 – 11:00 A.M.**

Kevin S. Barnhardt, Chair
Michael S. Rivera, Vice-Chair
Christian Y. Leinbach, Commissioner
Christine M. Sadler, County Solicitor
Cody L. Kauffman, First Assistant County Solicitor

CALL TO ORDER- 11:00 A.M.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Board approved the minutes for the October 20, 2022 Election Board meeting as presented.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS

None

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1. 2022 Primary Election Audit of Campaign Finance Reports

First Assistant County Solicitor, Cody Kauffman, explained that the Department of State conducted a public lottery in June 2022 to select the districts from which candidates and their committees will have their 2022 Primary Election Campaign Finance Reports audited.

The Board approved the execution of the Confirmation form for the Campaign Finance Reports Audit for the 2022 Primary Election.

Discuss and Approve allowing Sheriffs Deputies to Check for Signature and Date at the Drop Boxes

This item was brought to the attention of the Election Board immediately prior to the meeting and was brought forth by Commissioner Leinbach during the meeting after finding out that the voters who drop off their voted ballots in the Election Services office are checked for signature and date.

Pursuant to Section 712.1(c) of the Sunshine Law, on the motion of Commissioner Leinbach, seconded by Commissioner Barnhardt, the Board agreed to allow Sheriffs deputies to check the voted ballot is signed and dated before dropping it in a ballot drop box, as long as the deputies are not touching or interacting with the ballot. This was done in an effort to maintain consistency between ballot drop-off at the Office of Election

Services and the County dropboxes. The action was necessary due to the approaching election and the fact that the matter was brought to the attention of the Election Board within 24 hours before the meeting.

GENERAL COMMENTS FROM THE BOARD OF ELECTIONS REGARDING CURRENT ELECTION-RELATED ISSUES

Commissioner Barnhardt reminded the attendees that L&A testing has begun on the Electronic Poll Books. Also, the Postmaster has partnered with the County to assist in the timely delivery of ballots on election day, in an effort to improve this process for voters.

Commissioner Leinbach asked for the font size on the signage at the drop boxes to be increased.

CITIZEN COMMENT

Jeff Wolfe of Brecknock Township – Mr. Wolfe spoke on election fraud, the importance of election transparency, and validating signatures on ballots.

Anthony Orozco of Reading – Through an online comment, Mr. Orozco asked what the County is doing to help Spanish speaking voters, especially when it comes to searching voters with hyphenated names.

Carl Lambert of Greenwich Township – Through an online comment, Mr. Lambert asked where the previous election minutes are posted.

First Assistant Solicitor Cody Kauffman responded that they will be available online shortly.

Silvia Gutierrez of the Election Services office explained the option for searching hyphenated names in the Electronic Poll Book, including searching by voter's first name and date of birth or by voter ID number.

ADJOURNMENT – 11:19 A.M.