

**BERKS COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS  
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES  
June 5, 2023 – 12:15 P.M.**

**Lucine Sihelnik, Chair**  
**Honorable James E. Gavin, Vice Chair - not present**  
**Honorable Jill Gehman Koestel**  
**Anne Norton, Chief Clerk**  
**Christine M. Sadler, County Solicitor – not present**  
**Cody L. Kauffman, First Assistant County Solicitor**

**CALL TO ORDER: 12:15 P.M.**

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

On the motion of Commissioner Sihelnik, seconded by Judge Koestel, the Board approved the minutes for the May 25, 2023 meeting as presented.

**PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS**

None.

**Agenda Items**

**1. Review Candidates' Petitions to Cumulate and Cumulate Write-In Votes Cast during the May 16, 2023 Primary Election.**

Ms. Norton announced that there were 18,000 write-in votes this Primary. Candidates receive votes as they are registered and can also file Petitions to Cumulate to collect votes on variations of their registered names. Election Services received 60 Petitions to Cumulate.

First Assistant County Solicitor Cody Kauffman announced that the law on variations is permissible, as long as voter intent is last name or sur name. The Election Board can ultimately make the determination on Petition to Cumulate. One point to echo, candidate will automatically get credit for registered name, credit given only one time.

- i. Judge Koestel motioned to approve Vincent D. Gagliardo Jr. Republican Councilman 4-year term in Kenhorst as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Sihelnik.
- ii. Judge Koestel motioned to approve Jerome Davis Democrat Supervisor 6-year term in Windsor Township as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Sihelnik.
- iii. Judge Koestel motioned to approve Jerome Davis Republican Supervisor 6-year term in Windsor Township as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Sihelnik.
- iv. Judge Koestel motioned to approve Christopher John Grech Republican School Director 4-year term in Daniel Boone Region 2. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Sihelnik.
- v. Judge Koestel motioned to approve Richard E. Hoffmaster Democrat Muhlenberg Township Commissioner 4-year term as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Sihelnik.
- vi. Judge Koestel motioned to approve Jacqueline Marie Torres Republican School Director 4- year term in Wyomissing as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Sihelnik.

- vii. Judge Koestel motioned to approve Romeris Perez Democrat Berks County Controller 4-year term as presented except as to the following:
  - a. Admeris Perez (1)
  - b. Ameris Perez (1)
  - c. Damris L. Perez (2)
  - d. L. Perez (1)
  - e. Morales Perez (1)
  - f. Remur Perez (1)
  - g. Romens Perez (2)
  - h. Romeris Dilone (1)
  - i. Romeris Reyes (1)
  - j. Romero Perez (2)
  - k. Romiris Per (1)
  - l. Roselis Perez (1)
  - m. Roselis Perez (1)
  - n. Rosemary Perez (2)
  - o. Rosmery Perez (2)
  - p. Rosmry Perez (1). The motion was seconded by Commissioner Sihelnik.
- viii. Judge Koestel motioned to approve Lisa Schaeffer Republican Supervisor 6-year term in Oley Township as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Sihelnik.
- ix. Judge Koestel motioned to approve Greg Miller Democrat Cumru Township Commissioner 4-year term as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Sihelnik.
- x. Judge Koestel motioned to approve Rick Heffner Republican Councilman 4-year term in Laureldale as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Sihelnik.
- xi. Judge Koestel motioned to approve Dean Borrell Republican Councilman 4-year term in Laureldale as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Sihelnik.
- xii. Judge Koestel motioned to approve Eric Schippers Democrat School Director 4-year term in Wyomissing as presented except as to the following:
  - a. Erica Schippers (1)
  - b. Eric Schiffet (1)
  - c. Shipe (1) The motion was seconded by Commissioner Sihelnik.
- xiii. Judge Koestel motioned to approve Eric Schippers Republican School Director 4-year term in Wyomissing as presented except as to the following:
  - a. Eric (1)
  - b. Eric Schiter (1)
  - c. Eric Kippers (1)
  - d. Eric Shifer (1)
  - e. Eric Scheppert (1)
  - f. Ericshiffr: (1)
  - g. Erik Schiffer (1) The motion was seconded by Commissioner Sihelnik.
- xiv. Judge Koestel motioned to approve Anthony Tucci Democrat Councilman 4-year term in Birdsboro as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Sihelnik.
- xv. Judge Koestel motioned to approve Patrick Thomas Kaag Republican Councilman 4-year term in West Reading Borough as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Sihelnik.

- xvi. Judge Koestel motioned to approve David R. Parker Republican School Director 4-year term in Union Township 1 as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Sihelnik.
- xvii. Judge Koestel motioned to approve David R. Parker Republican School Director 4-year term in Union Township 2 as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Sihelnik.
- xviii. Judge Koestel motioned to approve Eric J. Weaknecht Democrat Berks County Sheriff 4-year term as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Sihelnik.
- xix. Judge Koestel motioned to approve Mark C. Grounard Democrat Councilman 4-year term in Shillington Borough as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Sihelnik.
- xx. Judge Koestel motioned to approve Michael A. Sacks Democrat Supervisor 6-year term in Longswamp Township as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Sihelnik.
- xxi. Judge Koestel motioned to approve Michael A. Sacks Republican Supervisor 6-year term in Longswamp Township as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Sihelnik.
- xxii. Judge Koestel motioned to approve William J.P. Mulgrew III Republican Auditor 6-year term in Greenwich Township as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Sihelnik.
- xxiii. Judge Koestel motioned to approve Jennifer R. Schlegel Democrat School Director 4-year term in Oley Township as presented except as to the following:
  - a. JJ Schlegel (1)
  - b. Jennifer Schlicel (1) The motion was seconded by Commissioner Sihelnik.
- xxiv. Judge Koestel motioned to approve Tanya Colleen Bell Republican School Director 4-year term in Daniel Boone as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Sihelnik.
- xxv. Judge Koestel motioned to approve Bethany Bower Republican Councilwoman 4-year term in West Reading Borough as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Sihelnik.
- xxvi. Judge Koestel motioned to approve Brittney Hadden Democrat Supervisor 4-year term in Ontelaunee Township as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Sihelnik.
- xxvii. Judge Koestel motioned to approve John Adams Republican Berks County District Attorney 4-year term as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Sihelnik.
- xxviii. Judge Koestel motioned to approve Ryan Acevedo Democrat Councilman 4-year term in Birdsboro as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Sihelnik.
- xxix. Judge Koestel motioned to approve Brian Hoffa Republican Councilman 4-year term in Sinking Spring as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Sihelnik.
- xxx. Judge Koestel motioned to approve Matthew Welch Republican Councilman 4-year term in Birdsboro as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Sihelnik.
- xxxi. Judge Koestel motioned to approve George W. Stuck Democrat Supervisor 6-year term in Spring Township as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Sihelnik.
- xxxii. Judge Koestel motioned to approve George R. Bell III Republican Supervisor 6-year term in Exeter Township as presented. The motion was seconded by

Commissioner Sihelnik. Since Mr. Bell was a candidate on the ballot for this race, the approval of this Petition to Cumulate was made pursuant to the allowances in Shambach v. Bickhart, 845 A.2d 793 (Pa. 2004), as explained by Solicitor Kauffman prior to this petition being heard.

- xxxiii. Judge Koestel motioned to approve Steven Davis Democrat Supervisor 6-year term in Upper Tulpehocken as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Sihelnik.
- xxxiv. Judge Koestel motioned to approve Carl E. Reidler Democrat Councilman 4-year term in Wernersville as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Sihelnik.
- xxxv. Judge Koestel motioned to approve Carl E. Reidler Republican Councilman 4-year term in Wernersville as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Sihelnik.
- xxxvi. Judge Koestel motioned to approve Michael J. Hix Democrat Supervisor 6-year term in Upper Bern as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Sihelnik.
- xxxvii. Judge Koestel motioned to approve Jennifer Ann Miller Democrat School Director 4-year term in Antietam as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Sihelnik.
- xxxviii. Judge Koestel motioned to approve Wayne R. Modeste Democrat School Director 4-year term in Antietam as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Sihelnik.
- xxxix. Judge Koestel motioned to approve Clarence D. Hamm Democrat Supervisor 6-year term in Exeter as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Sihelnik.
  - xl. Judge Koestel motioned to approve John D. Piho Democrat Supervisor 6-year term in Exeter as presented except as to the following:
    - a. Phio (1)
    - b. Iho (1) The motion was seconded by Commissioner Sihelnik.
  - xli. Judge Koestel motioned to approve John D. Piho Democrat Supervisor 2-year term in Exeter as presented except as to the following:
    - a. John D Po (1) The motion was seconded by Commissioner Sihelnik.
  - xlii. Judge Koestel motioned to approve Dillon Anthony Cirulli Democrat Muhlenberg Commissioner 4-year term as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Sihelnik.
  - xliii. Judge Koestel motioned to approve Eva Eisenbrown Republican Muhlenberg Commissioner 4-year term as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Sihelnik.
  - xliv. Judge Koestel motioned to approve Carson Adams Democrat School Director 4-year term in Hamburg as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Sihelnik.
  - xlv. Judge Koestel motioned to approve Quinton J. Roma Auditor 6-year term in Washington Township as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Sihelnik.
  - xlvi. Judge Koestel motioned to approve Tracy Peterson Democrat Borough Council Member 4-year term in Sinking Spring as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Sihelnik.
  - xlvii. Judge Koestel motioned to approve Tracy Peterson Republican Council Member 4-year term in Sinking Spring as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Sihelnik.

- xlvi. Judge Koestel motioned to approve George R. Bell III Democrat Supervisor 6-year term in Exeter as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Sihelnik.
- xlix. Judge Koestel motioned to approve George R. Bell III Democrat Supervisor 2-year term in Exeter as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Sihelnik.
  - i. Judge Koestel motioned to approve Todd Sarge Republican School Director 4-year term in Muhlenberg as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Sihelnik.
  - ii. Judge Koestel motioned to approve Todd Sarge Democrat School Director 4-year term in Muhlenberg as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Sihelnik.
  - iii. Judge Koestel motioned to approve Jack L. Hess Republican Supervisor 6-year term in Caernarvon as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Sihelnik.
  - liii. Judge Koestel motioned to approve Dennis T. Baver Republican Borough Councilman 4-year term in Bernville as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Sihelnik.
  - liv. Judge Koestel motioned to approve Joe Rudderow Democrat Controller 4-year term in Berks County as presented except as to the following:
    - a. Ruddow
    - b. Joe Rudderson (1)
    - c. Joe Rudd (1)
    - d. Ruddlow (1)
    - e. D Rudderow (1) The motion was seconded by Commissioner Sihelnik.
  - lv. Judge Koestel motioned to approve Amy L. Johnson Republican School Director 4-year term in Antietam as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Sihelnik.
  - lvi. Judge Koestel motioned to approve Amy L. Johnson Democrat School Director 4-year term in Antietam as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Sihelnik.
  - lvii. Judge Koestel motioned to approve Elizabeth Teeters Republican School Director 4-year term in Fleetwood as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Sihelnik.
  - lviii. Judge Koestel motioned to approve Elizabeth Teeters Democrat School Director 4-year term in Fleetwood as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Sihelnik.
  - lix. Judge Koestel motioned to approve Marcus Blake Simonetti Democrat Supervisor 6-year term in Maxatawny Township as presented except as to the following
    - a. Marcus Simonelli (1)
    - b. Marcus (1) The motion was seconded by Commissioner Sihelnik.
  - ix. Judge Koestel motioned to approve Lance Adams Democrat Supervisor 6-year term in Perry Township as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Sihelnik.

**2. Final Certification of Votes Cast for the May 16, 2023 Election**

On the motion of Commissioner Sihelnik, seconded by Judge Koestel, the Board approved the final certification of the Votes Cast for the May 16, 2023, Municipal Primary. Ms. Norton noted that the certified results would be submitted to the

Department of State and will include the write-in votes and winners that the Board approved in Item 1.

**Election Director's Report**

Ms. Norton noted that the two percent audit and Risk Limiting Audit were completed last week. There were no discrepancies in the audits and results of both were submitted to the Department of State.

Successful write-in candidates will be notified via USPS mail.

Election Services is happy to wrap up the Primary and begin working toward the General Election in November.

**Public Comment**

None

**Adjournment:** On the motion of Judge Koestel, seconded by Commissioner Sihelnik, the meeting was adjourned at 1:12 p.m.