



THE COUNTY OF CHESTER



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BOARD OF ELECTIONS MINUTES

September 22, 2020

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Chair Marian D. Moskowitz of the Chester County Board of Commissioners called the Board of Elections Meeting to order on Tuesday, September 22, 2020 at 11:03 AM via teleconference. Commissioner Josh Maxwell and Commissioner Michelle Kichline were also present.

CALL TO ORDER

2. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Commissioner Maxwell made a motion to approve the Board of Elections minutes from the last two meetings on July 27, 2020. Commissioner Kichline seconded the motion. After a roll call vote, all were in favor and unanimously approve the minutes from the July 27, 2020 Board of Elections Meeting.

MINUTES APPROVED

3. OLD BUSINESS

There were no items of old business.

OLD BUSINESS

4. NEW BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

a. Resolution No. 34-20

Commissioner Kichline made a motion to approve Resolution 34-20 authorizing appointment of Chief Clerk of the Election Board. Commissioner Maxwell seconded the motion. After a roll call vote, all were in favor and unanimously approved Resolution 34-20.

RESOLUTION 34-20

b. Resolution No. 35-20

Commissioner Maxwell made a motion to approve Resolution 35-20 authorizing drop-off locations for collection of mail-in and absentee ballots for the 2020 General Election. Commissioner Kichline seconded the motion. After a roll call vote, all were in favor and unanimously approved Resolution 35-20.

RESOLUTION 35-20

c. Resolution No. 36-20

Commissioner Kichline made a motion to approve Resolution 36-20 authorizing Satellite Election Offices for the 2020 General Election. Commissioner Maxwell seconded the motion. After a roll call vote, all were in favor and unanimously approved Resolution 36-20.

RESOLUTION 36-20

d. Resolution No. 37-20

Commissioner Maxwell made a motion to approve Resolution 37-20 authorizing West Chester University's Ehinger Gymnasium as the site for the computation for the 2020 General Election. Commissioner Kichline seconded the motion. After a roll call vote, all were in favor and unanimously approved Resolution 37-20.

RESOLUTION 37-20

e. POLLING PLACE DISCUSSION & APPROVAL OF ACCESSIBILITY CERTIFICATE

Bill Turner and Alexis Barsamian of Voter Services gave an overview of the available polling locations and various updates for the 2020 General Election.

POLLING PLACE DISCUSSION & APPROVAL OF ACCESSIBILITY CERTIFICATE

Chair Moskowitz asked if there was a motion to approve the Polling Place Accessibility Certificate. Commissioner Kichline made the motion, which was seconded by Commissioner Maxwell. After a roll call vote, all were in favor and unanimously approved the Accessibility Certificate.

5. PUBLIC COMMENT

Various questions about the 2020 General Election were addressed by the Commissioners, County Administrator Bobby Kagel, and Bill Turner and Alexis Barsamian of the Voter Services department. Questions included concerns surrounding COVID-19 precautions and safety measures, ballot drop box usage, and mail-in ballot specifics.

PUBLIC COMMENT

It was asked if the ballot challenges list could be made public, to which Voter Services answered yes; the list can be made public shortly after the canvass.

It was also asked if there would be mobile satellite locations to reach traditionally low propensity voters. Bobby Kagel noted that the County worked very hard to achieve this, but that unfortunately it will not be in use this election. He noted again the use of social media, the postcard, and various other methods being used to help educate voters.

Additionally, County Solicitor Nicole Forzato noted that the County will not give a recommendation on the last day to mail in ballots since the County is not the United States Postal Service. Commissioner Kichline noted that the USPS has issued some guidance and encouraged those with concerns to contact the USPS.

Dan Klein asked what methods would be used to publicize the additional drop-off box locations, to which Bobby Kagel noted that the Public Information Office has put together a postcard containing many FAQs that is set to go out before the end of the month. Additionally, it was noted that the County utilizes social media platforms and the County website to publicize information.

Lani Frank asked about poll-worker and Judge of Elections training. Commissioner Maxwell explained there will be virtual trainings, and Bill Turner confirmed that information has been mailed out and that there will also be in-person training as needed.

Ms. Frank also asked about the reporting of election results on the County website and as to whether results would be cumulative or separated, to which Voters noted that votes will be separated by mail-in, in-person, etc.

Mike Rellahan of the *Daily Local News* asked if the County was paying West Chester University for the use of Ehringer Gym, to which the answer was no.

Juileta Calmon expressed concerns about poll-workers not wearing masks properly and asked if perhaps Voter Services could issue a tutorial on proper usage in order to retain proper COVID-19 precautions and safety. Bobby Kagel assured Ms. Calmon that the County will be sure to incorporate that concern and that the County works hard to try to be sure everyone feels comfortable and safe.

There was no further public comment.

6. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Kichline made a motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Commissioner Maxwell. After a roll call vote, all were in favor and approved the motion to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned at 11:35 AM.

ADJOURNMENT