

September 28, 2022

Westmoreland County Board of Elections

General Election of November 8, 2022

The Westmoreland County Board of Elections met in Regular Session on Wednesday, September 28, 2022 at the Westmoreland County Courthouse, Public Meeting Rooms, 2 North Main Street, Greensburg, PA. the following were present: Chairman Sean Kertes, Vice-Chairman Douglas W. Chew, Secretary Gina Cerilli Thrasher and County Solicitor Melissa A. Guiddy.

The following business was conducted:

Mr. Kertes called the meeting to order at 9:05am

Motion was made by Mr. Chew, seconded by Mrs. Cerilli Thrasher and it was unanimously agreed to approve the minutes of the Regular Election Board held June 10, 2022, as presented

Opportunity for Public Comment

The following individuals attended the meeting and made public comment:

Susanna DeJeet, Delmont – would like to ask the commissioners an important initiative, we are asking that all mail in and absentee go to the polling place to be counted at the end of the day on election day instead of coming here to be counted. Voters are being told they are going to their polling places and told they are signed up for absentee and they are being asked to do provisional ballot, we are asking that you support that. Was told that all the commissioners wanted to absentee ballots to be in the courthouse, with the number of people at the polling places and we don't want chaos in the board of elections. People were told to walk away, we don't want that to ever be repeated, we feel that is in the best interest of the voters and in the best interest to not disenfranchise a voter.

Carrie Hamley, Greensburg – propose that we as a county build in a double check before the certification of the election, to hand recount before the certification, both parties would send representatives, this would bolster voter confidence and to help identify possible machine glitches, everything to gain and nothing to lose by adding this simple step.

The following was received by the Chief Clerk via email:

Lynne Castle - It is imperative that we find a balance between voter rights and election integrity. I am opposed to ballot drop boxes, which make it easy to vote and easy to cheat. While I am all for making it safe and easy to vote, I believe that voters have an obligation to value their right to vote highly enough to actually buy a stamp and mail their ballot if they cannot go to the polls. Thank you for your consideration of this matter. When I submitted my comment I neglected to add my name and location! I am Lynne Castle, (Hempfield Twp), Greensburg.

Jamie Shero - Election Board, Please, do not have multiple drop box's for voting. Multiple Drop boxes makes cheating easier. If voters are reluctant to mail in their ballot, ONE drop box inside the courthouse would make a great compromise for both sides of this topic. Thank you

David W. Shero, III - To Whom This May Concern: Westmoreland County doesn't need multiple drop boxes for voting. Doing this would make cheating easy. That is why we have Mail in ballots. If voters are reluctant to mail in ballots, ONE box inside the courthouse would be enough for both sides to feel that their voices are heard, while keeping election integrity at the forefront. Thanks

Michael & Judi Contes, New Kensington - To Westmoreland Co. Election board: I believe it is far more important that our elections are secure and not simply made easier. Decades ago, Jimmy Carter, (and the Speaker of the Republican House), declared that mail in ballots were very subject to fraud. He should have known, having overseen many elections in foreign countries. I would like the same oversight in our country I believe that one ballot box for drop off at the courthouse would be sufficient, as long as it was under constant surveillance. This would make voting accessible, while guaranteeing that the ballot box and its contents would be observed and handled with a good chain of custody. Just as important, I believe that mail in ballots, with the exception of absentee ballots, sent by request, to a specific registered voter, should NOT be allowed at all. These willy nilly mail in ballots are very subject to fraud and should not be counted. As for myself and my wife, whose ballots were marked provisional for a picayune reason, and ended up not being counted in the 2020 election, while Allegheny Cos. votes were counted even after the polls were closed., I have very little faith in the integrity of our elections. Please do not over facilitate voting, while sacrificing the integrity of our election process. Thank you.

David & Kandi Beam - We urge the Westmoreland Election Board to make certain the November 8th election is fair and above board as always. We are asking that you only have one box at the courthouse for those who drop off their mail-in ballots. This ballot box should have not only a person keeping watch but cameras as well. Please do not vote in favor of multiple boxes and locations. Thank you for your efforts to preserve our election process

Motion was made by Mr. Chew, seconded by Mrs. Cerilli Thrasher and it was unanimously agreed to approve Ratification of County Election Integrity Compliance Report for 2022

Motion was made by Mr. Chew, seconded by Mrs. Cerilli Thrasher and it was unanimously agreed to approve the placement of two (2) referendum questions on the November 8, 2022 official ballot.

REFERENDUM QUESTION

BOROUGH OF SOUTHWEST GREENSBURG PRECINCTS ONLY

VOTE YES OR NO

Do you favor the repeal and elimination of the special 1-mil annual tax presently levied upon all taxable real property within the Borough of Southwest Greensburg which helps fund the Greensburg/Hempfield Area Library?

REFERENDUM QUESTION

NORWIN SCHOOL DISTRICT PRECINCTS ONLY

VOTE YES OR NO

Do you favor the reduction of the special library tax by 1-mill on the dollar (or from 1.2 mill to .2 mill) on all taxable real property within the Norwin School District in Westmoreland County, which is collected by the Norwin School District for the purpose of providing aid and maintenance to the Norwin Public Library?

Motion was made by Mr. Chew, seconded by Mrs. Cerilli Thrasher and it was unanimously agreed to approve those individuals on the Machine Inspector list for the November 8, 2022 General Election.

Motion was made by Mr. Chew, seconded by Mrs. Cerilli Thrasher and it was unanimously agreed to approve the Election Bureau Staff and those employees temporarily assigned to the Election Bureau to the Mail-In & Absentee board to do the Pre-Canvassing for the November 8, 2022 General Election to convene on November 8, 2022 at 7:00 AM.

Motion was made by Mr. Chew, seconded by Mrs. Cerilli Thrasher and it was unanimously agreed to approve the Election Bureau Staff and those employees temporarily assigned to the Election Bureau to the Mail-In and Absentee Board to do the Canvassing of Mail-In and Absentee ballots for the November 8, 2022 General Election and to convene immediately following the close of the polls on November 8, 2022 and continuing thereafter until completed.

Motion was made by Mr. Chew, seconded by Mrs. Cerilli Thrasher and it was unanimously agreed to approve the Westmoreland County Provisional Board for the November 8, 2022 General Election to convene on Monday November 14, 2022 beginning at 9:00am.

Motion was made by Mr. Chew, seconded by Mrs. Cerilli Thrasher and it was unanimously agreed to approve the following authorized individuals to review and count Provisional Ballots for the General Election of November 8, 2022 commencing on Monday, November 14, 2022 at 9am:

Amy Pifer	Joni Jerina
Jodi Schweizer	Fred Schiffer
Diane Wadsworth	Lyndsay Wengrzyn
Paulette Zalewski	Anna Craig
Larry Caldwell	David Craig
Cynthia Kunkle	Stephanie Sonafelt
Nancy Bikus-Neel	Jeff Skatell
Richard Neel	Richard Gray
Fred Collins	

Alternates:

Brenda Bedont	Jan Derco
Wilson Ragen	Jamison Beard
Billie Jo McKelvey	Sandy Koluder
Kathy Tempo	

And additional individuals as needed to serve on the Provisional Board, provided that the count is conducted by one Democrat and one Republican

Motion was made by Mr. Chew, seconded by Mrs. Cerilli Thrasher and it was unanimously agreed to approve the Election Bureau Staff to do the Official Count for the November 8, 2022 General Election commencing Monday, November 14, 2022

Motion was made by Mr. Chew, seconded by Mrs. Cerilli Thrasher and it was unanimously agreed to approve the following authorized individuals to be Field Techs on Election Day, November 8, 2022, to support the Election Equipment used at the precincts.

Brian Matson	Fred Collins	Matt Dye	Brandon Yorty
Dave Ring	Matt Jacobs	Jeff Giordan	Mike Soich
Cindy Underwood	Jeanne Pastor	Patrick Longanecker	
Jamie Beard	Rick Bruni	Chris Panichella	Jim Conforti
Rich Smith	Dalton Cogan	Lauren Jones	Ray Levay
Dawn Fink	Teresa Dubich	Vicki Ali	Linda Hood
Terry Onusko	Emily Springer	Mark Tomallo	Tracy Kerber
Kelly Ferrington	Chris Tantlinger		

And any additional individuals as needed as Field Techs.

Motion was made by Mr. Chew, seconded by Mrs. Cerilli Thrasher and it was unanimously agreed to approve the extended election bureau office hours for the public for the November election as:

Tuesday October 25, 2022 through Monday November 7, 2022
(Monday through Friday 8:00am to 8:00pm)
(Saturdays & Sundays 9:00am to 5:00pm)

Election Day Tuesday November 8, 2022
7:00am – 8:00pm

Motion was made by Mr. Chew, seconded by Mrs. Cerilli Thrasher and it was unanimously agreed to approve pursuant to 25 Pa. Stat. Ann. § 2682.2, that the duties of a clerk of elections or machine operator may be performed by two individuals who each perform the duties for one-half of an election day; each individual shall be compensated at one-half of the rate authorized for a single individual who performs the duties for the entire election day.

Consider for approval drop boxes and their locations and times and potential individuals to monitor drop boxes and collect ballots from drop boxes.

Motion was made by Mr. Chew, seconded by Mrs. Cerilli Thrasher and it was unanimously agreed to suspend Robert's Rules of Order to allow for discussion of the board on drop box locations, times and potential individuals.

Motion was made by Mrs. Cerilli Thrasher to place a drop box at the lower park entrance; motion dies for lack of a second.

Mr. Chew begins a discussion regarding designating two parking spots on Pennsylvania Avenue to be used for individuals returning a ballot to the Election Bureau.

Mrs. Cerilli Thrasher agrees with, stating that her concern is with senior citizens and individuals with disabilities not being able to walk several blocks to the courthouse.

Mr. Chew suggests further investigating designating two parking spots.

Mrs. Cerilli Thrasher poses the question that if that cannot be agreed upon with the City of Greensburg, would he consider another conversation to revisit a drop box.

Mr. Chew states that he cannot do a drop box.

Mr. Kertes states that he believes that this can be worked out with the City of Greensburg to designate two parking spots on Pennsylvania Avenue to be used by individuals returning a ballot to the Election Bureau.

Motion was made by Mr. Chew, seconded by Mrs. Cerilli Thrasher and it was unanimously agreed to approve designating two spots on Pennsylvania Avenue to be used by individuals returning a ballot to the Election Bureau.

Motion was made by Mr. Chew, seconded by Mrs. Cerilli Thrasher and it was unanimously agreed to adjourn the meeting at 9:16am.

Certified by,

Gina Cerilli Thrasher, Esq.

Secretary