

**LANCASTER COUNTY ELECTION BOARD MEETING**  
**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 7, 2021**

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

Present at today's meeting were:

**Ray D'Agostino, Chairman**  
**Joshua G. Parsons, Vice-Chairman**  
**Craig E. Lehman**  
**BOARD OF ELECTIONS**

**Lawrence George**  
**COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR/CHIEF CLERK**

**Tammy Moyer**  
**DEPUTY CHIEF CLERK**

**Christina Hausner, Esquire**  
**COUNTY SOLICITOR**

Also participating was:

**April Wefler, Clerical Specialist**  
**VOTER REGISTRATION**

**Christa Miller, Chief Clerk/Registrar**  
**BOARD OF ELECTIONS**

Commissioner D'Agostino called the meeting to order at 11:10 a.m.

Commissioner D'Agostino announced the approval of the March 3, 2021 Election Board Meeting Minutes.

**ELECTION BOARD RESOLUTION NO. 2 OF 2021**

On motion of Commissioner Parsons, seconded by Commissioner D'Agostino;

WHEREAS, the following polling places are being moved for the 2021 Municipal Primary: Ephrata Township – Murrell District is moving from the Ephrata Township Municipal Building to LCBC Church - Ephrata Campus due to its larger space for the district's voters; East Hempfield Township – Spring District is moving temporarily from Community Fellowship Church to Hempfield Area Recreation Commission due to spring construction at the church; East Hempfield Township – Indian Springs District is moving from the Four Seasons Golf Complex to Vietnamese Alliance Church following the announcement of new management and impending construction in the complex; East Hempfield Township – Kings District is moving from the Hempfield School District Administration Building to Vietnamese Alliance Church due to the school district's examination of concealed carry laws; Manheim Township – Seventh District is moving from Neffsville Plumbing & Heating Services to the Residence Inn by Marriott Lancaster due to new management; Manheim Township – Twelfth District is moving from Grace United Church of Christ to Harvest Bible Church following the sale of Grace United Church of Christ to another church, which has declined use of the building.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LANCASTER COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS, that the Chief Clerk be and is hereby directed to post the proper notices of the following proposed polling place changes effective with the May 18, 2021 Municipal Primary, and of hearing thereon to be held in the Commissioners Public Meeting Room #701, Lancaster County Government Center, 150 North Queen Street, 7<sup>th</sup> Floor, Lancaster, Pennsylvania on April 14, 2021, following the Commissioners' public meeting which starts at 9:15 a.m.

**FROM**

**TO**

**Ephrata Township – Murrell District**

Ephrata Township Municipal Building  
265 Akron Road  
Ephrata, PA 17522

LCBC Church – Ephrata Campus  
6 Hahnstown Road  
Ephrata, PA 17522

**East Hempfield Township – Spring District**

Community Fellowship Church  
200 Bethel Drive  
Lancaster, PA 17601

Hempfield Area Recreation Commission  
950 Church Street  
Landisville, PA 17538

**East Hempfield Township – Indian Springs District**

Four Seasons Golf Complex  
949 Church Street  
Landisville, PA 17538

Vietnamese Alliance Church  
3435 Nolt Road  
Landisville, PA 17538

**East Hempfield Township – Kings District**

Hempfield School District Administration Building  
200 Church Street  
Landisville, PA 17538

Vietnamese Alliance Church  
3435 Nolt Road  
Landisville, PA 17538

– Continued –

Manheim Township – Seventh District

Neffsville Plumbing & Heating Services  
1208 Harrisburg Pike #101  
Lancaster, PA 17603

Residence Inn by Marriott Lancaster  
1450 Harrisburg Pike  
Lancaster, PA 17601

Manheim Township – Twelfth District

Grace United Church of Christ  
1947 New Holland Pike  
Lancaster, PA 17601

Harvest Bible Church  
1460 Eden Road  
Lancaster, PA 17601

Commissioner D’Agostino stated for the record that there will not be a vote today to move the said locations but to direct that the proposed changes be posted prior to the hearing scheduled for April 14, 2021, which the Board will be seeking action.

Commissioner Lehman originally seconded the motion but withdrew his motion and voted no for the following reasons:

1. Ephrata Township – Murrell District: It is Commissioner Lehman’s understanding that the State law indicates that municipalities are required to host polling places and that is the benefit that the taxpayers should be getting for the investment in that municipal building. School Districts are a little more discretionary.
2. The Kings District-Vietnamese Alliance Church: Asked if this polling place is outside District and if so, the Board typically works to keep polling places within Districts. Additionally, he is not clear on the reported concealed carry issue, so he will not address that today although he does not believe that polling places should be relocated so folks can carry a firearm into a polling place.

Commissioner Parsons asked Commissioner Lehman, what other options have been explored. Commissioner Lehman noted that he is curious to know why suddenly, the Ephrata Township Municipal Building is too small, specifically citing that the presidential election was rather large volume, and this election will have a much smaller volume. He added that this has not been a problem before, and he realizes it is coming off a Presidential election with an extreme high turnout in Lancaster county. However, he also noted that state law requires municipalities to host polling places and, in his opinion, hosting a polling places is one of the benefits taxpayers receive for the investment in those facilities.

Commissioner D’Agostino stated the Board has always in the past worked with the School Districts and Municipalities and not force the issue.

Commissioner Parsons does not recall ever forcing a municipality to host. Since Commissioner Lehman voted no he has an obligation to present an alternative or work with staff. Commissioner Lehman’s alternative is to keep Ephrata Township Municipality Building and prefers to keep the Hempfield School District Administration Building, pending clarification on the concealed carry issue and if not, it should be inside of the Kings District.

Ms. Miller noted that the polling places need to be posted today, however staff can go back and review the proposed changes to make sure that all are adjoining.

Motion passed.

Commissioner Parsons	Yes
Commissioner D’Agostino	Yes
Commissioner Lehman	No

Ms. Miller provided the following updates:

- Total number of registered voters – 344229
- Total number of Mail in/Absentee applications so far – 20608
  - o 16924 mailed in
  - o 3684 online
- 75% of voters will have a 2-page ballot, 3<sup>rd</sup> week of April is the anticipated start for ballots to be mailed out.

May primary:

- Incoming Mail ballots – We are planning to have the racks brought up from facilities in the next 2 weeks. We will then keep the ballots on the racks in our office as they had done previously for the June 2020 Primary.
- Rooms 102/104 have been reserved from May 13-May 24, 2021. This will allow us time to get ready for the pre-canvassing and polling location set up.
- Sheriff Deputies have been confirmed for the following times:
  - o May 14 until 8:00PM – ballot drop off.
  - o May 15 8:00-11:00AM – ballot drop off.
  - o May 17 until 8:00PM – ballot drop off.
  - o May 18 7am-10:30PM – Binn’s Park entrance, ballot drop off at the Chestnut Street entrance and voting machine warehouse for drop off.

Commissioner D’Agostino stated that he does not believe we will get help from the Legislature at this point, so the timing for pre-canvassing is the same as last year. Hopefully before the next general election there will be some action on making changes to help make our elections have more integrity and security moving forward.

Ms. Miller added that voters have until May 3, 2021 to register to vote and May 11, 2021 for your mail-in ballot application to be received.

Commissioner Lehman questioned the change in drop-box hours during the General election and asked the reason for the change. Ms. Miller stated they did not feel it was necessary to have an additional night for the drop-box to be open. Commissioner Lehman suggested that the hours stay the same and consistent as this is what voters were used to from the last year's Presidential. Having the drop-box open, one additional evening is reasonable. Commissioner Lehman questioned the change in the Saturday drop-box hours from the General to the Primary. Ms. Miller noted that the judge pick-up times have been changed. Commissioner Lehman adds that the 9AM-1:00PM is more user friendly than 8AM-11AM.

Commissioner Parsons is not objecting but does not think there needs to be any extended hours for the drop-box. The reason the Board agreed to the drop-box was to essentially help the Staff and voters not having to deal with security and drop it in the Elections office.


Commissioner Lehman added that the reason for the drop box is to help the elections staff manage folks that are coming to their counter. The May Primary will bring less folks, but once you establish a process, it is better to maintain it from both election staff and voters prospective.

Commissioner D'Agostino will ask staff to review this, he likes the idea of having the drop box as a convenience for staff and voters who are concerned about last minute mail and adds we will continue to do it as practical.

On a motion of Commissioner Parsons, seconded by Commissioner Lehman, the meeting was adjourned at 10:36 a.m.

Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Latoya Westbrook-Thomas, Executive Assistant  
Commissioners' Office