

LANCASTER COUNTY ELECTION BOARD MEETING
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 13, 2022

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

Present at today's meeting:

Ray D'Agostino, Chairman
Joshua G. Parsons, Vice-Chairman
John B. Trescot
BOARD OF ELECTIONS

Also present:

Jodi Blouck
LANCASTER TOWNSHIP

Theresa Carruthers
EPHRATA BOROUGH RESIDENT

Virginia Di'Ilio
EPHRATA BOROUGH

Catherine Durling
STRASBURG BOROUGH

Tess Feiler
LANCASTER VOTES

Pat Gerlach
MOUNT JOY

Dan Herr
LANCASTER CITY RESIDENT

Bob Hollister
EAST LAMPETER TOWNSHIP RESIDENT

Elizabeth Hoffman
LANCASTER CITY RESIDENT

Dunkin Hopkins
LANCASTER STANDS UP

Joel Ligen
LANCASTER CITY RESIDENT

Sally Lyall
LANCASTER TOWNSHIP RESIDENT

Christa Miller, Chief Clerk/Registrar
BOARD OF ELECTIONS

Amy Ruffo
LANCASTER CITY RESIDENT

Stephanie Sands
LANCASTER CITY RESIDENT

Tim Stuhldreher, Writer/Editor
ONE UNITED LANCASTER

Dan Sweigart
EPHRATA BOROUGH RESIDENT

Diane Topakian
LANCASTER COUNTY DEMOCRATIC COMMITTEE, CHAIR

Commissioner D'Agostino called the meeting to order at 10:01 a.m.

Commissioner D'Agostino announced postponing approval of the April 6, 2022, Election Board meeting minutes.

ELECTION BOARD RESOLUTION NO. 3 OF 2022

On motion of Commissioner Parsons, seconded by Commissioner Trescott;

WHEREAS, the following polling places are being moved for the 2022 General Primary: Lancaster City – Sixth Ward, Fifth Precinct is moving from the former Pennsylvania College of Health Sciences to YWCA Lancaster due to its previous location no longer being available for public use; Lancaster City – Eighth Ward, First Precinct is moving from Christ Lutheran Church to Lancaster County Convention Center due to the current location being unavailable for the 2022 election season; Lancaster City – Ninth Ward, First Precinct is moving from the Lancaster County Government Center to Christian Science Church due to the church’s location within the precinct; Columbia Borough – Sixth Ward is moving from Columbia QRS Inc to Victory Church due to its previous location no longer being available for public use; East Hempfield Township – Centerville District is moving from Hempfield Brethren in Christ Church to Vietnamese Alliance Church due to the new location’s adjacent proximity to the precinct; East Hempfield Township – Cherry Hill District is moving from Four Seasons Pro Shop to Hempfield United Methodist Church due to the new location’s adjacent proximity to the precinct; East Hempfield Township – Spring District is moving back from Vietnamese Alliance Church to its previous location of Community Fellowship Church; East Hempfield Township – Indian Springs District is moving back from Hempfield Area Recreation Commission to its previous location of Four Seasons Pro Shop; East Hempfield Township – Pleasant View District is moving from Reality Church to Church of the Apostles due to the former location’s unavailability; West Hempfield Township – Farmdale District is moving from Silver Spring Baptist Church to Chinese Bible Church of Lancaster due to the previous location’s planned demolition; West Lampeter Township – Locust District is moving from Willow Street Lions Club back to its previous location of Willow Valley Manor; West Lampeter Township – Lakes District is moving from Willow Street Lions Club back to its previous location of Willow Valley Lakes Manor.

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 17, 2022 General Primary, and of hearing thereon to be held in the Commissioners Public Meeting Room, 150 North Queen Street, Administration Building, 7th Floor Room 701, Lancaster, Pennsylvania on April 20, 2022, following the Commissioners’ public meeting which starts at 9:15 a.m.

FROM

TO

#0605 Lancaster City – Sixth Ward, Fifth Precinct

The Pennsylvania College of Health Sciences
410 North Lime Street
Lancaster, 17602

YWCA Lancaster
110 North Lime Street
Lancaster, 17602

#0801 Lancaster City – Eighth Ward, First Precinct

Christ Lutheran Church
407 Lafayette Street
Lancaster, 17603

Lancaster County Convention Center
25 South Queen Street
Lancaster, 17603

#0901 Lancaster City – Ninth Ward, First Precinct

Lancaster County Government Center
150 North Queen Street
Lancaster, 17603

Christian Science Church
200 West Lemon Street
Lancaster, 17603

#1306 Columbia Borough – Sixth Ward

Columbia QRS Inc.
336 North Seventh Street
Columbia, 17512

Victory Church
550 Linden Street
Columbia, 17512

#4902 East Hempfield Township - Centerville District

Hempfield Brethren in Christ Church
2600 Marietta Avenue
Lancaster, 17601

Vietnamese Alliance Church
3435 Nolt Road
Landisville, 17538

#4903 East Hempfield Township – Cherry Hill District

Four Seasons Pro Shop
949 Church Street
Landisville, 17538

Hempfield United Methodist Church
3050 Marietta Avenue
Lancaster, 17601

#4906 East Hempfield Township – Spring District

Vietnamese Alliance Church
3435 Nolt Road
Landisville, 17538

Community Fellowship Church
200 Bethel Drive
Lancaster, 17601

#4908 East Hempfield Township – Indian Springs District

Hempfield Area Recreation Commission
950 Church Street
Landisville, 17538

Four Seasons Pro Shop
949 Church Street
Landisville, 17538

#4914 East Hempfield Township – Pleasant View District

Reality Church
2301 Harrisburg Pike Suite 100
Lancaster, 17601

Church of the Apostles
1850 Marietta Avenue
Lancaster, 17603

#5002 West Hempfield Township – Farmdale District

Silver Spring Baptist Church
4001 Marietta Avenue
Columbia, 17512

Chinese Bible Church of Lancaster
(Back Building)
4050 Marietta Avenue
Columbia, 17512

#5204 West Lampeter Township – Locust District

Willow Street Lions Club
1730 Hans Herr Drive
Willow Street, 17584

Willow Valley Manor
71 Locust Lane
Willow Street, 17584

#5206 West Lampeter Township – Lakes District

Willow Street Lions Club
1730 Hans Herr Drive
Willow Street, 17584

Willow Valley Lakes Manor
300 Willow Valley Lakes Drive
Willow Street, 17584

Ms. Lyall asked about the size of announcements posted at the precincts informing voters of changes in polling locations. She said she was in a precinct that was moved recently, and they had elderly voters who were looking for a sign. Ms. Miller said it is an 8.5 by 14 legal size piece of paper that is posted at current location announcing where the new location will be and at several locations inside the precinct.

Motion passed unanimously.

Update on the 2022 Primary Election

Christa Miller, Chief Clerk/Registrar, Board of Elections

Ms. Miller said the current voter count is 345,569 voters; mail-in and absentee numbers are 22,352 and main ballot just arrived and will be sent out next week. Poll worker training is complete and over 100 new judges and inspectors were trained. Logic & Accuracy testing begins this week and next week. SURE Vote will not be used this election due to not being ready. Mail ballot test decks have arrived and will be sent out next week. Governor candidate who petitioned the court to remove himself from the ballot has been done and the ballot will remain the same.

Citizens voiced their opposition about having the ballot box removed from inside the county building. Ms. Lyall told a story about her mother's last vote and how long it took her ballot to arrive in the mail. She said there was not enough time for her mother to mail it back, so she decided to bring it to the drop box. She asked the Commissioners to have drop boxes throughout the County and does not believe voter fraud is created by the drop boxes. Mr. Ligen said there was no evidence of widespread voter fraud in Lancaster County and taking the drop box away will make it more difficult for citizens to vote. He would like to see more drop boxes placed throughout Lancaster City. Mr. Hollister said he believes it is the Commissioners' responsibility to try to get as many voters to vote as possible and he sees the drop box as a solution that meets a lot of needs, citing his 82-year-old father and the time when he may not be able to make it to vote in person at the polls. Ms. Topkian said the Commissioners should show leadership and put the issue on hold and have an evening meeting to allow more people to attend to discuss the issue.

Other citizens who were in favor of keeping the drop box were Ms. Ruffo, Ms. Carruthers, Mr. Sweigart, Ms. Hoffman, Ms. Blouck, Mr. Herr, Ms. Di'Ilio, Ms. Sands, Mr. Gerlach, Mr. Hopkins, Ms. Feiler and Ms. Durling.

Commissioner Trescot asked Ms. Miller, Chief Clerk of the Board of Elections, how many ballots get dropped off in the drop box. Ms. Miller said her office does not have a hard number but knows there were over 1,000 in the fall election. She said voter registration staff would service poll workers on the phones on Election Day and a temporary worker would handle people coming into the office with their ballots. He asked how administrative changes go about being made. Commissioner D'Agostino said administrative matters are not voted on and are by consensus.

Commissioner Trescot said he supports the citizens comments on the issue and has looked at other states that do 100 percent mail-in voting. He said the U.S. Postal Service has a less than 80 percent rate of getting the mail out on time. He said there does not appear to be any fraud in Lancaster County regarding use of the drop box but thinks there could better signage at the drop box, so people do not mistakenly create a misdemeanor problem. He also supports having additional drop boxes throughout the County.

Commissioner Parsons thanked the citizens for their comments. He said the Board of Elections' duty is to carry out the law, regardless of philosophical differences between the citizens and the board. He cited the fact that Governor Wolf broke the law that he signed by giving his wife his ballot to drop in the ballot box and he does not want that to inadvertently happen here with County citizens. He said by taking away the box it is a minor change and there are many other ways to cast a ballot.

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Commissioner D'Agostino also thanked the citizens for their comments and said the issue is one they have been talking about since Act 77 was put in place. He said there must be internal controls and integrity in the election, and it is not baked into the law. It is up to each county to make sure there is integrity, voracity, and transparency in the system.

Commissioner Trescot asked Commissioner D'Agostino if there is going to be an administrative action about the drop box change and that it be done in public or during the current meeting to make sure that whatever decision is made that it is on record what has been decided and why. He does not believe there was massive voter fraud even after audits were done around the country, but he is open to seeing it if there is evidence. He said making it easier for people to vote is just as important as having a secure, ease and convenient way of voting because it improves turnout.

Commissioner Trescot suggested discussing the matter again at next week's Election Board meeting. Commissioner Parsons said it is clear where the board stands. Commissioner D'Agostino said the consensus is he is not in favor of having a drop box. Commissioner Parsons agreed. Members of the audience said that is not a consensus. Commissioner D'Agostino said it is a consensus and that is how the Board works.

Mr. Stuhldreher asked for clarification if a decision was made to not have a drop box. Commissioner D'Agostino said that was correct.

Ms. Lyall said she did not hear the final decision being announced. Commissioner Trescot agreed.

Commissioner Parsons said it has been discussed at past Election Board meetings. He thanked everyone for their comments except for Mr. Hopkins, who he said is a paid political operative from Lancaster Stands Up, which is a socialist organization. He said Mr. Duncan's comments were not helpful and he was there just to attack the Board.

Commissioner Trescot said he does not understand why Commissioner Parsons would attack an individual who is a taxpayer. He said he may be paid by someone else, such as the Republican party. Commissioner Parsons indicated he reserves the right to respond to people who attack for political purposes.

On motion of Commissioner Parsons, seconded by Commissioner Trescot, the meeting adjourned at 11:43 a.m.

Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,



Lynn Commero, Executive Assistant
Commissioners' Office