

**LANCASTER COUNTY ELECTION BOARD MEETING**  
**WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 7, 2020**

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 M. George**  
**CHIEF CLERK**

**Lisa Johnson**  
**ASSISTANT CHIEF CLERK**

Also present was:

**Greg Paulson, Resident & Co-Council**  
**PENNSYLVANIA DEMOCRATIC PARTY**

**Diane Topakian, Chairperson**  
**LANCASTER COUNTY DEMOCRATIC COMMITTEE**

**Irene Vresk, Voter Protection Specialist**  
**CASA, & ON BEHALF OF LANCASTER STANDS UP & DEMOCRACY FOR ALL-PENNFUTURE**

**Carter Walker, Government Reporter**  
**LANCASTER NEWSPAPERS**

**Randall Wenger, Chief Clerk/Registrar**  
**BOARD OF ELECTIONS**

Commissioner D'Agostino called the meeting to order at 9:33 a.m.

Commissioner D'Agostino announced the approval of content only of the August 26, 2020 Election Board Meeting Minutes and to postpone approval of the September 23, 2020 Election Board Meeting Minutes.

**ELECTION BOARD RESOLUTION NO. 14 OF 2020**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE LANCASTER COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS ESTABLISHING  
COMPENSATION FOR NON-COUNTY EMPLOYEES PROVIDING SERVICES FOR PRE-CANVASSING  
AND CANVASSING OF BALLOTS IN A PRIMARY, MUNICIPAL OR GENERAL ELECTION**

On motion of Commissioner Parsons, seconded by Commissioner Lehman, the Lancaster County Board of Elections ("Board") hereby adopts the following Resolution:

**WHEREAS**, recent legislation and subsequent Court decisions have provided for pre-canvassing of mail-in ballots prior to the day of the election and the canvassing of those ballots after the day of the election; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board anticipates that it will need assistance from persons not employed by the County of Lancaster to satisfy the need for these pre-canvassing and canvassing responsibilities, given the expected increase in the number of mail-in ballots; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board wishes to establish a schedule of compensation for non-County employees assisting with pre-canvassing and canvassing activities.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE LANCASTER COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS** hereby establishes compensation for a non-County employee assisting with pre-canvassing and canvassing activities in a primary, municipal or general election at a rate of Fifty Dollars (\$50.00) for a half day of service, and One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00) for a full day of service.

ADOPTED this 7<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2020 by the Board of Elections of the County of Lancaster, Pennsylvania in lawful session duly assembled.

Motion passed unanimously.

**ELECTION BOARD RESOLUTION NO. 15 OF 2020**

On motion of Commissioner Lehman, seconded by Commissioner Parsons;

**WHEREAS**, the following polling places are being moved for the 2020 General Election: Lancaster City – Fifth Ward, Third Precinct is moving from Bethany Presbyterian Church to Chestnut Hill Church due to the current location being unavailable during the election; Lancaster City – Eighth Ward, Fourth Precinct is moving back from its temporary location of John Reynolds Middle School to its prior location at Redeemer Lutheran

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Church; Columbia Borough – Fifth Ward is moving from the Park Elementary School Gymnasium to Saint Paul Episcopal Church due to the school serving as a temporary polling location during the Primary and the prior polling location’s unavailability during the COVID-19 pandemic; Elizabethtown Borough – Third Ward, First Precinct is moving from Friendship Fire & Hose Company #1 back to its historic location of St. Paul’s United Methodist Church; Elizabethtown Borough – Third Ward, Third Precinct is moving from its temporary location of Elizabethtown Borough Public Works to Elizabethtown First Church of God due to the latter’s convenient and bigger space; Ephrata Borough – Second Ward is moving from its temporary location of Ephrata Review to Reformed Presbyterian Church due to the former’s change in ownership and the unavailability to return to the prior location during the COVID-19 pandemic; West Donegal Township – Third District is moving from its temporary location of the West Donegal Township Municipal Building to its prior location of Masonic Village; Manheim Township – Seventh District is moving from its temporary location at Way Delivery Services to Neffsville Plumbing & Heating Services; Manheim Township – Thirteenth District is moving from its temporary location of Lancaster Airport to its prior location at St. Thomas Episcopal Church; Manor Township – Bethel District is moving from its temporary location at Manor Church to Iglesia Casa de Benediccion due to the latter’s conveniency for the precinct; Pequea Township – West Willow District is moving from West Willow United Methodist Church to its historic location of West Willow Fire Company due to the former being unavailable during the election; Rapho Township – Elm Tree II District is moving from its temporary location of the Lancaster County Public Safety Training Center to its prior location at Acorn Farms; and Rapho Township – Willow Creek District is moving from Chiques United Methodist Church to Laserdome due to the former’s change in management.

**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 November 3, 2020 General Election, 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 October 14, 2020, following the Commissioners’ public meeting which starts at 9:15 a.m.

**FROM**

**TO**

**Lancaster City – Fifth Ward, Third Precinct**

Bethany Presbyterian Church  
25 North West End Avenue  
Lancaster, PA 17603

Chestnut Hill Church  
344 West Chestnut Street  
Lancaster, PA 17603

**Lancaster City – Seventh Ward, Second Precinct**

Martin Luther King Jr. Elementary School  
466 Rockland Street  
Lancaster, PA 17602

Garden Court Community Center  
520 East End Avenue  
Lancaster, PA 17602

**Lancaster City – Eighth Ward, Fourth Precinct**

Reynolds Middle School (Lobby)  
605 West Walnut Street  
Lancaster, PA 17603

Redeemer Lutheran Church  
500 Pearl Street  
Lancaster, PA 17603

**Columbia Borough – Fifth Ward**

Park Elementary School Gymnasium  
(Cherry Street Entrance)  
50 South Sixth Street  
Columbia, PA 17512

Saint Paul Episcopal Church  
340 Locust Street  
Columbia, PA 17512

**Elizabethtown Borough – Third Ward, First Precinct**

Friendship Fire & Hose Company #1  
171 North Mount Joy Street  
Elizabethtown, PA 17022

St. Paul’s United Methodist Church  
398 North Locust Street  
Elizabethtown, PA 17022

**Elizabethtown Borough – Third Ward, Third Precinct**

Elizabethtown Borough Public Works  
810 South Market Street  
Elizabethtown, PA 17022

Elizabethtown First Church of God  
144 South Market Street  
Elizabethtown, PA 17022

**Ephrata Borough – Second Ward**

Ephrata Review  
1 East Main Street  
Ephrata, PA 17522

Reformed Presbyterian Church  
21 East Locust Street  
Ephrata, PA 17522

**West Donegal Township – Third District**

West Donegal Township Municipal Building  
1 Municipal Drive  
Elizabethtown, PA 17022

Masonic Village  
One Masonic Village  
Elizabethtown, PA 17022

**West Hempfield Township – Chestnut Hill District**

West Hempfield Township Building & Fire  
Department  
3476 Marietta Avenue  
Lancaster, PA 17601

Trinity Reformed United Church of Christ  
450 West Main Street  
Mountville, PA 17554

**Manheim Township – Seventh District**

Way Delivery Services  
(former Reifsnnyder Piano Building)  
1020 Dillerville Road  
Lancaster, PA 17603

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

**Manheim Township – Thirteenth District**

Lancaster Airport  
500 Airport Road  
Lititz, PA 17543

St. Thomas Episcopal Church  
301 Saint Thomas Road  
Lancaster, PA 17601

**Manor Township – Bethel District**

Manor Church  
530 Central Manor Road  
Lancaster, PA 17603

Iglesia Casa de Benediccion  
1941 Benmar Drive  
Lancaster, PA 17603

**Pequea Township – West Willow District**

West Willow United Methodist Church  
118 West Willow Road  
Willow Street, PA 17584

West Willow Fire Company  
192 West Willow Road  
Willow Street, PA 17584

**Rapho Township – Elm Tree II District**

Lancaster County Public Safety Training Center  
101 Champ Boulevard  
Manheim, PA 17552

Acorn Farms  
3141 Mount Joy-Manheim Road  
Mount Joy, PA 17545

**Rapho Township – Willow Creek District**

Chiques United Methodist Church  
1215 East Main Street  
Mount Joy, PA 17552

Laserdome  
2050 Auction Road  
Manheim, PA 17545

Commissioner Lehman asked Mr. Wenger to go through the process of what this resolution means today and how voters will receive communication. Mr. Wenger explained his office will post notifications of the hearing at the various voting districts, publish an ad in the Lancaster Newspaper, send out postcards notifying voters of the changes, and post the information on their website. He noted no notification requirement is required by law other than holding these hearings, but they have found sending notification to voters is very helpful. Mr. Wenger said traditionally they mailed new voter registration cards but using a mail house to send the postcards saves money and staff time. He did point out that due to their size, the postcards are only in English.

Commissioner Lehman noted he will follow-up with LNP to see if they will be printing information about polling places in Spanish.

Motion passed unanimously.

**November 3, 2020 General Election Update:**

Mr. Wenger said they have six classes of poll worker training scheduled. They have processed 89,400 applications and mailed out over 86,000 absentee and mail-in ballots so far. They are using the space on the fifth floor as a ballot return operation and this arrangement is working very well. They are set up to get information electronically from the State which they will get at the close of business on October 27<sup>th</sup> to capture every absentee and mail-in application submitted and processed. He explained they have a new poll book vendor because the prior vendor was not able to get back with a proposal to do the change in format, which is due to the Department of State change; noting the new plan consists of the regular green poll book and a second light red color for voters who received and returned their absentee or mail-in ballots before October 27<sup>th</sup>, when the poll books went to press.

Commissioner D'Agostino noted there is a meeting next week regarding election security with people from inside and outside the County, in terms of the ballots, polling places along with canvassing and pre-canvassing.

Ms. Vresk thanked Mr. Wenger for his explanations and asked if they have considered satellite offices, more drop off boxes with extended hours and tents with volunteers so folks can stay in their car.

Commissioner D'Agostino said logistics make it not feasible or possible at this point in time, encouraged folks to drop off early and expressed concern about volunteers handling ballots.

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Commissioner Lehman stated the City put up three signs in front of the Government Center building for temporary parking to allow citizens to drop off their ballots, and Mr. Wenger confirmed three cars will fit in the space. Commissioner Lehman also said evening and Saturday hours would be helpful, noting the Election Office proposal is reasonable, but he was not comfortable with a tent or satellite office/s and drop boxes should have equitable and reasonable access and not be politicized.

Commissioner Parsons pointed out that this election is going to be the easiest to vote in history.

Ms. Topakian said they are doing a fantastic job and was glad to hear of the security meeting. She asked if weapons are allowed to be carried into a polling place, noting this makes her very nervous, are voters required to wear masks and can people vote in person if they were sent mail-in ballots, which were not requested.

Mr. Wenger said unless a polling place happens to be in a school or Court facility where possession is already prohibited by State law, Counties have no ability to enact further restrictions on the legal carry of firearms and just like he has no ability to restrict a voter from casting their Constitutionally protected ballot because of their refusal to wear a mask, he is not aware of any legal ability to restrict a duly elected election official from performing the duties they were elected to do because they will not wear a mask. However, for the people they are appointing at the Convention Center, mask wearing will be required. Also, he cannot ban a legal watcher from being present in the room at the Convention Center based on their refusal to wear a mask. They can ask and post signs saying masks are required, as many polling places do, but they cannot enforce it. Mr. Wenger said many calls have come in from people who received a mail-in because they do not remember checking the box on their application, noting 85% of people in the Primary applied for a permanent mail-in ballot.

Commissioner D'Agostino said training will be available on-line and wanted to get the message out that people can look up information online.

Commissioner Lehman asked Ms. Topakian to please follow-up with Mr. Wenger regarding the additional concerns she raised at the meeting.

**Center for Tech and Civic Life (CTCL) Grant Update:**

Mr. Wenger submitted the grant Wednesday afternoon, September 30<sup>th</sup>, after Board approval; it was approved the next day, the Controller submitted the signed payment paperwork, and the funds are expected to arrive shortly. Their solicitor is working on a document to approve the additional sums of money for polling places, poll workers as well as constables and rovers involved in the election day process.

Mr. Paulson said the Pennsylvania Election Code states there shall be no policemen within 10 feet of a polling place, whether in or out of uniform, on or off duty, and wanted everyone to keep this in mind when discussing election security; noting we do not want people intimidated and not exercise their right to vote by the fact that there are policemen or sheriffs at polling places. He also hoped that if there is some policy voted on next week, consideration is given to both the Democratic and Republican party in knowing what the policy is so we can all work together rather than ending up in court.

Commissioner Parsons said everyone is well aware of the code and there are no plans of having police at polling places. His larger security concern is making sure 120,000 regular and mail-in ballots are absolutely secure.

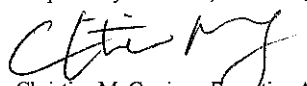
Commissioner D'Agostino said the security meeting is more about coordination and communication; making sure everyone understands their role; and did not anticipate needing to vote on policy.

Commissioner Lehman agreed and said it seems reasonable for the sheriffs to provide security at the Convention Center since they do when election results are brought back to the location by the Farm and Home Center.

On motion of Commissioner Parsons, seconded by Commissioner Lehman, the meeting adjourned at 10:26 a.m.

Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,



Christine M. Carrigan, Executive Assistant  
Commissioners' Office