

**BERKS COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
February 17, 2022 - 11 a.m.**

Kevin S. Barnhardt, Chair (not present)
Michael S. Rivera, Vice-Chair
Christian Y. Leinbach, Commissioner
Donna L. Blatt, Chief Clerk
Christine M. Sadler, County Solicitor
Cody L. Kauffman, First Assistant County Solicitor

CALL TO ORDER- 11:00 A.M.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Board approved the minutes for the January 6, 2022 Election Board meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS

None

ACTION ITEMS:

1. Review and Approval of Ballot Questions to be Placed on 2022 Primary Election Ballot

On the motion of Commissioner Leinbach, seconded by Commissioner Rivera, the Board approved that the ballot questions, as noted in Bill No. 63-2021 and Bill No. 10-2022, be placed on the 2022 Primary Election Ballot. Mr. Kauffman confirmed that the ballot questions were timely submitted and legally compliant.

- **Bill No. 63-2021**
 - An ordinance directing the Berks County Board of Elections to place a referendum question before City of Reading voters on the 2022 primary election ballot which would amend the City of Reading Home Rule Charter by eliminating Charter section 907 (Appropriation and Revenue) due to the limitations imposed on home rule municipalities by Title 53, Subpart E, Chapter 29 of the Home Rule Charter and Optional Plans Law.

- **Bill No. 10-2022**

- An ordinance directing the Berks County Board of Elections to place a referendum question before City of Reading voters on the 2022 primary ballot which would amend the City of Reading Home Rule Charter by eliminating the requirement for the City's public works director to be an engineer.

2. Review and Approval of Pollworker Pay for the 2022 Primary Election

On the motion of Commissioner Leinbach, seconded by Commissioner Rivera, the Board approved pay of \$180 for pollworkers and \$200 for judge of elections, plus mileage per the current mileage reimbursement policy of the County of Berks, for the 2022 Primary Election. These rates remained the same from the 2021 elections.

3. Voting Rights Act Update

Mr. Kauffman gave a brief update as a follow-up to the discussion at the January 6, 2022, Election Board meeting regarding the bilingual election requirements of Section 203 of the Voting Rights Act. He reminded the Board that Election Services had received a letter from the Department of Justice about Section 203 and the County wanted to clarify if the requirements were to be applied county-wide or continue under the current practices pursuant to a consent decree the County previously entered.

Mr. Kauffman said he was able to further discuss the letter with the Department of Justice and they confirmed that the County's current bilingual practices are compliant. The County is expected to continue following those practices and monitor precincts that may qualify for expanded bilingual services in the future. No further action needed.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

ADJOURNMENT – 11:10 a.m.