

**BERKS COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
November 22, 2024 – 8:00 A.M.**

Michael S. Rivera, Chair
Christian Y. Leinbach, Vice Chair
Dante Santoni, Jr., Commissioner
Anne Norton, Chief Clerk
Christine M. Sadler, County Solicitor – not present
Cody L. Kauffman, First Assistant County Solicitor

CALL TO ORDER: 8:00 A.M.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS

None.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

The Board deferred the approval of the minutes for the November 14 and 15, 2024 meetings.

Agenda Items

1. U.S. Senatorial Recount Objections

Discuss and make determinations related to any objections raised by the Casey and McCormick campaigns during the recount in the U.S. Senatorial race.

First Assistant County Solicitor Cody Kauffman explained that during the recount, both campaigns indicated they may be filing objections. However, in light of Senator Casey's concession on November 21, any potential objections had been withdrawn. Therefore, there are no objections to the recount that the Board needs to review.

Mr. Kauffman confirmed that Berks completed its recount on November 21.

2. Final Certification

On the motion of Commissioner Leinbach, seconded by Commissioner Santoni, the Board certified the official results of the votes cast during the General Election held on November 5, 2024.

Election Director's Report

Ms. Norton said that the 2% audit was completed on November 19. She said three precincts were selected randomly and then hand counted by three teams. Each team had one participant representing the Republican party and there was one overall observer for the Republican party. There were no participants or observers in attendance on behalf of the Democratic party.

The risk-limiting audit was completed November 21. Ms. Norton explained that the Department of State randomly selects batches for the RLA each election. Berks had four precincts selected, which were then tabulated on a different machine than what was utilized on Election Day. Ms. Norton said there were no variations found in either audit.

Commissioner Rivera noted that the 2% audit is selected by the County and is either 2% of the total ballots cast or 2,000 ballots, whichever is less. He noted that in previous elections, the audit was conducted through a mixed method of hand count and machine count, but this election it was done entirely by hand. He said the 2% audit took a day and a half to complete, while the RLA was done in less than two hours.

Public Comment

Jeffrey Wolfe, Brecknock Township, said he believes it is the job of the Election Board to investigate all reported discrepancies and fraud and report it to the District Attorney. He said he submitted several questions to the Board related to rejected provisional ballots. He said that while he believes the reasons for the rejections were consistent with the Election Code, he had concerns that some could be attempts to double vote or block others' votes and should be investigated further.

General Comments from the Board regarding current election-related issues

Commissioner Santoni thanked the Election staff for their great work throughout the election. He said it was important to note that after Election Day, he did not hear any complaints about the election being fake or rigged. He said that when elections are held, the voters speak and the results must be accepted, whether they align with our individual opinions or not.

Commissioner Rivera thanked the Election staff for all their hard work, including the recent recount effort. He said he also wanted to thank everyone who played a role in making sure the election went smoothly.

ADJOURNMENT 8:15 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Anne Norton, Chief Clerk