

**BERKS COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
April 28, 2022 – 11:00 A.M.**

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

CALL TO ORDER- 11:00 A.M.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Board approved the minutes for the April 21, 2022 Election Board meeting as presented.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS

No public comment.

ACTION ITEMS:

1. Policy No. EL-2022-08

On the motion of Commissioner Rivera, seconded by Commissioner Leinbach, the Board approved the implementation of Policy No. EL-2022-08 Nickname on Ballot. Under this policy, the Berks County Board of Elections will review requests by candidates to use a nickname on a ballot which is not a derivative of the candidate's first or middle name in determining whether the request is consistent with Pennsylvania ballot requirements.

2. Electronic Poll Books

The Board asked Elections Director Paige Riegner to provide an update on the contingency plan as discussed during the Election Board meeting on April 21, 2022. P. Riegner has followed up with ES&S and per discussion with ES&S has established that:

- a. Since 2019, ES&S has deployed over 20,000 Electronic Poll Books with no issues and a 0% failure rate
- b. ES&S recommends a 2% backup reserve of Electronic Poll Books to deploy on election day if any malfunctions occur; the Election Services office has met the 2% requirement
- c. ES&S will provide three (3) technicians for on-site support on election day

Based on this information, and after some discussion surrounding an alternate contingency option involving printed poll books be provided as a backup by the election day Rovers, Commissioner Rivera proposed a motion to approve the printed poll books for the General Primary only. Commissioner Leinbach seconded this motion. Motion approved.

3. General Comments from the Board of Elections Regarding Current Election Related Issues

Commissioner Barnhardt requested an update on the status of Mail-in and Absentee ballot requests. Elections Director Paige Riegner stated the office has received approximately 17,000 applications.

Commissioner Barnhardt also suggested an update of how many Mail-in and Absentee applications have been rejected by the Election Services office. Paige Riegner stated that the Elections office provides voters the opportunity to reapply or correct any errors on their applications.

Commissioner Leinbach questioned whether pre-filled registration applications and the legality of groups doing. Elections Director Paige Riegner acknowledged that the Elections office has been receiving pre-filled applications, however the voter must still provide identifiable information, such as date of birth. P. Riegner stated she could not speak as to the legality of this practice of groups providing pre-filled applications.

CITIZEN COMMENT

Citizen comment from John Archer from Spring Township:

In the very rare event that both electronic poll books go down,, how will the cable connected ballot printer device function?

Elections Director Paige Riegner responded that if this happens, provisional ballots would be deployed.

ADJOURNMENT – 11:35 A.M.