

**MINUTES
MEETING OF THE ALLEGHENY COUNTY
BOARD OF ELECTIONS**

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 23, 2012, 10:00 A.M., IN CONFERENCE ROOM #1, FIRST FLOOR
COURTHOUSE, PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA 15219.

BOARD MEMBERS: HON. JOHN P. DEFAZIO, CHAIR
HON. RICH FITZGERALD, MEMBER
HON. HEATHER S. HEIDELBAUGH, MEMBER

IN ATTENDANCE: TIM JOHNSON – DIRECTOR, DEPT. OF ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES
MARK WOLOSIK – MANAGER, DIVISION OF ELECTIONS
ALLAN J. OPSITNICK - ASST. COUNTY SOLICITOR, LAW DEPT.

- I. **CALL TO ORDER:** Meeting was called to order by Mr. DeFazio at 10:05 a.m.
- II. **PUBLIC COMMENT:** Audrey Glickman, Pittsburgh, Ward 15, District 2. Add (412) to Elections Division phone number on forms. At the Special Election in the 40th Senatorial District, some polling places were in the 724 area code.
Ron Bandes, Judge of Election, Ward 14, District 1, presented a new form for a challenger to file.
Paul O'Hanlon discussed coordinating the emergency ballot process in hospitals for the upcoming election.
- III. **NOVEMBER 6, 2012 GENERAL ELECTION:** The 3rd Circuit Court ruled that news media can be nearby, but not in polls. The Post- Gazette's suit is dismissed.

The Public Test of the Optical Scan counting equipment was performed on 5 high-speed ballot scanners on October 24, 2012.

The Pa. Department of State ruled that photo ID was to be requested, but not required, at the upcoming General Election. Only first-time voters at a polling place are required to show approved ID.

Mr. Wolosik predicted a 70% voter turnout for the upcoming General Election.

- IV. **ADJOURNMENT:** Moved by Mr. Fitzgerald, meeting adjourned at 10:45 a.m.

CHALLENGER'S STATEMENT

Election Date: _____

Municipality: _____ Ward: _____ District: _____

Challenged Elector's Name: _____

Reason for challenge: Identity Residence Violation of Election Code Other

Basis for Challenge:

Challenger's Name: _____

Challenger's Address: _____

I hereby swear that I am a resident of Allegheny County, Pennsylvania and my challenge is made in good faith. My challenge is factual to the best of my knowledge.

Challenger's Signature

Date

The challenged elector must demonstrate his qualifications to cast a regular ballot only to the satisfaction of the Judge of Election, and not of the challenger. 25 P.S. § 3051

Emergency Absentee Ballot assistance at hospitals on Election Day

Background –

Beginning in 2008, the Disability Voting Coalition of Pennsylvania has partnered with hospitals to offer patients Emergency Absentee Ballot assistance on Election Day. This is a completely non-partisan program – we do not support or endorse any particular political candidate or party. (Because the procedure is time-consuming, we can only offer the Election Day assistance for patients who are registered to vote in Allegheny County.)

We have worked with hospitals in two alternative ways –

1. By bringing in our own trained volunteers; or
2. Training and working with hospital volunteers (hospital volunteers have included in-house volunteers and staff; one hospital used their HUCs – Health Unit Coordinators).

Depending on what would work best at your hospital – we are happy to use either method.

How it works –

In the morning we identify those patients who want to vote. We provide them with the forms that will be needed, and assist them in completing the forms.

Around mid-day we hand off the completed forms to a volunteer driver with the Disability Voting Coalition who will take the forms to the County Elections Office; go before a Judge to approve the application; and bring back the voters' Absentee Ballots.

By mid-afternoon the blank ballots will be distributed to patients – we'll provide any assistance the voter needs to complete the ballot. The ballots are then collected, delivered back to the volunteer driver (which completes

the job at the hospital). The volunteer driver delivers the completed ballots to the County Elections office and files them by the 8:00pm deadline.

Longer term patients –

While most patients are in the hospital for very short periods of time – some hospitals have longer term patients. Those patients who will be in the hospital for at least 10 days to two weeks before Election Day – have time to process the regular (and administratively simpler) Absentee Ballot process. This service (before Election Day) can be offered to all registered voters – regardless of which County they are registered in. I can arrange to bring in volunteers a couple of weeks before Election Day to assist those longer-term patients . . . but I'll need hospitals to direct me to those longer-term patients.

Requests –

1. Does your hospital want to participate? If so, please let me know.
2. Does your hospital have patients who will be in the hospital for at least two weeks before Election Day? If so, please let me know how I can reach out to them to process the normal Absentee Ballot procedure.
3. Does your hospital have volunteers I can train and work with on Election Day? If so, then I'd like to set up one or more training sessions in the weeks before Election Day where I will train the volunteers. The training takes approximately an hour. I've done the trainings in person and by telephone – I can be flexible.

If you are interested, if you have questions, please contact me: Paul W. O'Hanlon, Esq., pohanlon@drnpa.org, 412-258-2132 (office); 412-480-3160 (cell).

If you live in
Allegheny County,
we can help you
vote today.

dvcpa.org

Disability Voting Coalition of Pennsylvania

Voting by Emergency Absentee Ballot

Today is Election Day. We can assist you in filing an emergency absentee ballot.

To qualify, you must be:

- Registered to vote;
- Unable to vote at your polling place because of illness or disability – and you could not have known this by the normal deadline of one week ago; and
- A resident of Allegheny County. (We're very sorry but we can only offer this service to Allegheny County residents.)

This service is offered by Disability Voting Coalition of Pennsylvania with support from the Election Protection Network. Both organizations are totally non-partisan and are committed to all citizens having the opportunity to vote. We believe that voting must be made available to all. We deeply appreciate the cooperation of UPMC to offer this service.

The process:

Step 1: We provide you with the Emergency Application for Absentee Ballot form. You must provide the information needed to complete the official form. We will be happy to provide any assistance you need in completing this form.

The form requires you to provide the following information:

I expect to be unable to attend my proper polling place on the day of the election because of illness or physical disability. The nature of which appears below:

Please note that this form is a public document. All the information you place on this document will be public. We suggest saying as little as necessary, and only say what you feel comfortable disclosing. Our suggestion is to say only: "I am in the hospital."

On pages 2 and 3 of the form you designate the volunteer who will take your application downtown as your "authorized representative." This permits the volunteer to pick up your blank ballot and then return and file it after you enter your votes on the ballot.

Step 2: We get a doctor to sign the form.

Step 3: We take your application to the Allegheny Department of Elections downtown, and file the application. We go before a Judge and get approval for the Emergency Application. Your blank paper ballot will be delivered to your authorized representative to drive it to the hospital and bring it back to you.

Step 4: Your blank paper ballot will be delivered to your room (we believe this will happen around 2:30pm.) You will be able to fill out your selections on the ballot, place it in a privacy envelope and return it to your authorized representative.

Step 5: Your authorized representative will take your completed ballot down to the Allegheny Department of Elections and file it before the deadline of 8:00pm.

For more information call

412-648-6105