

COUNTY OF



ALLEGHENY

April 27, 2020

The Honorable Kathy Boockvar, Secretary
Via Email: kboockvar@pa.gov
Pennsylvania Department of State
302 North Office Building
401 North Street
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Re: Allegheny County Polling Place Consolidation – Request for Exception

Secretary Boockvar:

Pursuant to Act 12 of 2020, specifically Section 1802-B (A) (3) of Article XVIII-B of the Pennsylvania Election Code entitled “Emergency Provisions for 2020 General Primary Election,” Allegheny County respectfully requests that the Department of State grant approval to allow the county to consolidate its present polling place locations into no fewer than 138 polling place locations for the June 2, 2020 General Primary Election.

Under normal circumstances, Allegheny County utilizes 1,323 polling places and approximately 6,500 elected and appointed poll workers. We have received notification from a large number of those workers that they are unable or unwilling to work due to their concerns with COVID-19. Due to the unprecedented conditions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, and to further the goals of mitigating the impact of the virus in our county, we believe that the number of polling place locations must and should be consolidated to allow for the orderly, efficient and fair conduct of the upcoming 2020 General Primary Election.

To that end, we ask for approval of the consolidation of its polling place locations, as stated in the attached Resolution enacted by the Board of Elections at its April 23, 2020 public meeting. There will be no fewer than one polling place per municipality, with the exception of the City of Pittsburgh which will have no fewer than nine polling places. To be clear, the expectation is that in larger municipalities, there will be multiple polling places, but they will be housed within the same location. As appropriate, additional or alternate locations will also be identified by Elections to further the goal of physical distancing when a large volume of in-person voters are expected.

The primary goal of the plan is to move polling places to a central, easily identifiable and accessible location in each municipality. As you will see from the attached listing, 70 municipal buildings are currently used as polling places and there are another 10 polling places in buildings attached to a municipal building; for example, a municipal library. These locations are being given first consideration because we know that they already meet the requirements for polling places. The Elections Division is reaching out to each

JERRY TYSKIEWICZ, DIRECTOR

DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES – DIVISION OF ELECTIONS
604 COUNTY OFFICE BUILDING • 542 FORBES AVENUE • PITTSBURGH, PA 15219
PHONE (412) 350-4500 • FAX (412) 350-5697 • WWW.ALLEGHENYCOUNTY.US

municipality, looking at the number of registered, eligible voters in each municipality and polling place, and the continuing to review the number of voters in that community who have applied for an absentee or mail-in ballot. Each location selected will have sufficient space, parking and handicapped access and will be appropriately equipped with ballot marking devices for ADA voter use.

Continuing correspondence and communication shall be sent as the details of the polling place plan are developed so that the Department of State shall have a full understanding of the polling places utilized within Allegheny County at the June 2, 2020 General Primary Election. We will also develop and provide a communications plan to the department to outline how this information will be conveyed to all parties.

For the reasons set forth herein, the county respectfully requests that the Department of State grant approval to Allegheny County to consolidate its present polling place locations to no fewer than 138 polling place locations for the June 2, 2020 General Primary Election.

If you have any questions concerning this request, please do not hesitate to contact me. We will, as noted above, stay in contact with the department as additional details are confirmed.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jerry Tyskiewicz". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Jerry Tyskiewicz, Director
Department of Administrative Services

c: The Honorable Jonathan M. Marks, Deputy Secretary - Elections and Commissions
The Honorable Rich Fitzgerald, Chair – Board of Elections
The Honorable Samuel DeMarco – Board of Elections
The Honorable Bethany Hallam – Board of Elections
Andrew F. Szefi, County Solicitor
David Voye, Manager - Division of Elections