

Daniel Hardwick
686 Harrogate Rd
Pittsburgh, PA 15241

September 8, 2024

To: Allegheny County Board of Elections
Honorable Samuel DeMarco III, Bethany Hallam, Sara Innamorato

My comments today are regarding the voter rolls in Allegheny County. In recent months, I have learned that there are over 30,000 voters on the Allegheny county rolls who have either moved out of the county or passed away.

Before removing a voter from the rolls, there seems to be a clumsy method in which we require a letter sent back to the county, and/or there is no contact from that voter for two Federal election cycles.

I am not a politician, and have only recently become interested in election integrity. In manufacturing/industry companies are obligated to perform inspections and make corrections quickly in order to satisfy customers and stay in business. Comparing the inspection rolls to the postal change of address lists is kind of like inspecting. The 30,000+ overlaps are rejections. As of 2020 there were 942,256 registered voters in Allegheny County. For rounding purposes call it 1,000,000. $30,000/1,000,000$ is a 3% error.

There is little risk to removing these 30,000+ from the voter rolls. If one of these voters shows up at the polls, they can be given a provisional ballot providing they provide proper identification.

The larger risk is doing nothing. As we are all concerned about election integrity, fast action should be taken to correct the voter rolls. A nefarious, tech savvy group could easily take advantage of these 30,000+ voters and make a 3% change in results.

My request is that the BOE takes fast action (change rules if needed) to shore up the voter rolls before November 5, 2024.

Regards,

Daniel Hardwick

Voye, David

From: Brenda Forman
Sent: Sunday, September 8, 2024 12:21 AM
To: # Board of Elections
Subject: Comment Submission for Monday September 9, 2024 BOE Meeting

Warning: This email was sent from an external source. Please be sure you recognize the sender and use caution when clicking on links and/or opening attachments.

1. The 2024 Allegheny County Grants Budget/Special Accounts Budget/Agency Fund Budget/Bill No. 12858-23 has a Grant-20-TBD for Election Integrity (Attachment A Page 5) in the amount of \$9,500,000.00

<https://www.alleghenycounty.us/files/assets/county/v/1/government/budget-amp-finance/grants-special-accounts-and-agency-fund-budgets/2024-grants.pdf>

Who is providing the funding for the Election Integrity Grant of \$9,500,000.00?

How is the \$9,500,000.00 going to be used/allocated?

Is there a line-item budget available for the intended disbursement of the Election Integrity Grant (\$9,500,000.00) funds?

B. The 2024 Allegheny County Operating Budget, Bill Number 12856-23, lists the Division of Elections Budget (Attachment A Page 8) Services at \$6,380,250.00.

What is the line-item breakdown for item 60000 Services?

How is this money spent on between the primary and general elections of 2024?

Does this amount include any purchasing of software for the ES&S 200 scanners? Or the updating of the software to make it "current"? Or is that a part of the Department of Information Technology's (DIT) budget and oversight?

C. Who does the Division of Elections and/or the Department of Information Technology have their AirGap Contract with?

D. What amount of the Department of Information Technology's budget is earmarked for Elections?

E. Is a Cradle Point Router used in any portion of the Allegheny County election process?

F. What outside auditing agency has the Department of Elections contracted with to run the parallel testing of the election equipment?

Is it possible to randomly select equipment from several precincts, instead of only one precinct?

Is it possible to have spectators witness the parallel testing?

<https://www.alleghenycounty.us/Government/Elections/Election-Security>

Comments to the Board of Elections for the Sept. 9, 2024 meeting

From William Towne

To the Board of Elections:

First, **thank you for having your public meeting on August 28**. In the future, it would be helpful if the advertised and actual purposes of the meetings matched; the mismatch for that one and partial refusals to discuss the advertised topic led to unnecessary additional perceptions about trying to mislead the public. Those interested in the advertised but not real topic may feel their time was wasted, while those interested in the real but not advertised topic might have felt that omitting anything about "ballot return sites" from the description was primarily intended to keep them away.

At that meeting, one public questioner asked if we had fixed the issue about **voter-unique codes** being put on ballots. Previously, that was an issue that violated voters' constitutional rights, allowing County officials to figure out who voted for who by matching a voter-unique code printed on both the ballot and declaration envelope. Some of the associated records, which the Election Code designates as public records and requires be retained for two years, were allegedly destroyed instead of provided in response to a transparency request. For others, the County insists they still have the public records but won't provide them **because** the records allow votes to be tied to voters. The County claims this was an issue from one vendor (though the vendor could reasonably argue this was **required** by the bid specifications the County put out). Under pressure from this Board, the County temporarily changed away from using that vendor but changed back after the pressure had blown over. Due to additional pressure from another organization, the County appears to have temporarily changed away again, well after the date it falsely told a Court was far too late to make such a change. However, the County refuses to make any strong public commitment against going back to that practice again in the future, and I've been asking this Board for such a resolution for years. Please pass it now.

At that meeting, David Voye sat right next to Atty. Opsitnick and lied to the Board and public by claiming that "the County couldn't go back and see who you voted for ... we've never had the ability to go back and look to see who anybody voted for, or did we ever." However, **within several hours** earlier that same day, the County (through Atty. Opsitnick, primarily citing Voye's testimony and affidavit) filed a late brief in GD-22-007739 claiming the **opposite** (that such a capacity does exist) as a reason for denying transparency of public records. It's not the only filing or case where the County administration has made that argument, but folks are noticing when the same people make strong and opposite claims within several hours on the same day! That is especially true shortly after a ruling from Commonwealth Court implying that Allegheny County's claimed violations of citizens' constitutional rights legally justifies covering up that violation. It was very frustrating to see Mr. Voye lie so boldly to the public and Board, knowing that there are no practical consequences for doing so. If the same folks are still in charge of elections this fall (as I assume will happen), that only helps any campaigns to discredit election officials and the results officials announce. The officials you've delegated your responsibilities to know that the responsibility does not come with accountability, and that you will believe whatever lies they feed you. Please stop blindly believing the lies and read your court filings; I have much more detail if you want.

Per my comments at the April 15, 2024 meeting (not the first time in my public comments!), I am still concerned about the County's official position (intended primarily to block transparency because the

Election Code makes "official" ballots public records) that postal (i.e., mail-in and absentee) ballots are **NOT** official ballots once marked by the voter. I incorporate prior comments by reference here. At that meeting, Ms. Hallam asked about the topic and got direct lies from the Elections Division: Atty. Opsitnick repeatedly claimed to the Board and public that the ballots remained official ballots, the direct opposite of the position he & Atty. Shiels still take in courts on the County's behalf. That position is now written into multiple county court rulings. Absent a prompt contrary resolution from this Board and a settling consent decree, that could cause all of Allegheny County's postal ballots get thrown out this fall: 25 P.S. § 3059 requires only official ballots "and no other ballots" to be counted. In the 2020 general election, the victor's statewide margin was found two and a half times over in Allegheny County postal ballots, so this has the potential for a big impact statewide. Please read some of the County's own filings, like the one where the County sued me to block transparency or the court decision in [SA-22-000612](#) instead of letting yourself be misled by the Division. You really should pass a resolution, and reach out for settlement talks your attorneys refuse to inquire if you want to engage in, to fix this promptly.

Immediately after that April lie from Atty. Opsitnick in response to Ms. Hallam's question came another, about publicly posting the County's policies and procedures for how ballots are counted at the warehouse. Ms. Hallam repeatedly asked about passing a resolution that would require those documents to be publicly posted on the website (describing how cumbersome the Right-To-Know-Law request process is in this county), and the Division only avoided a resolution by promising to post these documents voluntarily. The documents aren't there, and in response to a Right-To-Know-Law request for them, the County falsely claimed that the records Mr. Opsitnick described to this board and the public don't and didn't exist, requiring a cumbersome ongoing appeal process that Ms. Hallam sought to avoid requiring. Please pass the resolution Ms. Hallam had thought to propose.

25 P.S. § 3146.9 & 3150.17 parts (b-c) require the County to compile certain information about postal ballot applications and make it publicly available within 48 hours of a request. This data could be used for the much of the analysis work the Division reported on (and reported was still left to be done) at the August 28 meeting, along with its call for public input. However, the County does not comply with these requirements and delays attempts to get records by **years**, still refusing to comply while requiring Requesters incur at least tens of thousands of dollars in legal costs. The County's noncompliance supports misinformation, even from official sources, that unnecessarily boosts claims of election fraud. The observable view from top Elections officials that the law as written doesn't matter also damages public trust in announced results. Even when a lawsuit on this was filed against the County and you (the Board), your attorney (Opsitnick) couldn't even be bothered to file a substantive response to the lawsuit for more than 9 months and until after a Court judgment had been entered **against you**. It shouldn't take that to get a substantive response, and you should be complying with transparency laws without years of costly delays especially when asking for public help with that data! Please pass a resolution requiring actual compliance with the law as written, even if it means the Elections Division has to make its own spreadsheet and keep timestamped copies of data backed up somewhere.

We should not unnecessarily provide a legal basis for hundreds of thousands of County voters to be disenfranchised after an election by a campaign not happy with the results. Please don't allow yourself to be misled and override the Division with resolutions passed by this Board at this meeting.

Thank you for your consideration!

Voye, David

From: Innamorato, Sara
Sent: Monday, August 26, 2024 4:25 PM
To: Voye, David
Cc: Gittlen, Grant
Subject: FW: More Satellite Election Offices, please!

Hi David,

Here is a feedback for elections. Can you make sure it is added to the responses you are receiving from the survey?

Thanks,

Sara

From: Ryan Joyce <ryanjoyce108@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, August 26, 2024 4:18 PM
To: Innamorato, Sara <Sara.Innamorato@AlleghenyCounty.US>
Cc: DeMarco, Samuel <Samuel.DeMarco@AlleghenyCounty.US>; Hallam, Bethany <Bethany.Hallam@AlleghenyCounty.US>
Subject: More Satellite Election Offices, please!

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Hello, County Executive Innamorato and Allegheny County Board of Elections Members:

Please consider opening more Satellite Election Offices in Allegheny County, particularly in densely populated areas where the greatest number of people can be served. Also, please consider longer hours for these Offices, including weekend hours leading up to election day. Finally, please do all that is possible to encourage people to register and exercise their critically important right to vote!

Thank you,
Ryan Joyce
Aspinwall, PA
(412) 953-7354

Voye, David

From: Innamorato, Sara
Sent: Tuesday, September 3, 2024 2:30 PM
To: Voye, David; Garofolo, Jessica
Cc: Gittlen, Grant
Subject: FW: Satellite Elections Offices

From: Nic DeWalt <nicole.dewalt@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, August 27, 2024 12:11 PM
To: Innamorato, Sara <Sara.Innamorato@AlleghenyCounty.US>; DeMarco, Samuel <Samuel.DeMarco@AlleghenyCounty.US>; Hallam, Bethany <Bethany.Hallam@AlleghenyCounty.US>
Subject: Satellite Elections Offices

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I support satellite election offices! We should be able to vote when it's convenient for us and I love the idea of returning my ballot directly to the Allegheny Co DOE!

Thank you for considering satellite offices!

Nic DeWalt
Upper St. Clair, Allegheny County resident

Voye, David

From: Innamorato, Sara
Sent: Tuesday, September 3, 2024 10:36 AM
To: Voye, David; Garofolo, Jessica
Cc: Gittlen, Grant
Subject: FW: Enhancing Voter Access and Resources

From: Matthew Trickett <matthew.a.trickett@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, August 27, 2024 12:03 PM
To: Innamorato, Sara <Sara.Innamorato@AlleghenyCounty.US>; samuel.damarco@alleghenycounty.us; Hallam, Bethany <Bethany.Hallam@AlleghenyCounty.US>
Cc: # Board of Elections <BOE@AlleghenyCounty.us>
Subject: Enhancing Voter Access and Resources

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Dear Board of Elections,

I hope this message finds you well. My name is Matthew Trickett, and I am a resident of Squirrel Hill. As a member of our community, I deeply value the democratic process and the importance of ensuring that every eligible voter has the opportunity to participate in our elections. Our shared values of voting as a fundamental right and a cornerstone of our democracy calls for us to work together to ensure that voting is as accessible and convenient as possible for every eligible citizen, regardless of their location or circumstances.

In Allegheny County, thousands of voters—Democrats, Republicans, and Independents alike—have successfully utilized Satellite Election Offices. By increasing the number of these offices, we can reduce long lines on Election Day, decrease mail ballot rejection rates, and provide a more secure voting experience for all. One of the key ways we can achieve this is by expanding the availability and resources of Satellite Election Offices. These Offices play a vital role in making elections more accessible and secure by providing essential services such as voter registration, mail ballot applications, and the ability to mark and submit ballots all in one convenient location.

My personal experience has shown me just how vital these resources are. From my time as a social worker acting in service of at-risk, disadvantaged young adults to my time as a Community Liaison and educator, I've seen how a variety of hurdles--long work days, inaccessibility to transportation, lack of visible information, lack of accessible locations due to disabilities, etc--can impact individuals or demographics of people from exercising their Right to Vote.

I believe that expanding access to these services is not only a win for voters but also for our county as a whole. Therefore, I am writing to ask if I can count on your support to begin a policy for notifying voters about these resources and curing ballots when necessary.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this important matter. I look forward to your response and hope to work together to ensure that every voter in our community has the opportunity to participate fully in our democracy.

Best regards,
Matthew Trickett

Voye, David

From: Innamorato, Sara
Sent: Tuesday, September 3, 2024 10:35 AM
To: Voye, David; Garofolo, Jessica
Cc: Gittlen, Grant
Subject: FW: Public comment on satellite offices, hours, days

Feedback for elections.

Thanks,

Sara

From: Mary Zuccaro <maryznp@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, August 27, 2024 11:06 AM
To: Innamorato, Sara <Sara.Innamorato@AlleghenyCounty.US>; DeMarco, Samuel <Samuel.DeMarco@AlleghenyCounty.US>; Hallam, Bethany <Bethany.Hallam@AlleghenyCounty.US>
Subject: Public comment on satellite offices, hours, days

Warning! This email was sent from an external source. Please be sure you recognize the sender and use caution when clicking on links and/or opening attachments.

Good Morning,

I am Mary Zuccaro, a senior citizen and chair of the Carnegie Democratic Committee. I appreciate this opportunity to express support for accessible Satellite Offices, as well as increased hours and locations. First, I want to thank you for the improvements you've made that we saw with the spring Primary. Adding yellow color to the inside envelopes was a game changer for seniors who can get confused with 2 envelopes. We also appreciated the timeliness and reliability of emails regarding the receipt of our votes. And your website has been improved and is easier to navigate.

In my experience reaching out to working people, people with disabilities, and seniors throughout Carnegie, we would welcome whatever you can do to bring Satellite Offices to our area. Some folks are afraid to drive through the tunnel and into the city. Then we have seniors who are either disabled or who can't drive and need their ballots cured. I ran into this in a previous election. A daughter had to drive her into the city during rush hour. A nearby satellite office would be most appreciated by seniors and disabled voters, as well as those of us who need to provide their transportation.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Mary Zuccaro
Carnegie

Voye, David

From: Innamorato, Sara
Sent: Tuesday, August 27, 2024 9:53 AM
To: Voye, David
Subject: FW: Opening satellite voting offices in Allegheny County benefits all voters.

From: Misbah B <misbahsyed2@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, August 26, 2024 6:41 PM
To: boe@allegheycoutny.us; Innamorato, Sara <Sara.Innamorato@AlleghenyCounty.US>; DeMarco, Samuel <Samuel.DeMarco@AlleghenyCounty.US>; Hallam, Bethany <Bethany.Hallam@AlleghenyCounty.US>
Subject: Opening satellite voting offices in Allegheny County benefits all voters.

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Dear Allegheny County Board of Elections,

My name is Misbah, and I reside in Allegheny County. I wanted to take this opportunity to ask that you consider adding satellite election offices here in Allegheny County.

Voting is more than just a constitutional right—a fundamental duty defining us as a nation. It's the cornerstone of our democracy and what makes America America. Here in Pennsylvania, every voter has the right to cast their vote and have it counted.

As Pennsylvanians, we share the value of fairness and the belief that every voice should be heard. Unfortunately, many voters face obstacles that limit their ability to participate due to inconvenient polling hours or lack of access to nearby voting locations. I know parents juggling work and childcare who have exhausted their leave and cannot take more time off to vote and individuals without reliable transportation who must navigate public transit to reach a polling station.

Regardless of who we are, where we live, or who we support, every eligible voter should have the opportunity to cast their ballot at a time and place that works for them. To make this a reality, we must ensure that satellite offices are strategically placed in densely populated areas with easy access to public transportation. Additionally, extending voting hours beyond the typical workday will help accommodate those with non-traditional work or family commitments.

By taking these steps, we uphold our shared values of fairness and equality and ensure that every voice is heard, every vote is counted, and our nation's democratic values are upheld.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Best regards,
Misbah