

Fayette County Election Board Meeting

Wednesday, August 30, 2023

Fayette County Election Bureau's Training Room

2 West Main Street, Suite 111, Uniontown, PA 15401, at 10:30 AM.

Silent Prayer or Moment of Reflection

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call

In attendance, Election Board Members:

Mark Rowan

John Kopas

Robert Lesnick

Also present were:

Jack Purcell, Solicitor, Fayette County

Sheryl Heid, Solicitor, Fayette County

Marybeth Kuznik, Director of Elections

Jessica Zele, Deputy Director of Elections

Members of the press

Meeting was called to order by Mark Rowan at 10:35AM

Public Comment of Agenda Item:

None

Review of Minutes of the July 27, 2023, August 17, 2023, and August 23, 2023, meetings

Robert Lesnick made a motion to approve the minutes

John Kopas seconded

Motion passed unanimously.

Consider the results of the recount of the Republican County Commissioner race and the Court Order of August 24, 2023.

Mark Rowan requested the results of the recount and the court orders denying the petitioner additional time to file additional challenges be appended to the meeting minutes as official documents as a part of this record.

The court has issued orders for all six precincts that were recounted. He reads one into record as action will be taken based on these 6 orders:

“AND NOW, this 24th day of August, 2023, after affording petitioner a thorough opportunity to observe a meticulous hand recount of the ballots cast at the South Connellsville Borough precinct, the election results from the South Connellsville Borough precinct shall be certified by the Fayette County Election Bureau. This Court specifically finds that the ballot scanners operated correctly in reading the ballots and that the ink bleed through did not affect the computation of the votes cast. The court therefore finds that there was no evidence submitted by petitioners to support the allegations of error or fraud as set forth in the above-captioned petition. Further, there being no evidence of substantial error, the \$50.00 deposit shall not be refunded to Petitioners.”

Identical order for Georges Township 3, Dunbar Borough, Connellsville Township, Bullskin Township 1 and 3.

Separate order denying petitioner’s request for 5 additional days to request additional ballot boxes to be opened. With that the court has cleared the way for the Board to certify the Fayette County Commissioner’s race on the Republican side.

Motion to certify the Fayette County Republican Commissioner’s race.

Robert Lesnick motioned

John Kopas seconded

Motion passed unanimously.

Certification of the Fayette County Republican Commissioner’s race was at 10:42 am with all Election Board members signing, which certified the entire Fayette County 2023 Primary Election.

Consider the location of the Henry Clay Township polling place

The current location is at the Mountain Fellowship Center, the Election Bureau was informed that the Center would be withdrawing as a polling location.

The Uniontown School District was contacted regarding the need to see Marclay Elementary School and AJ McMullen Middle School as prospective polling places. Marclay was suggested as having one level and being easier to access for voting purposes. Ariel shots of both schools were given to the Board for review.

An ADA survey per Department of State regulations must be conducted of any prospective polling location. The Election Bureau is requesting the Board authorize this change pursuant to the school passing the ADA requirement.

Motion made to move the Henry Clay Township polling location from the Mountain Fellowship Center to the Marclay Elementary school pending the inspection to ensure compliance to the ADA requirements.

Robert Lesnick motioned

John Kopas seconded

Motion passed unanimously

The Election Board and the Bureau wish to thank the school district.

One new item

Requesting the Board consider approving Election Bureau guidelines for people inspecting records on the premises to give written structure, to keep the integrity of the records, chain of custody, and so that the letter of the law is followed.

These guidelines are based on Section 2648 of the Election Code, suggesting reasonable rules and regulations, and are followed by counties across the state.

Mark Rowan suggested this be on the agenda for the next meeting and posted on the website as proposed rules/guidelines for public inspection of records, and comment on them for the Board to act on in the next meeting.

The Board discussed possible times for the next meeting.

John Kopas made a motion to go to Executive Session to discuss pending litigation

Seconded by Robert Lesnick

Motion passed unanimously.

The Board entered Executive Session at 10:58 AM

Executive Session ended at 11:38AM

11:38 AM Mark Rowan made a motion to adjourn the meeting

John Kopas made motion

Robert Lesnick seconded

Motion passed unanimously

11:39AM meeting adjourned