Call to Order
Chair Lawrence called the meeting to order.

All three Commissioners were present.

Pledge of Allegiance
Chair Lawrence lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

Election Board Comments
Chair Lawrence commented on adhering to the election code and preparing for the upcoming Primary.

Public Comment on Matters Appearing on the Agenda – Limited to 2 Minutes
Adrian Seltzer commented on concerns with the allocation of Primary Election drop boxes and polling location changes.

General Public Comment
Adrian Seltzer made a public comment expressing concerns with the traveling convenience of drop box locations and polling locations, the handling of mail-in ballots and provisional ballots.

Public Comment by Letter
To: Montgomery County Board of Elections
May 25, 2020
From: Laurel Costa, President, League of Women Voters of Lower Merion and Narberth
Re: Ballot Collection Drop-boxes for the upcoming June 2 Primary Election

We have noted with distress that there are currently only 5 drop-box locations in Montgomery County, which are highly inconvenient for the majority of Montco voters. This is certainly true for residents of Lower Merion and Narberth, who would have to drive to Norristown. This puts many voters in danger of disenfranchise for the following reasons:
Due to understaffing at both the Board of Elections and the U.S. Postal Service because of the Covid-19 pandemic, there have been delays in processing and delivery of mail-in and absentee ballots. Many voters are still applying for ballots and will have to return them in-person, since there are only 7 mail delivery days between the May 26 deadline for application and the June 2 deadline for the return of ballots. Distressingly, many of these voters are elderly or disabled. Some have jobs which don't allow them to travel to a distant drop-box. Others simply lack the transportation to get there. This is not right. In light of these impediments, we strongly urge the Board of Elections to provide a drop-box for ballot collection outside each polling place in Montgomery County. Delaware County is planning to do this, and also to send a mobile drop-box to visit retirement communities on Election Day: https://www.delcopa.gov/publicrelations/releases/2020/june2primaryupdate.html.

In closing, we note that in this election voters in Montgomery County are already facing several regrettable obstacles, such as incorrectly worded instructions enclosed with mail-in ballots and now many reports of mail-in ballots having been received without the necessary second envelope included! We should do everything in our power to see that lack of access to ballot collection drop-boxes is not among these obstacles. No voter should be disenfranchised.

Dear Montgomery County Board of Elections,

We respectfully request that the Montgomery County Board of Elections have a drop box for ballot collection outside all polling locations in Montgomery County for the following reasons.

The turnaround time when applying for a mail-in or absentee ballot is unacceptably long due to understaffing at the board of elections and postal service.

There are only a few days left to apply for a ballot, with many people still applying for one. There is no assurance once a ballot arrives that it will reach the BOE in time, especially with a holiday weekend when the mail isn't delivered.

People who haven't received their ballot or mailed them and they aren't accepted by Election Day will then be left with the choice of a provisional ballot or disenfranchisement, which is a time-consuming endeavor. This will put poll workers at even more risk, by increasing the number of voters at the new, less convenient polling locations.
Current drop box locations do not correspond with where the most ballots have been requested.

Current drop box locations may not be accessible for people with disabilities, people without a car or transportation options, the elderly, and essential workers whose work schedule doesn’t allow them the time to travel back and forth to an inconvenient location. And only the voter can drop off their ballot at a drop box or Voter Services. Delaware County will put a drop box at each polling location, demonstrating that it can be done. The PA Dept. of State has confirmed this is allowed. They are also planning to have a mobile drop box visit the retirement communities on Election Day to collect ballots that were received too late to be returned by mail for those residents who cannot leave the facility.

Having drop boxes at the polling locations would:

1. Guarantee security
2. Provide more access to residents without a car and those who used to walk to their polling location.
3. Be a convenient place for area residents to drop their ballots
4. Remove any worry about disenfranchisement.

The Lower Merion League of Women Voters and Main Line Branch NAACP have sent emails in support of this plan.
Sincerely,
Adrian Seltzer JOE LM 8-2
Indivisible Lower Merion (550 members)
Indivisible Narberth and Beyond (1242 members)
Indivisible Whitpain (1515 Members)
Tri-County Democrats (247 Members) Indivisible Mid-Montco (867 members)
Roger and Marlene Davis
Derrick Perry, Norristown Council President
Heather Lewis, Norristown Council Member
Hakim Jones, Norristown Council Member
Frederic Bush, Narberth Borough Council Michelle Paninopoulos
Narberth Borough Council
Andrea Deutsch, Mayor of Narberth
Anna Durbin, Lower Merion Board of Commissioners Andrew Gavrin, Lower Merion Board of Commissioners
Rich Churchill, Lower Merion Board of Commissions
Anthony Stevenson, Lower Merion Board of Commissioners
Carole Kenney, Upper Merion Twsp Board of Supervisors
Tina Garzillo, Upper Merion Twsp Board of Supervisors
John P Sabo, JOE Whitemarsh
As political action chair of the NAACP Main Line Branch, I am sending this message on behalf of President Diana Robertson and the entire branch membership. Please consider the below request as an action item for your immediate attention.

Adrian Seltzer

Dear Montgomery County Board of Elections,

In making all efforts to get information out to our communities, the feedback being received has caused great concerns. One of those concerns is that those who have completed their application for mail-in ballot more than a week ago have yet to receive their actual ballot. Having said that, then the greater concern becomes that once receiving their ballot that there will not be enough time to mail in the ballot so that it will be received for count by June 2, 2020.

Therefore, it is understood that one solution to possibly resolve this issue is that there are adequate drop boxes placed in areas whereby citizens can drop off their completed ballot. Because of the size of Montgomery County and where the majority of ballots are coming, a request is made for your consideration to increase the quantity of boxes to be placed for collection. It is imperative that a box be placed in Lower Merion Township at the Township Building/Police Department. Additionally, Montgomery County Board of Elections have a drop box for ballot collection outside all polling locations in Montgomery County for the following reasons:
Current drop box locations are not reflective of where the majority of applications for ballots have been submitted;
Current drop box locations may not be accessible for people with disabilities, people without a car or transportation options, the elderly, and essential workers whose work schedule doesn’t not allow them the time to travel back and forth to an inconvenient location;
Today is the final day to apply for a ballot, for which many are still applying;
With each passing day, voters who haven’t received their ballot worry about being disenfranchised,
People who haven’t received their ballot or mailed them and are not received by Election Day will then be left with the choice of a provisional ballot or disenfranchisement;
Voting by provisional ballot is a time-consuming endeavor;
Having to provide provisional ballots for voters will put poll workers at even more risk; by increasing the number of voters at the new, less convenient polling locations, since voters who refuse to wear masks cannot be turned away;
And since only the voter can drop off their ballot at a drop box or at Voter Services which clearly impacts those in nursing homes and other similar facilities whereby voters are unable to leave their facility.
A precedent has been established in that Delaware County has decided to place drop boxes at polling locations. They are also planning to have a mobile drop box visit retirement communities on Election Day to collect ballots that were received too late to be returned by mail for those residents who cannot leave the facility.

Sincerely,
Diana Robertson
President
NAACP Main Line Branch
Second Vice President
Chair, Communications Committee
215-605-5327
National Association for the Advancement of Colored People
Pennsylvania State Conference

**Resolution**

**Authorization for the placement of additional secure ballot collection boxes for the June 2, 2020 Primary.**

Commissioner Arkoosh made a motion that the Board approve the installation of additional secure ballot collection boxes for the purpose of collecting voted ballots for the June 2, 2020 Primary Election.
On Saturday May 30, 2020:
Shannondell at Valley Forge, 10000 Shannondell Drive, Audubon
Beaumont Retirement at Bryn Mawr, 601 North Ithan Ave, Bryn Mawr
Rydal Park, 1515 The Fairway, Jenkintown

On Sunday May 31, 2020:
Normandy Farms, 9000 Twin Silo Drive, Blue Bell
Foulkeways at Gwynedd, 1120 Meetinghouse Road, Gwynedd
Elm Terrace Gardens, 660 North Broad St., Lansdale
Dock Woods Community, 275 Dock Drive, Lansdale
Chair Lawrence seconded the motion.

There was no Board comment. There was no public comment. Chair Lawrence brought the motion to a vote and it was adopted.

Closing Board Comments
Chair Lawrence commented on evaluating outstanding ballots and the process of managing mail in ballots.

Vice Chair Gale commented on the timeliness of informing the public of the polling location changes.

Upcoming Meeting Dates
1. June 1, 2020 at 10:30am

Adjournment
Commissioner Arkoosh made a motion to adjourn the May 29, 2020 meeting of the Montgomery County Board of Elections.

Vice Chair Gale seconded the motion.

There was no further Board comment. There was no public comment. Chair Lawrence brought the motion to a vote and the meeting was adjourned.