Montgomery County Election Board
Minutes
June 1, 2020

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
There were no Board comments.

Public Comment on Matters Appearing on the Agenda
Jamie Mogul made a comment on printing errors, address and party mistakes on the mail in ballots.

Adrian Seltzer commented on concerns with polling location changes.

Jennifer Maslow commented on address issues with mail in ballots for the Primary Election and will they be corrected for the General Election.

General Public Comment
Adrian Seltzer made a public comment expressing concerns with the handling of mail-in ballots and designated agents for provisional ballots.

Jennifer Maslow expressed concerns with the printing errors on ballots mailed to constituents.

Public Comment by Letter
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.
1. 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.

2. 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.

3. 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.

4. Current drop box locations do not correspond with where the most ballots have been requested.

5. 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 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
Sonya Sanders, 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 Twp. Board of Supervisors
Tina Garzillo, Upper Merion Twp. Board of Supervisors
John P Sabo, JOE Whitemarsh
Anne Pavone Commissioner West Norriton
Jerry Recupido, Fire Chief Swedesbury Fire Company
Linda Fields, Primary, PowerUP PAC
Robert Hart, East Norriton Commissioner
Joseph Gavanus Jr. East Norriton Commissioner
Kevin McDevitt, East Norriton Commissioner
Dennis DeSanto, East Norriton Commissioner
Ashley DiPiero, East Norriton Commissioner
Amanda Cappelletti, East Norriton Commissioner
Lori Schreiber, Abington Commissioner
Dan Weand, Pottstown Borough Council President
Ryan Procsal, Pottstown Borough Council, First Ward
Lisa Vanni, Pottstown Borough Council
Trenita D Lindsey, Pottstown Borough Council
Gary Neights, Lower Providence Board of Supervisors
Daylin Leach, PA State Senator
Annie Sophia Dennison, Stand up 4 Lower Merion
Ronda & Tom Neider, Lower Providence Mark & Jennifer Anderson, Lower Providence John Laurino

“This is appalling. We need more drop boxes for public health and safety. Remember, we will still be red on Election Day. It is inexcusable to pass on an opportunity to make Election Day safer for voters.”

Kathy Petz & Margaret Petz

I have many concerns regarding the upcoming primary election.
1. Condensing the polls to four locations in town will only draw crowding and go against social distancing guidelines.

2. The mail in process has been very poor. I sent away for my ballot on 5/18 and have yet to receive it.

3. Many of our elderly and or those who cannot drive might have a hard time getting to the designated four polls

4. Having a drop box at all poll locations will keep the community at a safer distance and make voting accessible for those who lack the transportation or ability to go further.

Hakim K. Jones

________________________________________________________________________

I have 3 elderlies, non-driving voters anxiously awaiting their ballots. Their applications were submitted. My precinct, 9-3, has the Condos along and around City Avenue. We definitely need a voter drop-box in the Lower Merion and Narberth area.

Jeff Schwartz

________________________________________________________________________

It’s important that Lower Merion has a drop box for ballots. All of the Montgomery County drop boxes are not within easy driving distance of Lower Merion. Given the lateness of many ballots being mailed out, it is important that people are easily able to access ballot drop boxes.

Judy Gold

________________________________________________________________________

I support any ballot boxes for drop off in Lower Merion.

Alexander and Sandy Friedlander

________________________________________________________________________

More Montco drop boxes please

Amy Norr

________________________________________________________________________

Our family supports more drop boxes.

Thank you Michelle Detwiler
It is very important to have voting drop boxes throughout Pennsylvania and the Philadelphia area -- including in Lower Merion! We should be able to exercise our civic duty to vote without concern that doing so risks our lives! Thank you for advocating for this!

Kathy Angell Bryn Mawr PA 19010

We need to add the additional drop boxes. This is one very small way to attempt to rectify all the numerous mistakes that have occurred around the primary election, and to help to not further disenfranchise voters!

Cindy Farrell James, Judge of Elections Perk 2

I am one of the committee people from Lower Merion 14-3. I have 445 residents who requested a mail in ballot. 217 right now are unaccounted for. Over 27 were not sent until at least the end of the week to the printer which means they never had a chance of getting their ballots. I am hearing non-stop from residents that they feel disenfranchised. Many requested mail in ballots for safety because of the pandemic going on. I have many residents who cannot get all the way to Norristown to drop off their ballot which is the closest drop off location. When I reached out about getting proxy forms signed, I was told I could not drop off their ballots even with a proxy form. These same people cannot risk going to the polls. There is a simple action that can be taken, accept the ballot boxes from DelCo expand the number of locations for people to drop off their ballot. Additionally, we must figure out how to make sure that all ballots make it in time for people to actually vote in November. This election is too important!

Sara Atkins

Approval of the Minutes

Commissioner Arkoosh made a motion to approve the minutes for the May 21, 2020 Montgomery County Election Board meeting.

Vice Chair Gale seconded the motion.

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

Resolution

Appointment of Temporary Poll Workers
Commissioner Arkoosh made a motion that the people whose names are set forth on Exhibit “A” as non-elected poll workers are designated to serve as members of the various local boards of elections throughout Montgomery County, for the date of the Primary Election, Tuesday, June 2, 2020 only.

Vice Chair Gale 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 unanimously.

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

Chair Lawrence mad 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 at the listed locations to be in place on June 2, Election Day between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m.:

Lower Merion Township  
Lower Merion Township Building, 75 East Lancaster Ave, Ardmore

Lower Providence Township  
Lower Providence Township Building 100 Parklane Drive, Eagleville

Whitemarsh Township  
Spring Mill Fire Company, 1210 East Hector Street, Conshohocken

Upper Dublin Township  
Upper Dublin Township Building, 801 Loch Alsh Ave.

Cheltenham Township  
Wall Park, 600 Church Road, Elkins Park

Vice Chair Gale made a comment about constituents casting their ballots in person instead of mailing.

Commissioner Arkoosh thanked Voter Services staff, Poll Workers for their hard work leading up to the Primary Election, and thanks to the public for respecting safety guidelines.

Chair Lawrence requested a “roll call” vote with Chair Lawrence and Commissioner Arkoosh voting “aye” and Vice Chair Gale “opposed”.
There was no further Board comment. There was no public comment. Chair Lawrence brought the motion to a vote and it was adopted.

**Closing Board Comments**
There were no Board comments.

**Upcoming Meeting Dates**
1. June 23, 2020 at 11:00am

**Adjournment**
Commissioner Arkoosh made a motion to adjourn the June 1, 2020 meeting of the Montgomery County Board of Elections.

Vice Chair Gale seconded the motion.

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