Montgomery County Election Board
Minutes
June 23, 2020

Call to Order
Chair Lawrence called the meeting to order.

All three Commissioners were present.

Pledge of Allegiance
Chair Lawrence led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Minutes
May 29, 2020
Chair Lawrence made a motion to approve the May 29, 2020 minutes of the Board of Elections.

Commissioner Arkoosh seconded the motion.

Vice Chair Gale made a comment in opposition to the summarization of minutes not accurately expressing his concerns about secure polling and ballot box location postings. Vice Chair Gale also commented on the timeliness of informing the public of the polling location changes.

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

June 1, 2020
Chair Lawrence made a motion to approve the June 1, 2020 minutes of the Board of Elections.

Commissioner Arkoosh seconded the motion.

There was no Board comment. Chair Lawrence requested a “roll call” vote with Chair Lawrence and Commissioner Arkoosh voting “aye” and Vice Chair Gale “opposed”. Chair Lawrence brought the motion to a vote and it was adopted.
**Election Board Comments**
Chair Lawrence commented on officially certifying the Primary Election and looking forward to working with staff on the after election action reports and voter feedback surveys for recommendations to make the election more efficient.

**General Public Comment – Limited to 2 Minutes**
Adrian Seltzer made a comment on precinct locations and consolidations, the poll workers/judge of elections survey, and having a well-staffed election.

Lynn Waters expressed concerns working the polls as a judge of elections, the managing of voter warehouses and precincts, and would like to see more transparency with the election process.

Jim Waters made a comment about learning how to properly operate the voting machines and the efficiency of voting precinct locations.

**Public Comment by Letter**
Hi my name is Adrian Seltzer, Lower Merion resident and Joe 2 terms, working polls 3 decades.

This year my polling location was consolidated to another physical location.

Today I’m giving an overview of a survey Jamie Mogil and I sent out to pollworkers – we had one survey specifically for JOEs and one for other pollworkers. We’ll be submitting a more detailed report soon along with suggestions and remedies that can facilitate a smooth, well-staffed election. Jamie is unable to make the meeting today but is available should you have more specific questions on the report we are preparing. Over 100 JOEs responded and nearly 50 pollworkers. We believe this number could be higher with your assistance in getting the email addresses and giving permission to email all the pollworkers the survey. We noted we were not Voter Services but that we would be submitting the results to you, the Board, and Voter Services to assist in planning for November. We were able to email the JOE listserv due to an inadvertent disclosure by Voter Services of the JOE email addresses and realize this is not a complete list because many did not work and were replaced. Please provide us this information so we may update the survey results.

From our preliminary results of the JOE survey:

1. Almost 40% were new JOEs
2. 25% of JOEES were working a new precinct, (this was made clear in the question this was not about a new consolidated polling location)
3. Over 25% did not feel adequately trained and prepared for Election Day. This is with 75% of JOEs responding they took the training.
4. Over 90% responded they called Voter Services on Election Day
5. Over 50% of those that called said they called 5 or more times (the largest numerical category) or said couldn’t get through. One JOE noted she called 50 times to try and get through unsuccessfully over the course of Election Day.
6. Good news, a majority said they would work again.

There is much to learn from the surveys and much to prepare for November. Some of these suggestions include:

1. Preparing for poll worker recruitment by working with good government groups like NAACP, the League of Women Voters and utilizing all the schools in the area. Better staffing will lead to better communication between the set team of pollworkers.
2. Training must be changed to include real world examples, including what to do if a challenge happens by a watcher – this is a likely scenario come November.
3. We also need voter services to be available and accessible to poll workers – do not tell pollworkers to call and then not answer the phone. Also, better training may eliminate the need for so many calls.

We want to make sure Montco is prepared. Jamie is working on a more thorough report with suggestions, detailed comments and a follow up to help prepare us for what is likely to be the biggest election of our lifetime.

Thank you.

Resolution
Certification of the 2020 Primary Election

Commissioner Arkoosh made a motion to certify the official results of the June 2, 2020 Primary Election to the Pennsylvania Department of State.

Chair Lawrence seconded the motion.

Commissioner Gale expressed that he didn’t have enough time to review the election report and opposes approving the official results.

There was no further Board comment. There was no public comment. Chair Lawrence requested a “roll call” vote with Chair Lawrence and Commissioner Arkoosh voting “aye” and Vice Chair Gale “opposed”. Chair Lawrence brought the motion to a vote and it was adopted. The full
text of resolution 20.E-001 can be found in the appendix of this document.

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

**Adjournment**
Commissioner Arkoosh made a motion to adjourn the June 23, 2020 meeting of the Montgomery County Board of Elections.

Chair Lawrence 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.
On the motion of Commissioner Arkoosh, seconded by Chair Lawrence, it was adopted that:

**BACKGROUND**

1. The Montgomery County Board of Elections has the authority and statutory duty to certify the final results of the election and to file a copy of said results with the Secretary of the Pennsylvania Department of State.

2. The Montgomery County Board of Elections has concluded the computation of all votes cast in Montgomery County, Pennsylvania for the June 2, 2020 Primary Election.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED,** that the Montgomery County Board of Elections hereby certifies the official results of the June 2, 2020 Primary Election, and directs that a copy of the results of the election be forwarded to the Secretary of the Department of State for filing.