



County Board of Elections
November 18, 2025 Meeting
Ball Room – 201 W Front St., Media PA 19063



Attendees

Ashley Lunkenheimer, Chair
Scott Alberts, Member
John C. McMeekin II, Member
James Allen, Election Director
J. Manly Parks, Solicitor
Election Staff
Return Board members
Members of the general public

The Board of Elections meeting was called to order by the Chair, followed by the pledge of allegiance and consideration of the agenda.

Mr. Alberts moved and seconded a motion to amend the agenda to read that the election result being certified

Election Director's report:

Election Director Allen spoke on behalf of Laureen Hagan, who could not attend. One of the biggest challenges they faced is that prec canvass and canvass cannot begin until election day. And on Election Day, we discovered on Election Day, was that the folds of the ballots ran through the top bar codes. It did not cause a significant number of rejections, but it caused enough that we had to continue working through 5 am on Wednesday. This included individuals from other departments in the County who stayed until the end.

IT Liaison Rob Wright reported on highlights. Always looking to do better and remove bottlenecks. The early results were reported at 8:09 pm, which was the earliest ever. The team that has helped the last several elections has had the same team of six people. The team knows what they're doing, and this was the most complicated, removing the items that were rejected and then re-scanning. No one quit on us and everyone stuck with us. For the first time, we had all of the Poll Pads returned on Election Night through a new system. Even though it takes the state time to do its job, we had the data ready for the evaluation of provisional ballots. We simplified the processing of the V-drives (result media from the precincts). We streamlined that process and kept it transparent in a display case.

Voter Registration Chief Clerk Crystal Winterbottom reported that the team really likes the Poll Pads coming back on Election Night. This helps with downloading the voter history to the SURE system more quickly. We improved supply drop-off again, and credit belongs to Jean Fleschute. This process used to be stressful and we used to hear poll workers not look forward to drop-off. Now they time us and they go in and out, and they are happy, and they thank us before they leave. It's worked out well. The new provisional envelope made it easier for poll workers, which led to fewer "no counts" on provisionals. Now, we're down to evaluating in a couple of days. I know we still try to find ways to improve and I thank my staff in voter registration. Because of the progress we made, we were able to help Chester County with the massive number of provisional ballots they had. We thought of more ways we can double-check our own materials. Chester County was so welcoming and really great to work with.



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Voting Machine Warehouse Chief Custodian Jackie Dunn reported the logic-and-accuracy testing went more smoothly, because we were able to test on pre-printed ballots, in addition to hand-marked ballots. Also the quality of the workers were better. Most of the testers and assistants had worked with us for several elections. Having two floating rovers was useful to get to the warehouse to get to the rovers assigned to specific sectors of the county. The last thing that made a difference was having the Poll Pads returned by the Judges to Media, which simplified the next step at the Warehouse of getting everything ready for the Warehouse.

Director Allen thanked: Park Police Chief Rock, Drew Farina and Kathy Lynch and the entire Park Police team about staffing and monitoring the cameras on the drop boxes; Chief Michelle Conte and Rick Bailey at the Sheriff's Department; Human Resources and Budget which helped us hire Non-Full-Time temps to replace contractual temp workers, which saved surcharges. Controller's Office is assuring poll worker checks will go out this week. Kimberley Chambers helps coordinate all of the County employees who help at the Union Power Plant, in Media and elsewhere. Eileen Manning helps poll workers navigate the training test if they cannot take the test online. Cassandra Nichols returned to Voter Registration, and she didn't miss a beat, and it was great to have her back in the fold. Jean Fleschute's work on poll worker drop-off on Election Night, which no longer draws complaints and instead draws praise.

Poll Worker Coordinator Pam Lairdieson 2057 poll workers, and 92% passed the training test. More than 1,300 attended one of the 24 in-person training classes. We also had four "open houses" for poll workers to gain hands-on experience with the voting equipment. We provided flyers with a QR code at the polling places to recruit poll workers and had 101 people sign up through that. We also worked with Sustainability Office with business cards for the campaign-sign recycling event. They had almost as much materials submitted as they did in a presidential year, with many participants reporting that they knew about the All of the V-drives were returned on Election Night through standard process. Comments from poll workers said they see the constant improvements we are trying to make and feel heard. They feel more prepared for the day's work and they feel more confident answering questions, and they love the Poll Pads. Ms. Lairdieson read poll worker comments that included, "You guys are the best. It doesn't happen without you. Delco has an incredible team doing an impossible job." "You made drop-off so easy. We need that after a long day." "Thank you for all of the support ... Every year, the process improvements are visible. You really listen."

Chair Lunkenheimer credited all of the staff and said she heard compliments at polling places all over the county on Election Day. Member Alberts said beyond improvements, what felt even better was that the people in the polling places felt prepared and they dealt with problems without panicking; the rapid results reporting was remarkable; the system improvements at every level were visible; calls have gone down, and the ability for poll workers to reach a person has improved. Member McMeekin said what we're hearing at this meeting demonstrates is that we have real people doing a real job and they're putting their heart and effort into it; after visiting a number of polling places and visiting the Wharf, I could see how hard they work.

Public Comment



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Laura Lewis, Radnor Township, spoke on her visual estimates of envelopes in trays in various racks and that she could not tell whether there were more envelopes or fewer envelopes than the number of ballots that were counted. Joy Schwartz, Drexel Hill, spoke on verification of ID for mail/absentee ballots and non-residential addresses for registrations and testing systems. Mr. Allen responded directly to what Pennsylvania mandates and how Delaware County follows every detail of those mandates.

David Cleary of Concord Township spoke in opposition to having the provisional ballot hearing on Veterans Day, and Mr. Allen responded that the Election Code requires the hearing to be conducted seven days after Election Day – with no exception for Veterans Day.

Certification of Nov. 4, 2025 Municipal Election

Return Board Members Amy Francis and Mary Jo Headley reported on the performance of the post-election audits and reviews of ballots issued to the precincts, ballots cast or spoiled, and unused ballots. Return Board members also reported on the completion of the 2 percent audit of precincts. Return Board members reported there were no indications of fraud or errors. Return Board members reported that the Judges of Election, Majority Inspectors, Minority Inspectors and other poll workers appeared to be completing the paperwork more thoroughly and precisely with each election. Based on the audit results and findings, the Return Board members recommended that the Board of Elections certify the election results.

Solicitor Parks reported that there was one recount in the contest for Springfield School District Director for Region 1. The recount, conducted in front of representatives of the two top candidates, confirmed the original results of a five-vote difference. Both parties jointly agreed to dismiss the recount. An unrelated injunction was declined by the Courts to be heard, possibly, next year.

Board of Elections Member McMeekin made the motion to accept petitions from candidates seeking to cumulate write-in votes cast using different variations of their first names and/or last names. Board of Elections Member Alberts seconded the motion. Board approved the petitions to cumulate.

Board of Elections Member Alberts moved to certify the Nov. 4, 2025 election results. Member McMeekin seconded the motion. Board approved the motion.

Preparations for the May 19, 2026 Primary

Director Allen spoke on checking with the Department of State on approval of consolidations that were approved by the Court of Common Pleas. Allen said he is hoping the staff and Board can perform consolidations as early as possible in 2026 so that we may send notices to all affected voters.

No minutes were submitted to the Board for consideration. Director Allen recommended the Board could meet before year's end, if necessary, at the call of the Chair.

Member McMeekin made motion to adjourn, which Member Alberts seconded. Motion to adjourn was approved.