



Delaware County Board of Elections
MINUTES of March 24, 2026 Meeting
County Council Room – 201 W Front St., Media PA 19063



Attendees

Ashley Lunkenheimer, Chair (via video)
Scott Alberts, Member
John C. McMeekin II, Member
James Allen, Election Director
J. Manly Parks, Solicitor
Election Staff
Members of the general public

The Board of Elections meeting was called to order by Scott Alberts, who chaired the meeting, followed by the pledge of allegiance and consideration of the agenda.

Public Comment

Joy Schwartz of Drexel Hill spoke on concerns about used business-reply envelopes found near a dumpster. Mr. Allen noted that the envelopes in question are not requisite to voting. Carris Kocher of Concord Township discussed ways in which envelopes might be useful. Laura Lewis of Radnor Township also argued that used business-reply envelopes are required to be kept.

Minutes

Board approved the minutes of the Jan. 29, 2026 meetings.

Mr. Allen reported on two recognitions that Delaware County Elections received since February:

1. Two independent organizations cited Delaware, Dauphin and Allegheny counties for having the highest “notice and cure” success rates in helping voters who submit mail/absentee envelopes with fatal flaws (unsigned, unsealed, no secrecy envelope). These three counties automatically mail materials to the voter so that they may re-submit a ballot that *can* be counted. The three counties lead Pennsylvania with success rates of 67-70%, whereas other counties have success rates of 40% or lower.
2. Chester County issued a Certificate of Appreciation to Delaware County’s elections team, including the Voter Registration staff for helping Chester County work through a sizable quantity of provisional ballots and Delaware County’s Warehouse for providing provisional materials to Chester County on an emergency basis at the Nov. 2025 Municipal Election.

Polling Place changes:

Mr. Allen noted that the first, involving the consolidated precincts in Folcroft, was greeted by Borough officials by recommending that the Borough’s new community center be used for all three Borough precincts. Mr. McMeekin made a motion and Ms. Lunkenheimer seconded the motion to make the following polling place changes:

- Folcroft 1, 2 and 3 (the entire borough) to move to the Ethan Joner Community Center.
- Radnor 5-1 and 5-2 to move to Ithan Elementary School.
- Upper Darby 6-8 to move to Stonehurst Hills Elementary School.
- Upper Providence 1 to move to Media South Fire Co.

Motion was approved.



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Voter Registration Chief Clerk Crystal Winterbottom reported on:

- reorganizing equipment, including shelving and Poll Pads, to reflect the consolidations from 428 to 383 precincts;
- completion of mailing of voter registration cards;
- May 4 will be the deadline to register for the first time
- Current total of 409,588 registered voters.
- Five-year notices:
 - o 13,067 mailed
 - o 2,429 returned or undeliverable
 - o Still waiting on others to come back from voters or USPS.
- 26,726 applications (new, party changes, address changes, name changes, deceased removals) since last year.

Mr. Allen reported on the final steps of assigning poll workers in consolidated precincts.

Mr. Allen predictive or prediction markets, which claim that they're not wagers or bets, and claim they're more like futures on outcomes of events, now including elections. This is one area where the law has language that says that poll workers not have any "direct or indirect interest in any bet or wager."

Mr. Allen recommended amending that on the local form, the Return Sheet, to include prediction markets. Mr. McMeekin said the idea of any influence or benefit from the outcome of the election is counterintuitive to the oath they sign, and endorsed the concept. Ms. Lunkenheimer said anytime someone wagers on an outcome, they are going to be biased to make it come true. Mr. Alberts said we all benefit from the outcomes of elections, but it's different for people to have a distinct financial stake or dollar amount based on the outcome of an election. Mr. Alberts also said the prediction markets do represent gambling. Mr. McMeekin made a motion and Ms. Lunkenheimer seconded the motion to amend the language of Delaware County oaths to include a prohibition on direct or indirect participation in bets, wagers or prediction markets. Motion was approved unanimously.

Mr. Allen asked for the Board's authorization to continue entering into drop-box agreements or renewals in 2026. Mr. Alberts noted that since the drop boxes were instituted, there has been a review of the initial effort to have one in each municipality. Mr. Allen agreed and said we've gone from 42 to 30 drop boxes, and now be going down again. Mr. Alberts asked if there might be consideration of having a second drop box in a larger and mid-sized community. Mr. Allen said at this stage, administratively and in terms of expenses, the staff would continue to look at reducing the quantity of drop boxes, not expanding anywhere. Mr. Allen noted that Delaware County currently has the second most drop boxes of any jurisdiction in the state, behind Philadelphia. Solicitor Parks said a resolution on the record would be a good "belt and suspenders" measure. On motion by Mr. McMeekin and second by Ms. Lunkenheimer, the Board authorized the Election Director to continue executing drop-box agreements.



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Poll Pad Connectivity Pilot Program

Mr. Allen said that Delaware County was a candidate for a Pennsylvania Pilot Program for Poll Pad connectivity. The Department of State currently is weighing whether to have a pilot program. On motion by Mr. McMeekin and second by Ms. Lunkenheimer, the Board voted to authorized staff to participate if the Department of State proceeds with the pilot program.

Mr. Allen discussed other preparations for the May 2026 Primary, including printing contracts, moving services and processing of mail/absentee applications.

Mr. Allen discussed provisions of the proposed United States SAVE Act and two questions: What are voter registration offices to do with birth certificates if there is no system or database or phone number to call to verify the legitimacy of the birth certificates? By contrast, there are systems for voter-registration offices to check dates of birth, partial Social Security numbers and/or state ID or driver's licenses. The second question is why gather birth certificates? Voting and running for office are extensions of the First Amendment right to free speech, in addition to the rights to assembly, petitioning the government, religion and the press. No one who speaks at public meetings, for example, is ever asked for a birth certificate. Likewise, in terms of running for office, no US Senators or members of the US House of Representatives were required to present a birth certificate, naturalization papers or a passport in order to run for office.

Campaign Finance Coordinator Lisa Jackson presented two requests for waivers on penalties related to campaign finance records:

- Upper Darby Republican Leadership Committee
- Sweeney for Haverford Township

Ms. Jackson said both were first-time offenses and paperwork has since been filed and recommended approval. On motion by Mr. McMeekin and second by Ms. Lunkenheimer, the Boad approved the waivers.

Solicitor Parks reported on the Eakin case involving whether or not mail/absentee envelopes should be counted if the envelope is undated or has an "incorrect" date. The Court of Appeals found the requirement unconstitutional. The US Supreme Court is now going to hear the case, but has not issued a stay of the Court of Appeals ruling. The Pennsylvania Attorney General and the Republican Party both brought the case to the US Supreme Court.

Mr. Allen and the Board briefly discussed the next meeting schedule.

Mr. McMeekin asked whether there was any personal identifying information or other relevant information on the envelopes that were found discarded in Woodlyn.



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Mr. Allen said there is no useful information on the envelopes, and they are not required in the voting process. Mr. Allen explained how these are business-reply envelopes with no value to the processing of the applications and no direct ties to the voters. State directives have guidelines on processing the applications, but no instructions on these envelopes. Additionally, any postmarks on the envelopes have no bearing on whether an application is considered timely. Mr. Allen said there is interest in talking with the garbage hauler, given that the same hauler who picks up trash at the Union Power Plant also owns the dumpster where the envelopes were found discarded.