

LAWRENCE COUNTY ELECTION BOARD MEETING
PUBLIC MEETING
MINUTES OF Friday, February 23, 2024

The Lawrence County Election Board Meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag followed by a Moment of Silence.

The Lawrence County Election Board Meeting of Friday, February 23, 2024, was called to order by **Commissioner Dan Vogler**, at 9:31 am at the Lawrence County Commissioners Meeting Room. Administrative Assistant, Kristine Venasco called the roll. Those in attendance were **Commissioner Dan Kennedy, Commissioner Chris Sainato, Tim Germani, Susan Kite, Renee Slagle, Barbara Kirkwood, Tim Buck, Raymond Wheale, Robin Singer, Patricia Christy, Lynne Ryan, and Debbie Wachter**. It was stated for the record that the meeting is being taped. Those wishing to speak shall be given five minutes. Those speaking are to state for the record their names, addresses and the nature of their business.

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENTS

Robin Singer - N. Beaver Twp. - Ms. Singer asked Mr. Germani if you can do a change of address online and do you need your license or social security card. Mr. Germani said yes you can do the change of address online at votespa.gov and you may use either your license or social security card.

Raymond Wheale - Shenango Twp.- Mr. Wheale asked what is the most reliable match license or social security card? Mr. Germani said the social security card.

Commissioner Sainato -Opening remarks- Mr. Sainato explained that the commissioner got to tour the process behind the election with Director Germani. They got to see the security of the system. Mr. Sainato said that he has great confidence in this election. He noted that there are cameras. There is also a camera on the drop box. He thanked Mr. Germani. He stated that Lawrence County has done everything correctly.

Commissioner Kennedy - Opening remarks- Mr. Kennedy said he would like to echo Mr. Sainato's remarks. He is looking forward to the election. He understands there is a lot of work leading up to the election and would like to thank Mr. Germani and his staff.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. The minutes of February 14, 2024. Moved by Mr. Sainato, seconded by Mr. Kennedy to approve said minutes. Motion carried 3-0.

ELECTION DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Germani reported that he is sending out verification notices and would like to explain what they are for. The reason someone would receive a verification notice is that the mail-in for that voter has not been verified, which could be due to a couple of reasons. These notices just need to be signed and sent back, then the mail-in can be verified. Mr. Vogler asked if this is a state rule and Mr. Germani said yes, it is.

Mr. Germani announced that the ballot lottery was held on February 21, 2024. Mr. Germani stated that he should be receiving the results. The tentative date to start mailing out ballots is March 11, 2024. He stated that they are still waiting for the new envelopes. The last day to register is April 8, 2024, the last day to apply for a mail-in or absentee ballot is April 16, 2024, and the Primary Election Day is April 23, 2024.

NEW BUSINESS

RESOLUTION R-2024-07

COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS

WHEREAS, in the City of New Castle, Ward 7, District 1, the polling place was located at St. Lucy's Church, 1 Lucymont Dr., New Castle, PA 16102; and

WHEREAS, St. Lucy's Church will no longer be available to be a polling site due to its closure; and

WHEREAS, the County Board of Elections has received permission to vote at St. Margaret's Hall, located at 27-29 N Liberty St., New Castle, PA 16102.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LAWRENCE COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS, that:

1. The polling place for the Seventh ward, First District, City of New Castle shall be moved from St. Lucy's Church to St. Margaret's Hall., located at 27-29 N. Liberty St., New Castle, PA 16102.
2. NOTICE of this change has been duly completed per Election Code Statute 25 PS 2726.

Moved by Mr. Kennedy, seconded by Mr. Sainato to approve said resolution. Motion carried 3-0.

RESOLUTION R-2024-08

COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS

WHEREAS, in the City of New Castle, Ward 2, District 4, the polling place was located at St. John's Lutheran Church, 2601 Highland Ave., New Castle, PA 16105; and

WHEREAS, St. John's Lutheran Church will no longer be available to be a polling site due to approval being denied from Church board; and

WHEREAS, the County Board of Elections has received permission to vote at Clen-Moore Presbyterian Church located at 220 E. Clen-Moore Blvd., New Castle, PA 16105

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LAWRENCE COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS, that:

1. The polling place for the Second ward, Fourth District, City of New Castle shall be moved from St. John's Lutheran Church to Clen-Moore Church., located at 220 E. Clen-Moore Blvd., New Castle, PA 16105.
2. NOTICE of this change has been duly completed per Election Code Statute 25 PS 2726.

Moved by Mr. Sainato, seconded by Mr. Kennedy to approve said resolution. Motion carried 3-0.

RESOLUTION R-2024-09

COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS

WHEREAS, in the Township of Pulaski, First District, the polling place was located at the Pulaski Fire Hall, 1969 State Route 208, Pulaski, PA 16143; and

WHEREAS, Pulaski Fire Hall will no longer be available to be a polling site due to permission being denied; and

WHEREAS, the County Board of Elections has received permission to vote at the River Valley Community Center, located at 320 Shenango St., Pulaski PA 16143

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LAWRENCE COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS, that:

1. The polling place for Pulaski Township, First District shall be moved from Pulaski Fire Hall to River Valley Community Center, located at 320 Shenango St., Pulaski, PA 16143.
2. NOTICE of this change has been duly completed per Election Code Statute 25 PS 2726.

Moved by Mr. Kennedy, seconded by Mr. Sainato. Motion carried 3-0.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Renee Slagle- Wilmington Twp. - Asked Mr. Germani what triggers registered voters to go from active to inactive status? Also, what removes a voter from the voter rolls? Mr. Germani responded that if the voter ID card comes back undeliverable for several reasons, also if you miss several elections, a voter will be moved to an inactive status. Mr. Germani explained that you are still able to vote. Once the person votes, they are then moved to active status. Mr. Germani also explained that a voter is removed from the voter rolls if they miss 2 Federal Elections. The Elections office does send notices informing the voter.

Tim Buck - Shenango Twp. - Mr. Buck stated that Lawrence County has a very secure election. He asked Mr. Germani when a Driver's License is changed, does that trigger a notification? Mr. Germani said no.

Renee Slagel - Wilmington Twp. - Asked Mr. Sainato if the cameras that are set up at the drop box are live and/or recorded. Mr. Germani responded that they are recorded for 90 days. Mr. Vogler explained that the drop box is in the entrance way to the courthouse, which is only accessible during business hours. Also, there is security inside the entrance.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn at 10:14 am by Mr. Sainato, seconded by Mr. Kennedy.
Motion carried 3-0.