

Delaware County Board of Elections
Meeting Minutes – Aug. 26. 2025

Board and staff attendees

Chair Ashley Lunkenheimer

Board Member Scott J. Alberts

Board Member John C. McMeekin II

Election Director James P. Allen

Solicitor J. Manly Parks

Voter Registration Chief Clerk Crystal Winterbottom

Campaign Finance Supervisor Lisa Jackson

Meeting called to order

Pledge of allegiance

Public Comment

Carris Kocher of Concord Township read a statement declaring independence from automated election systems in favor of hand-counted ballots. John Child of Radnor Township read from the same statement about hand-counted ballots and independence from election manipulation, touching on various concepts. Joy Schwartz of Upper Darby Township read from the same statement and spoke in opposition to precinct consolidations that would result in precincts with more 1,500 voters. Anne Mosakowski of the League of Women Voters spoke in support of mail balloting and how an executive order cannot be used to reverse state and federal laws under the Constitution.

Preparations for the Nov. 2025 Municipal Election

Mr. Allen spoke on a variety of activities that occur throughout the year with a relatively small team of about 35 that grows to 2,200 individuals on Election Day. These steps include preparing voting equipment, processing voter registrations, updating the voter rolls to remove outdated records, updating candidate lists, preparing the ballot database, preparing training and polling place materials, and processing mail/absentee applications.

Mid-Day Reports

Mr. Allen said the Republican Party had asked if the Poll Pads could be used to generate mid-day voter history reports so that the parties could focus on contacting others who had not yet voted. This would be an automated version of the current system of allowing watchers to take snapshots of the hand-written numbered list of voters, which they are allowed to do now.

Connectivity Demonstration

Mr. Allen said Pennsylvania is one of the only states that does not allow the electronic poll books to be connected to a central database. This prevents midday updates to improve security and voter service, such as updating which voters' mail or absentee ballots have arrived, or correcting an error in a registration record. For this reason, Delaware County planned to conduct a mock election with connectivity to demonstrate the security benefits of allowing connectivity, as most all other states with electronic poll books do now. Chair Lunkenheimer asked if the staff would make sure that such a program would be offered everywhere on a bipartisan basis.

Consolidations of Precincts

Mr. Allen spoke on the project to consolidate smaller precincts and the process of petitioning the courts and posting signs/notices in the affected precincts. Mr. Allen said if the court rulings and the Department of State review is completed by Sept. 15, some of the simplest consolidations could be implemented for November. If not, the consolidations would be postponed until the May 2026 Primary.

Haverford Re-Districting

Haverford Township has passed an ordinance to re-district part of Haverford Ward 4 Precinct 4. Until that change can be approved by the Court and the Department of State, it cannot take effect. Member Alberts made a motion and Member McMeekin seconded the motion to authorize filing in the Court of Common Pleas. Motion was approved.

Campaign Finance Waiver requests

Campaign Finance Supervisor Lisa Jackson asked the Board to consider requests for campaign-finance penalty waivers from the Lansdowne Republican Party, the Sharon Hill Democratic Committee and the Darby Borough Democratic Party. Member Alberts made a motion and Member McMeekin seconded the motion to approve the penalty waivers. Mr. Alberts asked if these were situations where a new treasurer was trying to clean up a bad situation, and Ms. Jackson confirmed that was the case. Board Member McMeekin spoke on the value to give a clean slate, but emphasized the Board should not waive penalties for repeat offenders. Motion was approved.

Voter Registration Hall of Fame

Voter Registration Chief Clerk Crystal Winterbottom reported on Gerard T. Gonzalez qualifying for the prestigious honor of membership in the Pennsylvania Voter Hall of Fame. As background, Ms. Winterbottom reported on how rare these honors are, as this was only the second Hall of Fame application that she has been able to certify during more than two decades of working in Voter Registration in Delaware County. To qualify for the Hall of Fame, a voter must cast a ballot in 50 consecutive general elections, and Mr. Gonzalez had voted in 53 consecutive general elections. The Board saluted Mr. Gonzalez's achievement and dedication to voting.

List Maintenance

Voter Registration Chief Clerk Crystal Winterbottom reported on completing the year's list-maintenance activities, as required to be done at least 90 days before the date of the election. These projects update the voter rolls by cancelling outdated records and moving other records to "inactive" status, starts the four-year clock for their potential removal from the rolls under federal law. There various letters and notices cover in-county moves, out-of-county moves, address-verification letters and out-of-state notices, which together totaled 7,857. A second address verification notice went to another 3,438, for more than 11,000 notices total, mailed by late July. To date, we have had 2,600 returned and undeliverable, but the office is still receiving completed and undeliverable return letters and making updates. Some voters are being canceled, others are being moved to new addresses, and still others are remaining at their current addresses. Mr. McMeekin asked about efforts to prevent persons from registering at non-residential addresses. Ms. Winterbottom said there are various research efforts with tax records and Planning Department records to prevent people from registering to vote using business addresses or addresses of post-office box services.

Solicitor Report

Solicitor Manly Parks reported that just prior to the meeting, the Third Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals

issued a ruling in *Eakin v Adams County*, ordering all Pennsylvania counties to count mail/absentee ballots from envelopes that are missing the voter's hand-written date. The court ruled that it could not justify, under the Constitution, rejecting otherwise valid ballots for the failure by the voter to write a correct date on the envelope.

Minutes

Member Alberts moved to approve the minutes of the Board's January 2025, March 2025, April 2025, May 2025 and June 2025 meetings. Member McMeekin seconded the motion. Motion was approved.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be at the call of the chair.

Adjournment

Member Alberts made a motion to adjourn the meeting, and Mr. McMeekin seconded the motion. Motion was approved.