

Meeting of the Commissioners Elections
April 14, 2021

Page 1

MEETING OF THE COMMISSIONERS

(Via Videoconference)

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Wednesday, April 14, 2021

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COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

LISA DEELEY, CHAIRWOMAN (Via telephone)
AL SCHMIDT, COMMISSIONER
OMAR SABIR, COMMISSIONER
DEPUTY COMMISSIONER NICK CUSTODIO
DEPUTY COMMISSIONER SETH BLUESTEIN
DEPUTY COMMISSIONER DEVON UQDAH

PRESENT:

JOE LYNCH, Executive Director of Elections

HELD AT:

Liacouras Center
1776 North Broad Street
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

REPORTED BY: Michele L. Murphy
Strehlow & Associates, Inc.
(215)504-4622

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2 P R O C E E D I N G S

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4 COMMISSIONER SCHMIDT: Good
5 morning. I'm going to call this meeting
6 to order, the public meeting of the
7 Philadelphia Board of Elections on
8 April 14th, 2021. I am City Commissioner
9 Al Schmidt. Our Chairwoman can't be here
10 this morning, although she's present by
11 phone, Lisa Deeley, and City Commissioner
12 Omar Sabir.

13 We will now move to public
14 comment. Commenters shall state where
15 they live or if they're not a resident of
16 Philadelphia, that they are a
17 Philadelphia taxpayer.

18 Public comment is not an
19 opportunity for dialogue, which you may.
20 It is public comment, which is a chance
21 for you to tell us what you think. Each
22 speaker shall have two minutes. However,
23 we may extend this time at our
24 discretion.

1 All public comments must be
2 relevant or germane to the Board's
3 business.

4 Finally, it's my responsibility
5 to preserve the order and decorum of the
6 meeting. As such, profane, slanderous,
7 discriminatory, or personal attacks won't
8 be tolerated.

9 Anyone wishing to offer public
10 comment, please step forward.

11 Good morning.

12 MR. GARELLA: Good morning,
13 Commissioners. My name is Rich Garella.
14 I'm a Philadelphia resident and taxpayer.

15 I'd just like to take this
16 brief opportunity to request that the
17 Board publish agendas before its
18 meetings. A lot of agencies working
19 under the Sunshine Act will publish an
20 agenda, say, 24 hours in advance, which
21 gives the public an idea of what motions
22 might be considered. That way, the
23 public can have a reasonable opportunity
24 to comment on matters coming before the

1 Board just by knowing that such-and-such
2 a motion is going to be considered.
3 Without that, the public doesn't have
4 reasonable opportunity, and the Sunshine
5 Act in Section 710 does require the Board
6 to provide the public with reasonable
7 opportunity.

8 A lot of agencies and boards do
9 publish agendas like that before a
10 hearing, and I think it would be very
11 helpful to the public to know what was
12 being considered in advance for the sake
13 of knowing whether they should comment or
14 not.

15 Thank you.

16 COMMISSIONER SCHMIDT: Thank
17 you, Rich.

18 Is there any other public
19 comment this morning?

20 (No response.)

21 COMMISSIONER SCHMIDT: Hearing
22 none, we'll move to the report from our
23 Secretary, Commissioner Omar Sabir.

24 COMMISSIONER SABIR: Good

Meeting of the Commissioners Elections
April 14, 2021

1 morning. Commissioner Sabir.

2 As of 9:45 a.m., there were no
3 public comments e-mailed by 9:45.

4 COMMISSIONER SCHMIDT: Thank
5 you, Commissioner.

6 Now onto old business from our
7 Executive Director, Joe Lynch.

8 MR. LYNCH: Good morning,
9 Commissioners.

10 COMMISSIONER SCHMIDT: Good
11 morning, Joe.

12 MR. LYNCH: My report from the
13 County Board of Elections today is, for
14 candidates running under the Green,
15 Libertarian, or Working Families parties,
16 minor political party nomination papers
17 are available on our website or in City
18 Hall, Room 142 for candidates running.

19 The candidates running under
20 third-party political bonding, nomination
21 papers are available on our website or in
22 City Hall, Room 142.

23 Nomination papers can be
24 circulated between March 10th and August

1 2nd. Further information is available on
2 our website. Access to City Hall can be
3 made by appointment by e-mailing
4 Phillyelections@phila.gov or calling
5 215-686-3469.

6 We are currently accepting
7 absentee and mail-in ballot applications
8 online at votesPA.com or by paper
9 applications.

10 As of yesterday, we had
11 approved 65,494 vote-by-mail applications
12 for the Primary. Of those, 54,708 are
13 paper applications and 10,786 are
14 electronic applications.

15 Candidates challenges are
16 finished for judicial penalties, so we
17 are currently testing our election system
18 with a final ballot layout. Button
19 numbers and sample ballots will be made
20 available on our website at noon at
21 www.Philadelphaviotes.com. We plan to
22 begin sending requested ballots out
23 shortly.

24 Voter registrations for the

1 election cycle, to date we have processed
2 102,786 applications, of which 7,250 were
3 paper. After completing their own work,
4 Imaging, Data and Correspondence are
5 working on processing mail-in
6 applications, both electronic and paper,
7 as well as seasonal and permanent mail-in
8 requests.

9 The Election Board Unit to
10 date, the Election Board Unit has
11 confirmed 3,113 people to work Election
12 Day. They trained 497 poll workers since
13 last Wednesday's report. They are
14 continuing to make calls and trying to
15 recruit more workers.

16 Polling Place Unit, to date we
17 have 1,598 confirmed divisions and 662
18 confirmed sites, 105 outstanding
19 divisions, and 51 outstanding sites.

20 That's all I have,
21 Commissioners.

22 COMMISSIONER SCHMIDT: Thank
23 you, Joe.

24 Is there any other old

Meeting of the Commissioners Elections
April 14, 2021

Page 8

1 business?

2 MR. LYNCH: Thank you.

3 (No response.)

4 COMMISSIONER SCHMIDT: Is there
5 any new business?

6 COMMISSIONER SABIR: If I may,
7 Commissioner Schmidt. I just wanted to,
8 you know -- we really miss our
9 Chairwoman, and hope she get better.

10 COMMISSIONER SCHMIDT: Hearing
11 no other new business, I'd like to
12 entertain a motion to adjourn.

13 COMMISSIONER SABIR: Second.

14 COMMISSIONER SCHMIDT: All in
15 favor?

16 (Aye.)

17 COMMISSIONER SCHMIDT: The
18 meeting is adjourned to the call of the
19 Chair.

20 Thank you.

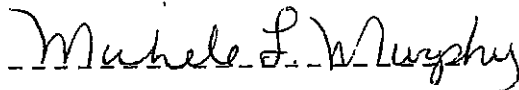
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22 (Board of Elections meeting
23 adjourned at 11:07 a.m.)

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1 CERTIFICATE

2 I HEREBY CERTIFY that the
3 proceedings, evidence and objections are
4 contained fully and accurately in the
5 stenographic notes taken by me upon the
6 foregoing matter, and that this is a true and
7 correct transcript of same.

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12 

13
14 MICHELE L. MURPHY

15 RPR-Notary Public

16
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18
19
20 (The foregoing certification of this
21 transcript does not apply to any reproduction
22 of the same by any means, unless under the
23 direct control and/or supervision of the
24 certifying reporter.)

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Meeting of the Commissioners Elections
April 14, 2021

A	business 3:3 5:6 8:1,5,11 Button 6:18	confirmed 7:11,17,18 considered 3:22 4:2,12 contained 9:4 continuing 7:14 control 9:22 correct 9:7 Correspon... 7:4 County 5:13 currently 6:6 6:17 CUSTODIO 1:10 cycle 7:1	evidence 9:3 Executive 1:15 5:7 extend 2:23	4:13	6:19	processing 7:5 profane 3:6 provide 4:6 public 2:6,13 2:18,20 3:1 3:9,21,23 4:3,6,11,18 5:3 9:14 publish 3:17 3:19 4:9	4:24 5:1 8:6,13 sake 4:12 sample 6:19 Schmidt 1:9 2:4,9 4:16 4:21 5:4,10 7:22 8:4,7 8:10,14,17 seasonal 7:7 Second 8:13 Secretary 4:23 Section 4:5 sending 6:22 SETH 1:11 shortly 6:23 sites 7:18,19 slanderous 3:6 speaker 2:22 state 2:14 stenographic 9:5 step 3:10 Street 1:18 Strehlow 1:23 such-and-s... 4:1 Sunshine 3:19 4:4 supervision 9:22 system 6:17
a.m 5:2 8:23 absentee 6:7 accepting 6:6 Access 6:2 accurately 9:4 Act 3:19 4:5 adjourn 8:12 adjourned 8:18,23 advance 3:20 4:12 agencies 3:18 4:8 agenda 3:20 agendas 3:17 4:9 Al 1:9 2:9 and/or 9:22 applications 6:7,9,11,13 6:14 7:2,6 apply 9:20 appointment 6:3 approved 6:11 April 1:4 2:8 Associates 1:23 attacks 3:7 August 5:24 available 5:17,21 6:1 6:20 Aye 8:16	C C 2:2 call 2:5 8:18 calling 6:4 calls 7:14 candidates 5:14,18,19 6:15 Center 1:18 CERTIFIC... 9:1 certification 9:19 CERTIFY 9:2 certifying 9:23 Chair 8:19 Chairwoman 1:9 2:9 8:9 challenges 6:15 chance 2:20 circulated 5:24 City 2:8,11 5:17,22 6:2 coming 3:24 comment 2:14,18,20 3:10,24 4:13,19 Commenters 2:14 comments 3:1 5:3 Commissio... 1:9,10,10 1:11,11 2:4 2:8,11 4:16 4:21,23,24 5:1,4,5,10 7:22 8:4,6,7 8:10,13,14 8:17 Commissio... 1:1,8 3:13 5:9 7:21 completing 7:3	D D 2:2 Data 7:4 date 7:1,10 7:16 Day 7:12 decorum 3:5 Deeley 1:9 2:11 DEPUTY 1:10,11,11 DEVON 1:11 dialogue 2:19 direct 9:22 Director 1:15 5:7 discretion 2:24 discriminat... 3:7 divisions 7:17 7:19	F Families 5:15 favor 8:15 final 6:18 Finally 3:4 finished 6:16 foregoing 9:6 9:19 forward 3:10 fully 9:4 Further 6:1	L L 1:23 9:13 layout 6:18 Liacouras 1:18 Libertarian 5:15 Lisa 1:9 2:11 live 2:15 lot 3:18 4:8 Lynch 1:15 5:7,8,12 8:2	O O 2:2 objections 9:3 offer 3:9 old 5:6 7:24 Omar 1:10 2:12 4:23 online 6:8 opportunity 2:19 3:16 3:23 4:4,7 order 2:6 3:5 outstanding 7:18,19	Q R R 2:2 really 8:8 reasonable 3:23 4:4,6 recruit 7:15 registrations 6:24 relevant 3:2 report 4:22 5:12 7:13 REPORTED 1:23 reporter 9:23 reproduction 9:20 request 3:16 requested 6:22 requests 7:8 require 4:5 resident 2:15 3:14 response 4:20 8:3 responsibili... 3:4 Rich 3:13 4:17 Room 5:18 5:22 RPR-Notary 9:14 running 5:14 5:18,19	T take 3:15 taken 9:5 taxpayer 2:17 3:14 telephone 1:9 tell 2:21 testing 6:17 Thank 4:15 4:16 5:4 7:22 8:2,20 think 2:21 4:10 third-party 5:20 time 2:23 today 5:13 tolerated 3:8
B		E E 2:2,2 e-mailed 5:3 e-mailing 6:3 election 6:17 7:1,9,10,11 Elections 1:15 2:7 5:13 8:22 electronic 6:14 7:6 entertain 8:12	G G 2:2 Garella 3:12 3:13 germane 3:2 gives 3:21 going 2:5 4:2 Good 2:4 3:11,12 4:24 5:8,10 Green 5:14	M mail-in 6:7 7:5,7 March 5:24 matter 9:6 matters 3:24 means 9:21 meeting 1:1 2:5,6 3:6 8:18,22 meetings 3:18 Michele 1:23 9:13 minor 5:16 minutes 2:22 morning 2:5 2:10 3:11 3:12 4:19 5:1,8,11 motion 4:2 8:12 motions 3:21 move 2:13 4:22 Murphy 1:23 9:13	P P 2:2 paper 6:8,13 7:3,6 papers 5:16 5:21,23 parties 5:15 party 5:16 penalties 6:16 Pennsylvania 1:19 people 7:11 permanent 7:7 personal 3:7 Philadelphia 1:19 2:7,16 2:17 3:14 Phillyelecti... 6:4 phone 2:11 Place 7:16 plan 6:21 please 3:10 political 5:16 5:20 poll 7:12 Polling 7:16 present 1:8 1:14 2:10 preserve 3:5 Primary 6:12 proceedings 9:3 processed 7:1	S S 2:2 Sabir 1:10 2:12 4:23	
ballot 6:7,18 ballots 6:19 6:22 better 8:9 BLUESTE... 1:11 Board 2:7 3:17 4:1,5 5:13 7:9,10 8:22 Board's 3:2 boards 4:8 bonding 5:20 brief 3:16 Broad 1:18			H Hall 5:18,22 6:2 hearing 4:10 4:21 8:10 HELD 1:17 helpful 4:11 hope 8:9 hours 3:20	N N 2:2 name 3:13 new 8:5,11 NICK 1:10 nomination 5:16,20,23 noon 6:20 North 1:18 notes 9:5 numbers			
			I idea 3:21 Imaging 7:4 information 6:1				
			J Joe 1:15 5:7 5:11 7:23 judicial 6:16				
			K know 4:11 8:8 knowing 4:1				

Meeting of the Commissioners Elections
 April 14, 2021

trained 7:12	105 7:18					
transcript	10th 5:24					
9:7,20	11:07 8:23					
true 9:6	14 1:4					
trying 7:14	142 5:18,22					
two 2:22	14th 2:8					
	1776 1:18					
U						
Unit 7:9,10	2					
7:16	2021 1:4 2:8					
UQDAH 1:11	215-686-3469					
	6:5					
V	215)504-4622					
Videoconfe...	1:24					
1:2	24 3:20					
vote-by-mail	2nd 6:1					
6:11						
Voter 6:24	3					
votesPA.com	3,113 7:11					
6:8						
W	4					
wanted 8:7	497 7:12					
way 3:22						
we'll 4:22	5					
website 5:17	51 7:19					
5:21 6:2,20	54,708 6:12					
Wednesday	6					
1:4	65,494 6:11					
Wednesday's	662 7:17					
7:13						
wishing 3:9	7					
work 7:3,11	7,250 7:2					
workers 7:12	710 4:5					
7:15						
working 3:18	8					
5:15 7:5						
www.Phila...	9					
6:21	9:45 5:2,3					
X						
Y						
yesterday						
6:10						
Z						
0						
1						
1,598 7:17						
10,786 6:13						
102,786 7:2						