

1                   COMMISSIONER DEELEY: Happy  
2 New Year, although I was just saying I read  
3 somewhere that you're not supposed to say  
4 that after January 7th so I'm breaking some  
5 kind of crazy protocol.

6                   I'd like to call to order the  
7 meeting of the Philadelphia City  
8 Commissioners, the first meeting of the  
9 2024-2028 term. As we must do at the  
10 beginning of each term, the Board must  
11 organize.

12                  First, in accordance with the  
13 Pennsylvania Sunshine Act, we must allow the  
14 public to offer public comments which are  
15 germane to the board business. Is there  
16 anyone here for public comment?

17                                 (No response).

18                   COMMISSIONER DEELEY: Seeing  
19 none, we will now move to Commissioner  
20 Bluestein for e-mailed public comments.

21                   COMMISSIONER BLUESTEIN: All  
22 comments that were e-mailed by 9:45 a.m.  
23 were shared with the commissioners and  
24 deputies at 10:00 a.m. and have been

1 provided to each commissioner at the  
2 beginning of the meeting and are available  
3 at the public comment table.

4 We received one comment from Joan  
5 Martini regarding a polling place location.  
6 I've reviewed the comment which will be  
7 shared with our polling place unit and ask  
8 that it be moved into the record.

9 COMMISSIONER DEELEY: I have  
10 also reviewed it. Please move it into the  
11 record. Commissioner Sabir?

12 COMMISSIONER SABIR: I have  
13 also reviewed it.

14 COMMISSIONER DEELEY: The  
15 public comment will be moved into the  
16 record. We will now move to new business.

17 First up, the rules of the  
18 2024-2028 term. I motion that we adopt  
19 rules proposal number one that were  
20 published with the agenda and available at  
21 the public comment table as the rules  
22 governing the City Commissioners for the  
23 2024-2028 term.

24 (No response).

1 COMMISSIONER DEELEY: The  
2 motion does not -- no second.

3 COMMISSIONER BLUESTEIN:  
4 Madame Chairwoman, I would like to move that  
5 rules proposal number two be considered for  
6 approval by the Board for governing for the  
7 2024-2028 term.

8 COMMISSIONER SABIR: Second.

9 COMMISSIONER DEELEY: I vote  
10 no. Commissioner Bluestein, please call the  
11 roll.

12 COMMISSIONER BLUESTEIN:  
13 Commissioner Deeley?

14 COMMISSIONER DEELEY: No.

15 COMMISSIONER BLUESTEIN:  
16 Commissioner Sabir?

17 COMMISSIONER SABIR: Aye.

18 COMMISSIONER BLUESTEIN: I  
19 vote aye.

20 COMMISSIONER DEELEY: The  
21 motion carries. Rules proposal number two  
22 has passed two to one.

23 We will now move to organization.  
24 The floor is now open to nominations for the

1 position of Chair. Do we have any  
2 nominations?

3 COMMISSIONER SABIR: Madame  
4 Chair, I nominate you, Lisa Deeley, to be  
5 Chair.

6 COMMISSIONER DEELEY: Do we  
7 have a second?

8 (No response).

9 COMMISSIONER DEELEY: Okay.  
10 We'll move forward. Are there any other  
11 nominations?

12 COMMISSIONER BLUESTEIN: I  
13 nominate Commissioner Sabir to be Chair.

14 COMMISSIONER SABIR: Second.

15 COMMISSIONER DEELEY: I  
16 abstain.

17 COMMISSIONER BLUESTEIN:  
18 Commissioner Sabir?

19 COMMISSIONER SABIR: Aye.

20 COMMISSIONER BLUESTEIN: I  
21 vote aye.

22 COMMISSIONER SABIR: We'll  
23 take a five-minute recess.

24 - - -

1 (Whereupon there was a brief  
2 recess taken.)

3 - - -

4 COMMISSIONER SABIR: I'd just  
5 like to say thank you to Commissioner Deeley  
6 and Commissioner Bluestein. I'm honored to  
7 serve the people of Philadelphia. Are there  
8 any nominations for Vice Chair?

9 COMMISSIONER BLUESTEIN: I  
10 nominate Commissioner Deeley for Vice Chair.

11 COMMISSIONER SABIR: Is there  
12 a second?

13 COMMISSIONER DEELEY: Second.

14 COMMISSIONER SABIR: Mr.  
15 Bluestein, please call the roll.

16 COMMISSIONER BLUESTEIN:  
17 Commissioner Sabir?

18 COMMISSIONER SABIR: Aye.

19 COMMISSIONER BLUESTEIN:  
20 Commissioner Deeley?

21 COMMISSIONER DEELEY: Aye.

22 COMMISSIONER BLUESTEIN: I  
23 vote aye.

24 COMMISSIONER SABIR: So

1 moved. Commissioner Deeley is the Vice  
2 Chair. The result is 3-0, unanimous. Next  
3 item on the agenda, Secretary. Are there  
4 any motions for Secretary?

5 (No response).

6 COMMISSIONER SABIR: I  
7 nominate Commissioner Bluestein for  
8 Secretary. Is there a second?

9 COMMISSIONER DEELEY: Second.

10 COMMISSIONER SABIR:  
11 Commissioner Bluestein, please call the  
12 roll.

13 COMMISSIONER BLUESTEIN:  
14 Commissioner Sabir?

15 COMMISSIONER SABIR: Aye.

16 COMMISSIONER BLUESTEIN:  
17 Commissioner Deeley?

18 COMMISSIONER DEELEY: Aye.

19 COMMISSIONER BLUESTEIN: I  
20 vote aye.

21 COMMISSIONER SABIR: Ayes  
22 have it. Commissioner Bluestein is the  
23 Secretary. Next order of business,  
24 Commissioner Bluestein's motion.

1 COMMISSIONER BLUESTEIN:

2 Thank you for recognizing me and  
3 congratulations, Chairman, and good morning,  
4 everyone.

5 Firstly, I'd like to congratulate  
6 my fellow commissioners on their reelection  
7 and thank the voters for giving us the  
8 opportunity to serve them for another four  
9 years. Election administration is perhaps  
10 the most crucial part of maintaining a  
11 functioning democracy in the 21st century.  
12 The challenges our institutions have faced  
13 in recent years from bad faith actors have  
14 not gone away so it's important that we rise  
15 to the occasion to combat them.

16 In my 12 years with the  
17 Commissioners Office, I've been privileged  
18 to work with the most dedicated public  
19 servants you could ever imagine. My fellow  
20 commissioners and the staff of the  
21 department have consistently worked to  
22 support and defend free, fair, and secure  
23 elections. That is a goal I know we all  
24 share.

1           I also believe strongly that  
2 representation matters, that including  
3 diverse viewpoints in our management  
4 structure is critical to improving the  
5 equitable oversight of the department. To  
6 better support the dedicated members of our  
7 staff who make Election Day possible, I am  
8 making a motion to introduce the role of  
9 Director of Election Administration, a  
10 position responsible for managing the  
11 day-to-day operations of the administrative  
12 program overseen by the Board of Elections.

13           I look forward to Stephanie Reid  
14 joining our team if this motion passes.  
15 Supporting our vision for the future of the  
16 department, she brings with her a wealth of  
17 knowledge and experience in government and  
18 has supported the City Commissioners Office  
19 since 2020 most recently serving as the  
20 MDO's Director of External Affairs as a  
21 liaison to the City Commissioners Office and  
22 has been instrumental in improving the  
23 interdepartmental cooperation and  
24 coordination around Philadelphia's



1 elections.

2 I am confident this team will  
3 serve the City of Philadelphia with  
4 dedication and integrity in the upcoming  
5 election cycles and beyond. Therefore, I  
6 move that Stephanie Reid be hired as the  
7 Director of Election Administration for the  
8 Office of the City Commissioners. I further  
9 move that the Director of Election  
10 Administration shall be overseen by and  
11 report to the Board of Elections.

12 On behalf of the Board of  
13 Elections, the Director of Election  
14 Administration will manage the day-to-day  
15 work of the administrative programming  
16 excluding the commissioners and their  
17 individual office's staff.

18 Additionally, I move that  
19 Executive Director Joseph Lynch be appointed  
20 to the title of Director of Election  
21 Operations. The Director of Election  
22 Operations shall be overseen by and report  
23 to the Board of Elections and on behalf of  
24 the Board of Elections, the Director of

1 Election Operations will manage the  
2 day-to-day work of the County Board of  
3 Elections and voter registration programs, a  
4 job that Mr. Lynch has done amazingly well  
5 and I look forward to him continuing doing.

6 COMMISSIONER SABIR:  
7 Seconded. Commissioner Bluestein, please  
8 call the roll.

9 COMMISSIONER BLUESTEIN:  
10 Commissioner Sabir?

11 COMMISSIONER SABIR: Aye.

12 COMMISSIONER BLUESTEIN:  
13 Commissioner Deeley?

14 COMMISSIONER DEELEY: No.

15 COMMISSIONER BLUESTEIN: I  
16 vote aye.

17 COMMISSIONER SABIR: Ayes  
18 have it two to one. Congratulations, Joe  
19 Lynch and Stephanie Reid. Looking forward  
20 to working with you in 2024. Are there any  
21 non-agenda items?

22 COMMISSIONER BLUESTEIN: I  
23 have none.

24 COMMISSIONER DEELEY: I have

1 none. Thank you.

2 COMMISSIONER SABIR: With no  
3 items remaining on the agenda, this meeting  
4 is adjourned to the call of the Chair.

5 Thank you.

6 - - -

7 (This concludes the meeting.)

8 - - -

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

C E R T I F I C A T I O N

I, hereby certify that the proceedings and evidence noted are contained fully and accurately in the stenographic notes taken by me in the foregoing matter, and that this is a correct transcript of the same.

*Amy Margaris*

Court Reporter - Notary Public

(The foregoing certification of this transcript does not apply to any reproduction of the same by any means, unless under the direct control and/or supervision of the certifying reporter.)

<hr/> <b>1</b> <hr/>	<b>amazingly</b> 10:4	5:15 6:11 10:8 11:4	<b>commissione</b> <b>rs</b> 7:6,17,20 8:18,21 9:8,16	<b>day-to-day</b> 8:11 9:14 10:2
<b>12</b> 7:16	<b>appointed</b> 9:19	<b>century</b> 7:11		<b>dedicated</b> 7:18 8:6
<hr/> <b>2</b> <hr/>	<b>aye</b> 4:19,21 5:18,21,23 6:15,18,20 10:11,16	<b>Chair</b> 4:1,4,5,13 5:8,10 6:2 11:4	<b>concludes</b> 11:7	<b>dedication</b> 9:4
<b>2020</b> 8:19			<b>confident</b> 9:2	<b>Deeley</b> 4:4,6,9,15 5:5,10,13, 20,21 6:1, 9,17,18 10:13,14, 24
<b>2024</b> 10:20	<b>Ayes</b> 6:21 10:17	<b>Chairman</b> 7:3	<b>congratulat</b> <b>e</b> 7:5	
<b>21st</b> 7:11	<hr/> <b>B</b> <hr/>	<b>challenges</b> 7:12	<b>congratulat</b> <b>ions</b> 7:3 10:18	<b>defend</b> 7:22
<hr/> <b>3</b> <hr/>	<b>bad</b> 7:13	<b>City</b> 8:18,21 9:3,8	<b>consistentl</b> <b>y</b> 7:21	<b>democracy</b> 7:11
<b>3-0</b> 6:2	<b>behalf</b> 9:12,23	<b>combat</b> 7:15	<b>continuing</b> 10:5	<b>department</b> 7:21 8:5, 16
<hr/> <b>A</b> <hr/>	<b>Bluestein</b> 4:12,17,20 5:6,9,15, 16,19,22 6:7,11,13, 16,19,22 7:1 10:7, 9,12,15,22	<b>Commissione</b> <b>r</b> 4:3,6,9, 12,13,14, 15,17,18, 19,20,22 5:4,5,6,9, 10,11,13, 14,16,17, 18,19,20, 21,22,24 6:1,6,7,9, 10,11,13, 14,15,16, 17,18,19, 21,22,24 7:1 10:6, 7,9,10,11, 12,13,14, 15,17,22, 24 11:2	<b>cooperatio</b> <b>n</b> 8:24	<b>Director</b> 8:9,20 9:7,9,13, 19,20,21, 24
<b>abstain</b> 4:16			<b>County</b> 10:2	<b>diverse</b> 8:3
<b>actors</b> 7:13	<b>Bluestein's</b> 6:24		<b>critical</b> 8:4	<hr/> <b>E</b> <hr/>
<b>Additional</b> <b>ly</b> 9:18	<b>Board</b> 8:12 9:11, 12,23,24 10:2		<b>crucial</b> 7:10	<b>election</b> 7:9 8:7,9 9:5,7,9, 13,20,21 10:1
<b>adjourned</b> 11:4	<b>brings</b> 8:16		<b>cycles</b> 9:5	
<b>administrat</b> <b>ion</b> 7:9 8:9 9:7,10,14	<b>business</b> 6:23		<hr/> <b>D</b> <hr/>	<b>elections</b> 7:23 8:12 9:1,11,13, 23,24 10:3
<b>administrat</b> <b>ive</b> 8:11 9:15	<hr/> <b>C</b> <hr/>		<b>Day</b> 8:7	
<b>Affairs</b> 8:20	<b>call</b>			
<b>agenda</b> 6:3 11:3				

<b>equitable</b> 8:5	<b>goal</b> 7:23	<b>item</b> 6:3	<b>manage</b> 9:14 10:1	<hr/> <b>O</b>
<b>excluding</b> 9:16	<b>good</b> 7:3	<b>items</b> 10:21 11:3	<b>management</b> 8:3	<b>occasion</b> 7:15
<b>Executive</b> 9:19	<b>government</b> 8:17	<hr/> <b>J</b>	<b>managing</b> 8:10	<b>Office</b> 7:17 8:18, 21 9:8
<b>experience</b> 8:17	<hr/> <b>H</b>	<b>job</b> 10:4	<b>matters</b> 8:2	<b>office's</b> 9:17
<b>External</b> 8:20	<b>hired</b> 9:6	<b>Joe</b> 10:18	<b>MDO's</b> 8:20	<b>operations</b> 8:11 9:21, 22 10:1
<hr/> <b>F</b>	<b>honored</b> 5:6	<b>joining</b> 8:14	<b>meeting</b> 11:3,7	<b>opportunity</b> 7:8
<b>faced</b> 7:12	<hr/> <b>I</b>	<b>Joseph</b> 9:19	<b>members</b> 8:6	<b>order</b> 6:23
<b>fair</b> 7:22	<b>imagine</b> 7:19	<hr/> <b>K</b>	<b>morning</b> 7:3	<b>overseen</b> 8:12 9:10, 22
<b>faith</b> 7:13	<b>important</b> 7:14	<b>knowledge</b> 8:17	<b>motion</b> 6:24 8:8, 14	<b>oversight</b> 8:5
<b>fellow</b> 7:6,19	<b>improving</b> 8:4,22	<hr/> <b>L</b>	<b>motions</b> 6:4	<hr/> <b>P</b>
<b>Firstly</b> 7:5	<b>including</b> 8:2	<b>liaison</b> 8:21	<b>move</b> 4:10 9:6, 9,18	<b>part</b> 7:10
<b>five-minute</b> 4:23	<b>individual</b> 9:17	<b>Lisa</b> 4:4	<b>moved</b> 6:1	<b>passes</b> 8:14
<b>forward</b> 4:10 8:13 10:5,19	<b>institution</b> 7:12	<b>Lynch</b> 9:19 10:4, 19	<hr/> <b>N</b>	<b>people</b> 5:7
<b>free</b> 7:22	<b>instrumenta</b> <b>l</b> 8:22	<hr/> <b>M</b>	<b>nominate</b> 4:4,13 5:10 6:7	<b>Philadelphi</b> <b>a</b> 5:7 9:3
<b>functioning</b> 7:11	<b>integrity</b> 9:4	<b>Madame</b> 4:3	<b>nominations</b> 4:2,11 5:8	<b>Philadelphi</b> <b>a's</b> 8:24
<b>future</b> 8:15	<b>interdepart</b> <b>mental</b> 8:23	<b>maintaining</b> 7:10	<b>non-agenda</b> 10:21	<b>position</b> 4:1 8:10
<hr/> <b>G</b>	<b>introduce</b> 8:8	<b>make</b> 8:7		
<b>giving</b> 7:7		<b>making</b> 8:8		

<b>privileged</b> 7:17	<b>responsible</b> 8:10	7:20 8:7 9:17	6:20 10:16
<b>program</b> 8:12	<b>result</b> 6:2	<b>Stephanie</b> 8:13 9:6	<b>voter</b> 10:3
<b>programming</b> 9:15	<b>rise</b> 7:14	10:19	<b>voters</b> 7:7
<b>programs</b> 10:3	<b>role</b> 8:8	<b>strongly</b> 8:1	_____
<b>public</b> 7:18	<b>roll</b> 5:15 6:12 10:8	<b>structure</b> 8:4	<b>W</b>
_____	_____	<b>support</b> 7:22 8:6	<b>wealth</b> 8:16
<b>R</b>	<b>S</b>	<b>supported</b> 8:18	<b>work</b> 7:18 9:15 10:2
<b>recent</b> 7:13	<b>Sabir</b> 4:3,13,14, 18,19,22	<b>Supporting</b> 8:15	<b>worked</b> 7:21
<b>recently</b> 8:19	5:4,11,14, 17,18,24	_____	<b>working</b> 10:20
<b>recess</b> 4:23 5:2	6:6,10,14, 15,21	<b>T</b>	_____
<b>recognizing</b> 7:2	10:6,10, 11,17 11:2	<b>team</b> 8:14 9:2	<b>Y</b>
<b>reelection</b> 7:6	<b>Seconded</b> 10:7	<b>title</b> 9:20	<b>years</b> 7:9,13,16
<b>registratio n</b> 10:3	<b>Secretary</b> 6:3,4,8,23	_____	
<b>Reid</b> 8:13 9:6 10:19	<b>secure</b> 7:22	<b>U</b>	
<b>remaining</b> 11:3	<b>servants</b> 7:19	<b>unanimous</b> 6:2	
<b>report</b> 9:11,22	<b>serve</b> 5:7 7:8 9:3	<b>upcoming</b> 9:4	
<b>representat ion</b> 8:2	<b>serving</b> 8:19	_____	
<b>response</b> 4:8 6:5	<b>share</b> 7:24	<b>V</b>	
	<b>staff</b>	<b>Vice</b> 5:8,10 6:1	
		<b>viewpoints</b> 8:3	
		<b>vision</b> 8:15	
		<b>vote</b> 4:21 5:23	

From: Joan Martini <joanmmartini@aol.com>  
Sent: Monday, January 8, 2024 8:51 PM  
To: PhillyElection <phillyelection@phila.gov>  
Subject: Comment for Public Mtg -Jan 10, 2024

External Email Notice. This email comes from outside of City government. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender.

---

Comment:

I am concerned about polling place consolidation and worried it makes it more difficult for voters who want to vote in person or voter's who must vote in person because of a problem with their mail ballot. This issue seems to matter more to the many people who don't have easy access to private cars or have some difficulty walking extended distances.

I live in a division where voters were assigned to a voting site in another division for what voters thought was temporary to allow remodeling work to be done at local Fire House. The remodeled has long been finished—but the county/city seems to have no interest in making voting easier for citizens. Philadelphia should be doing more to encourage wider participation in elections not less. Conveniently located polling places matter.

Joan Martini

Joan M Martini  
201 W. Evergreen Ave —Apt 918  
Philadelphia, PA 19118

1-215-242-4057 (r)