

PHILADELPHIA CITY COMMISSIONERS

SUNSHINE MEETING

Wednesday, February 19, 2025

11:00 a.m.

Job No.: 51635

1 ATTENDANCE
2 CHAIRMAN OMAR SABIR
3 DEPUTY TO THE CHAIR KHALIF CHESTNUT
4 VICE-CHAIR LISA DEELEY
5 DEPUTY TO THE VICE-CHAIR NICK CUSTODIO
6 COMMISSIONER SETH BLUESTEIN
7 DEPUTY ERIC KAPENSTEIN
8 DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS JOSEPH LYNCH

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

2 (11:00 a.m.)

3 CHAIRMAN SABIR: Good Morning. I'm going to call
4 to order the meeting of the Philadelphia City
5 Commissioners Board of elections for Wednesday,
6 February 19th, 2025. This meeting is in compliance
7 with the Pennsylvania Sunshine Act. Philadelphia City
8 Commissioners are a three member bipartisan board of
9 elected officials in charge of elections and voter
10 registration for the City of Philadelphia.

11 Each Commissioner is elected to serve a four-year
12 term that coincides with the municipal election cycle
13 for the Mayor and City Council. The Commissioners set
14 and enforce departmental policies to administer voter
15 registration and conduct elections in accordance with
16 federal and state voter registration election laws.
17 The City Commissioners were created by the
18 Pennsylvania assembly in 1711 with a focus on taxation
19 and held various regulatory powers throughout the
20 centuries.

21 The Commissioner started maintaining voter lists
22 in 1799 and took on more election related
23 responsibilities but didn't emerge into its current
24 form until the adoption of Philadelphia Home Rule
25 Charter in 1951. We will start off with public

1 comments. Before beginning their comments, commenters
2 will state where they live or if they are or not a
3 resident of Philadelphia and that they are a
4 Philadelphia taxpayer.

5 Public comment is not an opportunity for dialogue
6 or Q and A. It is public comment, a chance for you to
7 tell us what you think. Each speaker will have two
8 minutes to speak. However, I may extend the time at
9 my discretion. Public comment must concern matters on
10 today's meeting agenda. Finally, it is my
11 responsibility to preserve the order and decorum of
12 the meetings as such profane, slanderous,
13 discriminatory or personal attacks will not be
14 tolerated.

15 If you wish to make a public objection to a
16 perceived Sunshine Act violation, please raise your
17 hand and I recognize you. Outburst will not be
18 tolerated. Anyone wishing to offer public comment,
19 please step forward. Hearing none. We will now move
20 to report from Secretary email public comments.
21 Secretary Bluestein, are there any email public
22 comments?

23 MR. BLUESTEIN: As of 9:45 a.m. There were no
24 email public comments.

25 CHAIRMAN SABIR: Thank you very much. We will

1 now proceed to old business. First, we have a report
2 from our Directors of Operation, Mr. Joe Lynch. Good
3 morning, Joe.

4 MR. LYNCH: Good morning. This is our public
5 meeting update for February 19th, 2025 at the election
6 warehouse, the Voting Machine Service Unit has been
7 busy finishing up the BlueCrest Test and getting ready
8 to begin working on repairs in preparation for the
9 upcoming primary election. The E-Poll Book Unit
10 continues to work on Express Poll printer testing.
11 They also have network testing scheduled for next week
12 and NIB peer-to-peer testing scheduled for March.

13 The Election Materials Unit has been working to
14 ensure that the supplies needed for our poll workers
15 are ordered, organized and ready for packing. For our
16 voter registration report from the election cycle to
17 date, we have processed 63,824 voter registration
18 applications, of which 3,050 were paper. All
19 applications are up to date. Delaware and Spring
20 Garden is currently reviewing all applications and
21 correcting mistakes as necessary.

22 The County Board of Elections is now accepting
23 mail in and absentee ballot applications. Voters on
24 the annual mail in and absentee list will be receiving
25 their annual applications in the mail shortly. Voters

1 will need to complete and return their applications to
2 the County Board of Elections to continue to
3 automatically receive either a mail in or absentee
4 ballot for the election in 2025.

5 Voters may apply online rather than returning the
6 paper application. As of yesterday, we have approved
7 11,766 vote by mail applications. Of those, 183 are
8 paper applications and 11,583 are electronic
9 applications. We have a total of 2,678 electronic
10 applications waiting to be processed. Petitions for
11 the upcoming municipal primary elections are available
12 on our website @vote.phila.gov the county board of
13 elections office is at city hall room 142, and our
14 satellite elections office will be printing petition
15 packets for anyone who needs assistance.

16 Any Democrat or Republican interested in running
17 for Judge of Elections, Inspector of Elections, City
18 Controller or District Attorney will need to complete
19 and file their petitions with the County Board of
20 Elections Office room 142. The last day to circulate
21 and file nomination petitions is March 11th, 2025 and
22 the last day for candidates to withdraw is March 26th,
23 2025.

24 Petitions for judicial offices in the upcoming
25 primary, including Superior Court, Commonwealth Court,

1 Court of Common Pleas and Municipal Court, are
2 available from the Department of State. The ballot
3 drawing for Municipal Council candidates will be held
4 at 11:00 a.m. on Tuesday, March 18th in city hall room
5 653. The Palm Place Unit is actively preparing to
6 reach out to Palm Place locations and conduct field
7 work to secure proof of residence in coordination with
8 the Voter Registration Unit.

9 It will also consistently monitor these sites in
10 anticipation of the primary election. The Board
11 Workers Unit continues its Winter Training program
12 which kicked off on January 21st. The election board
13 training seminar schedule is posted on our website,
14 vote.phila.gov. To date, 1,634 poll workers have
15 registered for the training with 1,254 already in
16 attendance.

17 Satellite election offices are currently
18 processing online requests for mail and ballots while
19 also assisting the public with petition requests.
20 Additionally, we have a community engagement event on
21 February 20th, 2025, Black History Community Resource
22 night from 5:00 to 7:00 at our satellite office number
23 four located at 5610 Lancaster Avenue. Thanks.
24 That's all I have. Thanks, Commissioner.

25 CHAIRMAN SABIR: Thank you. Vice Chair Deeley.

1 Do you have any questions?

2 MS. DEELEY: I have none. Thank you.

3 CHAIRMAN SABIR: Secretary Bluestein, do you have
4 any questions?

5 MR. BLUESTEIN: I have none. Thank you.

6 CHAIRMAN SABIR: I just had one question, I
7 guess, about the testing. Are there any issues that
8 we're seeing with the testing so far?

9 MS. LYNCH: No, it's just, just basic issues and
10 things like printers and stuff like that that have to
11 be reattached to the machine or if they're loose,
12 things like that. The normal wear and tear that they
13 fix, yeah.

14 CHAIRMAN SABIR: Overall, it's pretty good?

15 MS. LYNCH: Overall, it's good. Yes.

16 CHAIRMAN SABIR: Thank you, Joe. We will now
17 proceed to new business. We will begin by considering
18 our first agenda item. Our motion to adopt the
19 proposed polling place media policy. Is there a
20 second?

21 MS. DEELEY: Second.

22 CHAIRMAN SABIR: Commissioners, do you have any
23 comments before we proceed to vote?

24 MS. DEELEY: Thank you. I have none.

25 MR. BLUESTEIN: I do not.

1 CHAIRMAN SABIR: Secretary Blustein, please call
2 the rule.

3 MR. BLUESTEIN: Vice Chair Deeley.

4 MS. DEELEY: I vote aye.

5 MR. BLUESTEIN: I vote aye. Chairman Sabir?

6 CHAIRMAN SABIR: Aye. This motion passes, and I
7 would just like to thank the staff, working together
8 hand in hand with the legal department to get this
9 media policy done is well overdue. That was the last
10 item on our agenda. Before we adjourn, commissioner
11 Deeley, do you have any other business to be raised at
12 this meeting?

13 MS. DEELEY: I have none. Thank you.

14 CHAIRMAN SABIR: Commissioner Bluestein, do you
15 have any other business to be raised at this meeting?

16 MR. BLUESTEIN: I do not. Thank you.

17 CHAIRMAN SABIR: Thank you, Commissioners.
18 Hearing no other business, I motion to adjourn today's
19 meeting. Is there a second?

20 MS. DEELEY: Second.

21 CHAIRMAN SABIR: Secretary Bluestein, please call
22 the rule.

23 MR. BLUESTEIN: Vice Chair Deeley?

24 MS. DEELEY: Aye.

25 MR. BLUESTEIN: I vote aye. Chairman Sabir?

1 CHAIRMAN SABIR: Aye. This meeting's adjourned.

2 (The meeting was adjourned.)

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CERTIFICATE OF TRANSCRIPTIONIST

I, JOE HERMAN, Legal Transcriptionist, do hereby
certify:

That the foregoing is a complete and true
transcription of the original digital audio recording
of the testimony and proceedings captured in the
above-entitled matter. As the transcriptionist, I
have reviewed and transcribed the entirety of the
original digital audio recording of the proceeding to
ensure a verbatim record to the best of my ability.

I further certify that I am neither attorney for
nor a relative or employee of any of the parties to
the action; further, that I am not a relative or
employee of any attorney employed by the parties
hereto, nor financially or otherwise interested in the
outcome of this matter.

IN WITNESS THEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand
this 26th day of February, 2025.

Joe Herman

Joe Herman

<hr/> <p>1</p> <p>11,583 6:8</p> <p>11,766 6:7</p> <p>11:00 3:2</p> <p>11th 6:21</p> <p>142 6:13,20</p> <p>1711 3:18</p> <p>1799 3:22</p> <p>183 6:7</p> <p>1951 3:25</p> <p>19th 3:6 5:5</p> <hr/> <p>2</p> <p>2,678 6:9</p> <p>2025 3:6 5:5 6:4,21,23</p> <p>26th 6:22</p> <hr/> <p>3</p> <p>3,050 5:18</p>	<hr/> <p>6</p> <p>63,824 5:17</p> <hr/> <p>9</p> <p>9:45 4:23</p> <hr/> <p>@</p> <p>@vote. phila.gov 6:12</p> <hr/> <p>A</p> <p>a.m. 3:2 4:23</p> <p>absentee 5:23,24 6:3</p> <p>accepting 5:22</p> <p>accordance 3:15</p> <p>Act 3:7 4:16</p> <p>administer 3:14</p> <p>adoption 3:24</p> <p>agenda 4:10</p> <p>annual 5:24,25</p> <p>applicatio n 6:6</p>	<p>applicatio ns 5:18,19, 20,23,25 6:1,7,8,9, 10</p> <p>apply 6:5</p> <p>approved 6:6</p> <p>assembly 3:18</p> <p>assistance 6:15</p> <p>attacks 4:13</p> <p>Attorney 6:18</p> <p>automatica lly 6:3</p> <hr/> <p>B</p> <p>ballot 5:23 6:4</p> <p>begin 5:8</p> <p>beginning 4:1</p> <p>bipartisan 3:8</p> <p>Bluecrest 5:7</p> <p>Bluestein 4:21,23</p> <p>board 3:5,8 5:22 6:2,12,19</p>	<p>Book 5:9</p> <p>business 5:1</p> <p>busy 5:7</p> <hr/> <p>C</p> <p>call 3:3</p> <p>candidates 6:22</p> <p>centuries 3:20</p> <p>CHAIRMAN 3:3 4:25</p> <p>chance 4:6</p> <p>charge 3:9</p> <p>Charter 3:25</p> <p>circulate 6:20</p> <p>city 3:4,7,10, 13,17 6:13,17</p> <p>coincides 3:12</p> <p>comment 4:5,6,9,18</p> <p>commenters 4:1</p> <p>comments 4:1,20,22, 24</p>	<p>Commission er 3:11,21</p> <p>Commission ers 3:5,8,13, 17</p> <p>Commonweal th 6:25</p> <p>complete 6:1,18</p> <p>compliance 3:6</p> <p>concern 4:9</p> <p>conduct 3:15</p> <p>continue 6:2</p> <p>continues 5:10</p> <p>Controller 6:18</p> <p>correcting 5:21</p> <p>Council 3:13</p> <p>county 5:22 6:2, 12,19</p> <p>Court 6:25</p> <p>created 3:17</p> <p>current 3:23</p>
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