

PHILADELPHIA CITY COMMISSIONERS

PHILADELPHIA CITY COMMISSIONERS SUNSHINE MEETING

Wednesday, April 23, 2025

11:00 a.m.

Transcribed by: Vallary Miruni

Job No.: 958401

1 ATTENDANCE

2 OMAR SABIR, CHAIRMAN

3 CATRINA VERA, ASSISTANT TO THE CHAIR

4 LISA DEELEY, VICE CHAIR

5 NICK CUSTODIO, DEPUTY TO THE VICE-CHAIR

6 SETH BLUESTEIN, COMMISSIONER

7 ERIC KAPENSTEIN, DEPUTY

8 JOSEPH LYNCH, DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS

9 CHARLES STROMAN, POLLING PLACE INSPECTION SUPERVISOR

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

P R O C E E D I N G S

(11:00 a.m.)

1
2 MR. SABIR: Good morning. I'm going to call to
3 order the meeting of the Philadelphia City
4 Commissioners Board of Elections for Wednesday, April
5 23rd, 2025. This meeting is in compliance with the
6 Pennsylvania Sunshine Act. The Philadelphia City
7 Commissioners are a three-member bipartisan board of
8 elected officials in charge of elections and voter
9 registration for the city of Philadelphia.

10 Each commissioner is elected to serve a four-year
11 term that coincides with the municipal election cycle
12 for mayor and city council. The commissioners set and
13 enforce departmental policies to administer voter
14 registration and conduct elections in accordance with
15 federal and state voter registration election laws.

16 The city commissioners were created by the
17 Pennsylvania assembly in 1711 with a focus on taxation
18 and held various regulatory powers throughout the
19 century. The commissioners started maintaining voter
20 lists in 1799 and took on more election-related
21 responsibility but didn't emerge in its current form
22 until the adaption of Philadelphia's Home Rule Charter
23 in 1951.

24 We will start off with public comments. Before
25

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

4 Public comment is not an opportunity for dialogue
5 or Q&A. It is public comment, a chance for you to
6 tell us what you think. Each speaker will have two
7 minutes. However, I may extend the time at my
8 discretion. Public comment must concern matters on
9 today's meeting agenda.

10 Finally, it is my responsibility to preserve the
11 order and decor of the meetings. As such, profane,
12 slanderous, discriminatory, or personal attacks will
13 not be tolerated. If you wish to make a public
14 objection to a perceived Sunshine Act violation,
15 please raise your hand and I will recognize you.
16 Outbursts will not be tolerated.

17 Anyone wishing to offer public comment, please
18 step forward. There are no public commenters. We
19 will now move on to report from Secretary Bluestein.
20 Are there any public -- are there any email public
21 comments?

22 MR. BLUESTEIN: As of 9:45 a.m., there were no
23 email public comments.

24 MR. SABIR: Thank you, Secretary. We will now
25 proceed to old business. First, we will move to

1 report from our Director of Operations, Mr. Joseph
2 Lynch.

3 MR. LYNCH: Good morning, Commissioners.

4 MR. SABIR: Good morning.

5 MR. LYNCH: This is our public meeting update for
6 April 23rd, 2025. April 21st at 5:00 p.m., we locked
7 down the election database for the primary election
8 and the warehouse staff began the final test on the
9 voting machines.

10 For our voter registration report for the
11 election cycle to date, we have processed 94,962 voter
12 registration applications. 4,200 were paper.
13 Delaware and Spring Garden is currently reviewing all
14 applications and correcting mistakes as necessary.

15 As of Tuesday, the County Board of Elections has
16 approved 64,108 vote by mail and absentee
17 applications, which is 1,339 added from last week's
18 total. Of those, 39,155 are paper applications and
19 24,953 are electronic applications. This includes
20 military and civilian overseas voters.

21 All processing is currently up to date. Voters
22 who would like to vote by mail for the May 20th
23 municipal primary election can apply for a mail-in or
24 absentee ballot at vote.phila.gov. The deadline to
25 apply is Tuesday, May 13th, at 5:00 p.m.

1 The board workers unit is continuing our spring
2 training sessions, and so far, 2,114 poll workers have
3 attended the trainings. The full schedule for our
4 election board training seminars is available online
5 at vote.phila.gov. We will continue confirming poll
6 workers for the elections. We've already received
7 confirmations for 7,534 poll workers. Thank you.
8 That's all I have.

9 MR. SABIR: Thank you, Joe. Vice Chair Deeley,
10 do you have any questions?

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

12 MR. SABIR: Secretary Bluestein, do you have any
13 questions?

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

15 MR. SABIR: Thank you, Joe. This completes our
16 old business for today's meeting. We will now proceed
17 to new business. We will begin by considering our
18 first agenda item, polling places for changes. We
19 will hear from our Polling Places Investigation
20 Supervisor, Charlie Stroman. Good morning, Charlie.

21 MR. STROMAN: Good morning, Commissioners. I
22 have 17 proposals on the docket today. The first four
23 will be multiple wards, the fifth ward and the 18th
24 ward. There's four of them, all going from the same
25 place and going to the same place also. So in the 5th

1 ward, the 21st division, the 33rd division, the 34th
2 division, and then the 18th ward, the 19th division,
3 all going from the Fillmore music venue to the Punch
4 Line Philly. And that is all due to a scheduling
5 conflict.

6 MR. SABIR: Having heard the recommendation of
7 the professional staff, I move that we accept the
8 polling place change for ward 5, division 21, 33, 34,
9 and 18th ward, 19th division. Is there a second?

10 MS. DEELEY: I second.

11 MR. SABIR: Secretary Bluestein, please call the
12 roll.

13 MR. BLUESTEIN: Vice Chair Deeley.

14 MS. DEELEY: Aye.

15 MR. BLUESTEIN: I vote aye. Chairman Sabir.

16 MR. SABIR: Aye. Please proceed.

17 MR. STROMAN: The next set will be six of them,
18 8th ward and the 30th ward. In the 8th ward will be
19 the 5th division, the 14th division, the 20th
20 division, the 34th division, 35th division, and in the
21 30th ward, the 3rd division, all going from Kimmel
22 Center to the Suzanne Roberts Theater, and it was all
23 due to a scheduling conflict.

24 MR. SABIR: Having heard the recommendation of
25 the professional staff, I move that we accept the

1 polling place change for ward 8, division 5, 14, 20,
2 34, 35, and ward 30, division 3. Is there a second?

3 MS. DEELEY: Chairman, before seconding, can I
4 ask Charlie a question?

5 MR. SABIR: Yes, you may.

6 MS. DEELEY: Charlie, this is just for this
7 election and then the Kimmel Center so we can come
8 back?

9 MR. STROMAN: That is correct. They locked us in
10 for the November election.

11 MS. DEELEY: Thank you, Charlie, for your work.
12 I second.

13 MR. SABIR: Secretary Bluestein, please call the
14 roll.

15 MR. BLUESTEIN: Vice Chair Deeley.

16 MS. DEELEY: Aye.

17 MR. BLUESTEIN: I vote aye. Chairman Sabir.

18 MR. SABIR: Aye. Please proceed.

19 MR. STROMAN: Next one will be in the 34th ward,
20 the 24th division, moving out of Overbrook Tower
21 Apartments to the Overbrook School for the Blind, and
22 that is due to a refusal.

23 MR. SABIR: Having heard the recommendation of
24 the professional staff, I move that we accept the
25 polling place change for ward 34, division 24. Is

1 there a second?

2 MS. DEELEY: I second.

3 MR. BLUESTEIN: Secretary Bluestein, please call
4 the roll.

5 MR. BLUESTEIN: Vice Chair Deeley.

6 MS. DEELEY: Aye.

7 MR. BLUESTEIN: I vote aye. Chairman Sabir.

8 MR. SABIR: Aye. Please proceed.

9 MR. STROMAN: Next two will be in the 35th ward,
10 the 10th division and the 11th division, moving out of
11 the Franklin School into the Lawncrest Branch Library,
12 and they are both back to the original location.

13 MR. SABIR: Having heard the recommendation of
14 the professional staff, I move that we accept the
15 polling place change for ward 35, division 10 and 11.
16 Is there a second?

17 MS. DEELEY: I second.

18 MR. SABIR: Secretary Bluestein, please call the
19 roll.

20 MR. BLUESTEIN: Vice Chair Deeley.

21 MS. DEELEY: Aye.

22 MR. BLUESTEIN: I vote aye. Chairman Sabir.

23 MR. SABIR: Aye. Please proceed.

24 MR. STROMAN: Next two will be in the 58th ward,
25 the 5th division and the 21st division, moving out of

1 Calvary Chapel to the Somerton Methodist Church, and
2 that is due to a refusal, and they will be back in
3 November.

4 MR. SABIR: Having heard the recommendation of
5 the professional staff, I move that we accept the
6 polling place change for ward 58, division 5 and 21.
7 Is there a second?

8 MS. DEELEY: I second.

9 MR. SABIR: Secretary Bluestein, please call the
10 roll.

11 MR. BLUESTEIN: Vice Chair Deeley.

12 MS. DEELEY: Aye.

13 MR. BLUESTEIN: I vote aye. Chairman Sabir.

14 MR. SABIR: Aye. Please proceed.

15 MR. STROMAN: The next two will be the last two,
16 in the 59th ward, the 5th division and the 9th
17 division, moving out of Shepherd's Heart Ministry to
18 face-to-face, and that is due to a refusal.

19 MR. SABIR: Having heard the recommendation of
20 the professional staff, I move that we accept the
21 polling place change for ward 59, division 5 and 9.
22 Is there a second?

23 MS. DEELEY: I second.

24 MR. SABIR: Secretary Bluestein, please call the
25 roll.

1 MR. BLUESTEIN: Vice Chair Deeley.

2 MS. DEELEY: Aye.

3 MR. BLUESTEIN: I vote aye. Chairman Sabir.

4 MR. SABIR: Aye. Thank you, Charlie.

5 MR. STROMAN: You're welcome.

6 MR. SABIR: That was the last item on our agenda.

7 Before we adjourn, Vice Chair Deeley, do you have any
8 business to be raised at this meeting?

9 MS. DEELEY: I have none, Chairman.

10 MR. SABIR: Secretary Bluestein, do you have any
11 other business to be raised at this meeting?

12 MR. BLUESTEIN: Thank you, Chairman. I just want
13 to thank Alison Store for her work with us for the
14 last year and a half, and she's accepted a new
15 position. This is her last week. So I just want to
16 thank her for her work.

17 MR. SABIR: And I'd like to echo that sentiment.
18 Alison always had the energy. She's climbing
19 mountains, she's doing everything. And she really was
20 there for us at a very tumultuous time. I really
21 appreciate you. And you're not going anywhere, so.
22 We still got staff surging, and we still got all these
23 other different things. So definitely great to have
24 you back. Thank you. Thank you. Thank you.

25 And other business also I'd like to mention or

1 I'd like to congratulate our secretary, Seth
2 Bluestein. He's been honored as a Republican Man of
3 the Year. It's a prestigious honor that not too many
4 Philadelphians get. So our own Seth Bluestein is the
5 Republican Man of the Year.

6 MR. BLUESTEIN: Thank you, Chairman.

7 MR. SABIR: I don't have any other business. I
8 motion that this meeting is adjourned. Secretary
9 Bluestein, please call the roll. I'm sorry, somebody
10 wants to second that?

11 MR. BLUESTEIN: I second.

12 MR. SABIR: Secretary Bluestein, please call the
13 roll.

14 MR. BLUESTEIN: Vice Chair Deeley.

15 MS. DEELEY: Aye.

16 MR. BLUESTEIN: I vote aye. Chairman Sabir.

17 MR. SABIR: Aye. This meeting's adjourned.

18 (End of audio recording.)
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

CERTIFICATE OF TRANSCRIPTIONIST

I, VALLARY MIRUNI, 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 12th day of June, 2025.



Vallary Miruni

<hr/>	20	8:2 9:15	<hr/>	adjourn
1	8:1	35th	8	11:7
1,339	2025	7:20 9:9	8	adjourned
5:17	3:5 5:6	39,155	8:1	12:8,17
10	20th	5:18	8th	administer
9:15	5:22 7:19	3rd	7:18	3:13
10th	21	7:21	<hr/>	agenda
9:10	7:8 10:6	<hr/>	9	4:9 6:18
11	21st	4	9	11:6
9:15	5:6 7:1	4,200	10:21	Alison
11:00	9:25	5:12	94,962	11:13,18
3:1	23rd	<hr/>	5:11	Apartments
11th	5:6	5	9:45	8:21
9:10	24	5	4:22	applicatio
13th	8:25	7:8 8:1	9th	ns
5:25	24,953	10:6,21	10:16	5:12,14,
14	5:19	58	<hr/>	17,18,19
8:1	24th	10:6	A	apply
14th	8:20	58th	a.m.	5:23,25
7:19	<hr/>	9:24	3:1 4:22	approved
17	3	59	absentee	5:16
6:22	3	10:21	5:16,24	April
1711	8:2	59th	accept	3:4 5:6
3:17	30	10:16	7:7,25	assembly
1799	8:2	5:00	8:24 9:14	3:17
3:20	30th	5:6,25	10:5,20	attacks
18th	7:18,21	5th	accepted	4:12
6:23 7:2,9	33	6:25 7:19	11:14	attended
1951	7:8	9:25 10:16	accordance	6:3
3:23	33rd	<hr/>	3:14	audio
19th	7:1	6	Act	12:18
7:2,9	34	64,108	3:6 4:14	aye
<hr/>	7:8 8:2,25	5:16	adaption	7:14,15,16
2	34th	<hr/>	3:22	8:16,17,18
2,114	7:1,20	7	added	9:6,7,8,
6:2	8:19	7,534	5:17	21,22,23
	35	6:7		10:12,13,
				14 11:2,3,

4 12:15, 16,17	17 11:8, 11,25 12:7	6,11 11:4	confirmati ons	4:11
<hr/>	<hr/>	Charter	6:7	Deeley
B	C	3:22	confirming	6:9,11
back	call	Church	6:5	7:10,13,14
8:8 9:12	3:2 7:11	10:1	conflict	8:3,6,11,
10:2 11:24	8:13 9:3,	city	7:5,23	15,16 9:2,
ballot	18 10:9,24	12,16	congratula te	5,6,17,20,
5:24	12:9,12	civilian	12:1	21 10:8,
began	Calvary	5:20	continue	11,12,23
5:8	10:1	climbing	6:5	11:1,2,7,9
begin	Center	11:18	continuing	12:14,15
6:17	7:22 8:7	coincides	6:1	Delaware
beginning	century	3:11	correct	5:13
4:1	3:19	comment	8:9	department al
bipartisan	Chair	4:4,5,8,17	correcting	3:13
3:7	6:9 7:13	commenters	5:14	dialogue
Blind	8:15 9:5,	4:1,18	council	4:4
8:21	20 10:11	comments	3:12	Director
Bluestein	11:1,7	3:24 4:1,	County	5:1
4:19,22	12:14	21,23	5:15	discretion
6:12,14	Chairman	commission er	created	4:8
7:11,13,15	7:15 8:3,	3:10	3:16	discrimina tory
8:13,15,17	17 9:7,22	commission ers	current	4:12
9:3,5,7,	10:13	3:4,7,12,	3:21	division
18,20,22	11:3,9,12	16,19 5:3	cycle	7:1,2,8,9,
10:9,11,	12:6,16	6:21	3:11 5:11	19,20,21
13,24	chance	completes	<hr/>	8:1,2,20,
11:1,3,10,	4:5	6:15	D	25 9:10,
12 12:2,4,	change	compliance	database	15,25
6,9,11,12,	7:8 8:1,25	3:5	5:7	10:6,16,
14,16	9:15 10:6,	concern	date	17,21
board	21	4:8	5:11,21	docket
3:4,7 5:15	Chapel	conduct	deadline	6:22
6:1,4	10:1	3:14	5:24	due
Branch	charge	Charlie	decor	7:4,23
9:11	3:8	6:20 8:4,		8:22 10:2,
business				18
4:25 6:16,				

<hr/>	Fillmore	8:23 9:13	Library	12:17
E	7:3	10:4,19	9:11	meetings
echo	final	Heart	lists	4:11
11:17	5:8	10:17	3:20	mention
elected	Finally	held	live	11:25
3:8,10	4:10	3:18	4:2	Methodist
election	focus	Home	location	10:1
3:11,15	3:17	3:22	9:12	military
5:7,11,23	form	honor	locked	5:20
6:4 8:7,10	3:21	12:3	5:6 8:9	Ministry
election-	forward	honored	Lynch	10:17
related	4:18	12:2	5:2,3,5	minutes
3:20	four-year	<hr/>	<hr/>	4:7
elections	3:10	I	M	mistakes
3:4,8,14	Franklin	includes	machines	5:14
5:15 6:6	9:11	5:19	5:9	morning
electronic	full	Investigat	mail	3:2 5:3,4
5:19	6:3	ion	5:16,22	6:20,21
email	<hr/>	6:19	mail-in	motion
4:20,23	G	item	5:23	12:8
emerge	Garden	6:18 11:6	maintainin	mountains
3:21	5:13	<hr/>	g	11:19
end	Good	J	3:19	move
12:18	3:2 5:3,4	Joe	make	4:19,25
energy	6:20,21	6:9,15	4:13	7:7,25
11:18	great	Joseph	Man	8:24 9:14
enforce	11:23	5:1	12:2,5	10:5,20
3:13	<hr/>	<hr/>	matters	moving
extend	H	K	4:8	8:20 9:10,
4:7	half	Kimmel	mayor	25 10:17
<hr/>	11:14	7:21 8:7	3:12	multiple
F	hand	<hr/>	meeting	6:23
face-to-	4:15	L	3:3,5 4:9	municipal
face	hear	Lawncrest	5:5 6:16	3:11 5:23
10:18	6:19	9:11	11:8,11	music
federal	heard	laws	12:8	7:3
3:15	7:6,24	3:15	meeting's	

<hr/>	Pennsylvan	powers	question	responsibi
N	ia	3:18	8:4	lity
November	3:6,17	preserve	questions	3:21 4:10
8:10 10:3	perceived	4:10	6:10,13	reviewing
<hr/>	4:14	prestigiou	<hr/>	5:13
O	personal	s	R	Roberts
objection	4:12	12:3	raise	7:22
4:14	Philadelph	primary	4:15	roll
offer	ia	5:7,23	raised	7:12 8:14
4:17	3:3,6,9	proceed	11:8,11	9:4,19
officials	4:3	4:25 6:16	received	10:10,25
3:8	Philadelph	7:16 8:18	6:6	12:9,13
online	ia's	9:8,23	recognize	Rule
6:4	3:22	10:14	4:15	3:22
Operations	Philadelph	processed	recommenda	<hr/>
5:1	ians	5:11	tion	S
opportunit	12:4	processing	7:6,24	Sabir
y	Philly	5:21	8:23 9:13	3:2 4:24
4:4	7:4	profane	10:4,19	5:4 6:9,
order	place	4:11	recording	12,15 7:6,
3:3 4:11	6:25 7:8	profession	12:18	11,15,16,
original	8:1,25	al	refusal	24 8:5,13,
9:12	9:15 10:6,	7:7,25	8:22 10:2,	17,18,23
Outbursts	21	8:24 9:14	18	9:7,8,13,
4:16	places	10:5,20	registrati	18,22,23
Overbrook	6:18,19	proposals	on	10:4,9,13,
8:20,21	policies	6:22	3:9,14,15	14,19,24
overseas	3:13	public	5:10,12	11:3,4,6,
5:20	poll	3:24 4:4,	regulatory	10,17
<hr/>	6:2,5,7	5,8,13,17,	3:18	12:7,12,
P	polling	18,20,23	report	16,17
p.m.	6:18,19	5:5	4:19 5:1,	schedule
5:6,25	7:8 8:1,25	Punch	10	6:3
paper	9:15 10:6,	7:3	Republican	scheduling
5:12,18	21	<hr/>	12:2,5	7:4,23
	position	Q	resident	School
	11:15	Q&a	4:2	8:21 9:11
		4:5		seconding
				8:3

secretary 4:19,24 6:12 7:11 8:13 9:3, 18 10:9,24 11:10 12:1,8,12	state 3:15 4:1 step 4:18 Store 11:13 Stroman 6:20,21 7:17 8:9, 19 9:9,24 10:15 11:5 Sunshine 3:6 4:14 Supervisor 6:20 surging 11:22 Suzanne 7:22	4:7 11:20 today 6:22 today's 4:9 6:16 tolerated 4:13,16 total 5:18 Tower 8:20 training 6:2,4 trainings 6:3 Tuesday 5:15,25 tumultuous 11:20	vote 5:16,22 7:15 8:17 9:7,22 10:13 11:3 12:16 vote. phila.gov. 5:24 6:5 voter 3:8,13,15, 19 5:10,11 voters 5:20,21 voting 5:9	8:11 11:13,16 workers 6:1,2,6,7
seminars 6:4 sentiment 11:17 serve 3:10 sessions 6:2 set 3:12 7:17 Seth 12:1,4 Shepherd's 10:17 slandorous 4:12 Somerton 10:1 speaker 4:6 spring 5:13 6:1 staff 5:8 7:7,25 8:24 9:14 10:5,20 11:22 start 3:24 started 3:19	<hr/> T taxation 3:17 taxpayer 4:3 term 3:11 test 5:8 Theater 7:22 things 11:23 three- member 3:7 time	<hr/> U unit 6:1 update 5:5 <hr/> V venue 7:3 Vice 6:9 7:13 8:15 9:5, 20 10:11 11:1,7 12:14 violation 4:14	ward 6:23,24 7:1,2,8,9, 18,21 8:1, 2,19,25 9:9,15,24 10:6,16,21 wards 6:23 warehouse 5:8 Wednesday 3:4 week 11:15 week's 5:17 wishing 4:17 work	<hr/> Y year 11:14 12:3,5