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*** AUDIO TRANSCRIPTION ***
Philadelphia City Commissioners 05/06/2026 Sunshine
Meeting

* * *

Transcribed
By: Nisha Chakkingal
Job No.: 1092526

1 MR. SABIR: Good Morning. I call to
2 order the meeting of the Philadelphia City
3 Commissioners Board of Elections for
4 Wednesday, May the 6th, 2026. This meeting is
5 in compliance with the Pennsylvania Sunshine
6 Act. The Philadelphia City Commissioners are
7 a three-member bipartisan board of elected
8 officials in charge of elections and voter
9 registration for the City of Philadelphia.

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

22 The Commissioner started maintaining
23 voter lists in 1799 and took on more election-
24 related responsibilities, but didn't emerge
25 into its current form until the adoption of

1 the whole rule charter in 1951. We will start
2 off with public comments. Before beginning
3 their comments, the commenter shall state
4 where they live, or if they are not a resident
5 of Philadelphia, and that they are a
6 Philadelphia taxpayer.

7 Public comment is not an opportunity for
8 dialogue or Q&A. It is public comment, a
9 chance for you to tell us what you think.
10 Each speaker will have two minutes to speak.

11 However, I may extend the time at my
12 discretion. Public comment must concern
13 matters on today's meeting agenda. Finally,
14 it is my responsibility to preserve the order
15 and decorum of the meetings.

16 As such, profane, slanderous,
17 discriminatory, or personal attacks will not
18 be tolerated. If you wish to make a public
19 objection to a perceived Sunshine Act
20 violation, please raise your hand, and I will
21 recognize you. Outbursts will not be
22 tolerated.

23 Anyone, anyone wishing to offer public
24 comment, please step forward. Hearing none, I
25 will now proceed to email comments.

1 Commissioner Bluestein, are there any email
2 public comments?

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

5 MR. SABIR: Thank you very much. Before
6 we proceed to old business, I just wanted to
7 pause to acknowledge the passing of Rodney
8 Baker.

9 On behalf of the Office of the City
10 Commissioners, we extend our heartfelt
11 condolences to his family, friends, and all
12 those who had the privilege of knowing and
13 working alongside him. Rodney's presence and
14 contributions will not be forgotten, and we
15 recognize that this loss may be difficult for
16 the -- for the -- for the many members of our
17 staff and extended work family. Please also
18 be advised that grief counseling and support
19 services will be made available for any staff
20 member who may need assistance during this
21 time.

22 We ask that everyone keeps Rodney's loved
23 ones in their thoughts and prayers. Any other
24 Commissioners wanted to make a statement on
25 that?

1 MS. DEELEY: Thank you. I also would
2 like to express my condolences. Rodney was a
3 great guy. I knew him a long time, and he
4 will certainly be missed. Thank you. Thank
5 you for the recognition.

6 MR. BLUESTEIN: Yeah, thank you,
7 chairman. I just want to echo both the
8 comments of my colleagues and express my
9 condolences to his friends and family.

10 MR. SABIR: We will now proceed to old
11 business. First, we have a report from our
12 Directors of Election Operations and
13 Administration, Mr. Joseph Lynch and Mark
14 Johnson. Joe, we'll start with you.

15 MR. LYNCH: Yes, good morning,
16 Commissioners. Yes, I'd like to say also
17 Rodney was a good guy, good tech, and I hope
18 he's resting in peace. So this is our public
19 meeting update for May 6th, 2026.

20 At the Election Warehouse, all units have
21 been busy preparing for the upcoming election.
22 The Voting Machine Service Unit is finishing
23 the final repairs and preparing machines for
24 shipment to the poll locations. The E-Poll
25 Book Unit has been testing -- has begun

1 testing, which will continue until May 13th.

2 E-Poll Books will be picked up on May
3 14th and shipped for pickup on Friday, May
4 14th. The Election Materials Unit is ready to
5 pack and ship materials for, for our board
6 workers. As of today, our Voter Registration
7 Unit has processed 133,204 voter registration
8 applications.

9 24,050 were paper, and 109,154 were
10 electronic. All applications are up to date
11 and are being reviewed. Monday was the last
12 day of registration at Delran, and Spring
13 Garden received 2,748 electronic applications
14 and 750 paper applications.

15 All letters regarding discrepancies,
16 missing signatures, missing information on the
17 applications were printed and mailed this past
18 Monday. Voters have until Monday, May 11th,
19 at the close of business to return those
20 letters. Household cards for polling place
21 changes will go out this Friday.

22 ID cards will be printed and mailed by
23 this weekend. As of yesterday, the County
24 Board of Elections approved 82,298 Vote-By-
25 Mail applications, an increase of 4,607 from

1 last week's total. Of those, 44,461 are paper
2 applications, and 37,837 are electronic
3 applications.

4 We have sent 82,293 ballots to voters,
5 and 26,887 have been returned so far. This
6 includes civilian, overseas, military, and
7 federal voters. We are currently caught up on
8 processing applications.

9 Voters will need to complete and return
10 their applications to the County Board of
11 Elections by 5:00 p.m. this Tuesday, May 12th,
12 to vote by mail for the primary election. ID
13 verification letters have gone out to voters
14 that either did not include the required proof
15 of identifications on their absentee/mail and
16 ballot applications order proof of
17 identification could not be verified by the
18 County Board of Elections Office.

19 Voters who have received this letter may
20 submit their proof of ID to the County Board
21 of Elections via email at
22 phillyelection@phila.gov, fax, US Mail,
23 telephone, or in person. Voters have until
24 midnight on Tuesday, May 26th, to return their
25 proof of identification for the general

1 primary and special election. The deadline
2 for filing cycle 2, second Friday pre-primary
3 Campaign Finance Report is Friday, May 8th,
4 2026. All candidates, committees, political
5 committees, or committees-contributing
6 candidates for offices that have made
7 expenditures to influence a city elections
8 must file a report.

9 The Board Workers Unit is moving into the
10 final weeks of spring train -- spring training
11 seminars with 3,421 in-person participants and
12 1,087 online participants thus far. Both the
13 online training, the in person spring training
14 seminar schedule are available on our
15 website@vote.phila.gov.

16 Weekly reminders will be sent to those
17 who have not yet attended a training session.
18 Currently, 7,658 poll workers have been
19 confirmed to work at our polling locations.

20 292 confirmation messages have been sent
21 to poll workers. Also, 659 applications have
22 been received for our Involved at 17 program,
23 of which 431 have been processed and trained.
24 The County Board of Elections Office, located
25 in City Hall Room 140, along with all of our

1 satellite election offices, is open for
2 operation mail ballot services.

3 Voters can request an absentee/mail-in or
4 replacement ballot in-person and return it all
5 on the same visit. Office hours are from 9:00
6 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday.

7 Satellite offices are additionally open
8 Saturday and Sunday from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00
9 p.m. thanks. That's all I have,
10 Commissioners.

11 MR. SABIR: Thank you, Joe. Vice Chair
12 Deeley, did you have any questions for Joe?

13 MS. DEELEY: I do. Thank you. Just for
14 accuracy of the record, when we look at the E-
15 Poll Book schedule, so it's May 14th is a
16 Thursday.

17 MR. LYNCH: That I -- when I read that, I
18 thought that.

19 MS. DEELEY: Yeah.

20 MR. LYNCH: I thought that was wrong. I
21 stopped for a little bit. I was like, I think
22 that's wrong.

23 MS. DEELEY: So what -- so what are we
24 doing? We are packing on Thursday, May 14th,
25 and we're shipping on Thursday, May 14th. Are

1 we shipping on Friday, May 15th?

2 MR. LYNCH: No, we are shipping on
3 Friday. It will be May 15th. Yeah, and they
4 won't be able to pick -- they won't be able to
5 pick them -- we shipped them Friday, and they
6 won't be able to pick any materials up until
7 Saturday.

8 MS. DEELEY: Thank you.

9 MR. LYNCH: Okay, thank you.

10 MR. SABIR: Secretary Bluestein, do you
11 have any questions for Joe?

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

13 MR. SABIR: Thanks, sir.

14 MR. JOHNSON: Good morning,
15 Commissioners.

16 MR. SABIR: Good morning, Mark.

17 MR. JOHNSON: As we continue through the
18 primary election cycle, election
19 administration departments remain focused on
20 election readiness, voter outreach,
21 operational coordination, and maintaining
22 secure and accessible election services for
23 Philadelphia voters.

24 HR has completed temporary hiring for the
25 2026 primary election and continues focusing

1 on employee training and workforce readiness.
2 As of May 1st, 2026, the office staffing
3 totals are 196 total employees, including 30
4 exempt employees, 166 civil service employees.
5 In addition, the office currently has 21
6 temporary employees supporting primary
7 elections 2026 operations.

8 The IT operations continues supporting
9 all commissioner offices and satellite
10 election offices with ongoing website updates,
11 successful completion of the SURE voter data
12 pool, active coordination with police
13 personnel on election routing, and continued
14 infrastructure improvements, including RFID
15 and system support initiatives.

16 Voter engagement efforts remain active
17 across the city through outreach events at
18 libraries, senior centers, and community
19 organizations, with continued emphasis on
20 multilingual voter education, voter services,
21 demonstrations, and public awareness of key
22 election deadlines and resources. From a
23 budget and finance standpoint, departments
24 continue coordinating resources and monitoring
25 election-related expenditures to support

1 ongoing operations.

2 So far, we have done quite well in making
3 sure all our vendors have either turned in
4 invoices prior to this election actually
5 happening, or they understand that they need
6 to turn in their invoices directly afterwards
7 so that we can ensure prompt payment.

8 Security operations also remain active through
9 continued coordination with law enforcement
10 and public safety partners, along with ongoing
11 facility and access control enhancements.

12 Overall, department continues working
13 collaboratively to ensure a secure,
14 transparent, and accessible election process
15 for voters of Philadelphia.

16 Next Friday, the 15th, is when we'll
17 probably go into our regular lockdown mode,
18 and all the coordination with the police
19 department and sheriff offices has been made
20 along with our contract security company. So
21 we are -- we are on schedule from a -- from a
22 security standpoint to make sure that we meet
23 all our needs.

24 MR. SABIR: Thank you. Vice Chair
25 Deeley, did you have any questions for Mark?

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

2 MR. SABIR: Secretary Bluestein?

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

4 MR. SABIR: Thank you, Mark. Appreciate
5 that. Thank you, Joe. Thank you, Mark. And
6 thank you for the rest of our staff. I know
7 people are doing tireless work, and we
8 definitely appreciate your sacrifices. This
9 completes our old business for today's
10 meeting. So, last item on our agenda, but
11 before we adjourn. Vice Chair Deeley, do you
12 have any other business to be raised at this
13 meeting?

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

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

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

19 MR. SABIR: Hearing no other business, I
20 adjourn today's meeting. Is there a second?

21 MS. DEELEY: Second.

22 MR. SABIR: Secretary Bluestein, please
23 call the roll.

24 MR. BLUESTEIN: Vice Chair Deeley?

25 MS. DEELEY: Aye.

1 MR. BLUESTEIN: I vote aye. Chairman

2 Sabir?

3 MR. SABIR: Aye. This meeting is

4 adjourn.

5 (End of audio recording.)

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CERTIFICATE OF TRANSCRIPTIONIST

I, NISHA CHAKKINGAL, do hereby certify:

That said audio transcription is a true record as reported by me, a disinterested person.

I further certify that I am not interested in the outcome of said action, nor connected with, nor related to any of the parties in said action, nor to their respective counsel.

IN WITNESS THEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this 16th day of May, 2026.



Nisha Chakkingal

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Philadelphia
City Commissioners

Public Meeting Agenda:

May 6, 2026 – 11:00 A.M.

Philadelphia City Commissioners
11311 Roosevelt Blvd.
Philadelphia, PA 19154

- I. Call to Order
- II. Public Comment
 - A. In-person public comments
 - B. Report from the Secretary – Emailed public comments
- III. Old Business
 - A. Reports from Directors of Election Operations and Administration
- IV. New Business
- V. Non-Agenda Items