

1 PHILADELPHIA CITY COMMISSIONERS

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9 PHILADELPHIA CITY COMMISSIONERS

10 05/14/2025 SUNSHINE MEETING

11

12 Wednesday, May 14, 2025

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Job No.: 959919

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ATTENDANCE

COMMISSIONER OMAR SABIR, CHAIR  
COMMISSIONER LISA M. DEELEY, VICE-CHAIR  
COMMISSIONER SETH BLUESTEIN, SECRETARY  
AUBREY POWERS, INTERIM DEPUTY MANAGING DIRECTOR  
JOSEPH LYNCH, DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS  
BOARD MEMBERS

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

2 (XX:XX a.m.)

3 MR. SABIR: Good morning.

4 BOARD MEMBERS: Good morning.

5 MR. SABIR: I'm going call to order the meeting  
6 of the Philadelphia City Commissioners Board of  
7 Elections for Wednesday, May 14th, 2025. This meeting  
8 is in compliance with the Pennsylvania Sunshine Act.  
9 The Philadelphia City Commissioners are a three-member  
10 bipartisan board of elected officials in charge of  
11 elections and voter registration for the City of  
12 Philadelphia. Each Commissioner is elected to serve a  
13 four-year term that coincides with the municipal  
14 election for Mayor and City Council.

15 The Commissioners set and enforce departmental  
16 policies to administer voter registration and conduct  
17 elections in accordance with the federal and state  
18 voter registration and election laws. The City  
19 Commissioners were created by the Pennsylvania  
20 assembly in 1711 with the focus on taxation, and held  
21 various regulatory powers throughout the centuries.  
22 The Commissioner started maintaining voting lists in  
23 1799 and took on more election-related  
24 responsibilities, but didn't emerge in its current  
25 form until the adoption of Philadelphia Home rule

1 Charter in 1951.

2 We will start off with public comments. Before  
3 beginning their comments, commenters shall state where  
4 they live or if they are not a resident of  
5 Philadelphia, and that they are a Philadelphia  
6 taxpayer. Public comment is not an opportunity for  
7 dialogue or Q&A. It is public comment, a chance for  
8 you to tell us what you think. Each speaker will have  
9 two minutes to speak. However, I may extend the time  
10 at my discretion. Public comment must concern matters  
11 on today's meeting agenda.

12 Finally, it is my responsibility to preserve the  
13 order and decorum of the meetings, as such, profane,  
14 slanderous, discriminatory, personal attacks will not  
15 be tolerated. If you wish to make a public objection  
16 to a perceived Sunshine Act violation, please raise  
17 your hand and I will recognize you. Outbursts will  
18 not be tolerated. Anyone wishing to offer public  
19 comment, please step forward. Hearing none, we will  
20 now move to a report from our Secretary, Commissioner  
21 Bluestein. Are there any email public comments?

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

24 MR. SABIR: Thank you, Commissioner. We will now  
25 proceed to old business. First, we have report from

1 our director of operations, Mr. Joseph Lynch.

2 MR. LYNCH: Morning, Commissioners.

3 BOARD MEMBERS: Morning.

4 MR. LYNCH: This is our public meeting update for  
5 May 14, 2025. For our voter registration report for  
6 the current election cycle, we have processed 102,864  
7 voter registration applications, of which 4,550 were  
8 submitted on paper. (Indiscernible) is currently  
9 reviewing all applications and correcting any mistakes  
10 as necessary. We mailed an additional 634 ID cards  
11 this week. The polling place change cards were mailed  
12 out over the weekend, and (indiscernible) of election  
13 cards were mailed out this past Monday.

14 The County Board of Elections as of Tuesday  
15 approved 73,492 vote by mail-in and absentee  
16 applications, which is 2,884 added from last week's  
17 total. Of those, 41,220 are paper applications, and  
18 32,272 are electronic applications. This includes  
19 military and civilian overseas voters. All processing  
20 is up-to-date. The deadline to apply for mail-in  
21 ballot was yesterday, May 13th. Voters can still  
22 request a replacement ballot until election day  
23 Tuesday, May 20th. To date, we have received 7,443  
24 vote by mail-in and absentee ballots back.

25 If an emergency comes up, you may submit an

1 emergency application to the County Board of Elections  
2 Office. To receive an emergency absentee ballot, you  
3 must provide a valid emergency reason on your  
4 application. Voters who are over the age of 65 or  
5 living with a permanent disability, may also obtain an  
6 emergency alternative ballot if their polling place is  
7 not fully handicapped accessible and they just learned  
8 that it is not accessible.

9       The County Board of Elections Office will remain  
10 open until election day. Office hours are Monday  
11 through Friday 9:00 to 5:00, and Sunday 9:00 to 5:00.  
12 And on election day, they'll be open from 7:00 a.m. to  
13 8:00 p.m. Further information is available on our  
14 website at [vote.phila.gov](http://vote.phila.gov). ID verification letters  
15 have gone out to voters that either did not include  
16 the required proof of identification on our  
17 absentee/mail-in ballot application, or their proof of  
18 identification could not be verified by the County  
19 Board of Elections Office.

20       Voters who have received this letter may submit  
21 their proof of ID to the County Board of Elections via  
22 email at [phillyelection@phila.gov](mailto:phillyelection@phila.gov), fax, US mail,  
23 telephone, or in-person. Voters have until midnight  
24 on May 27th to return their proof of identification  
25 for the municipal primary and special election. The

1 board workers unit is continuing our spring training  
2 sessions, and 3,258 poll workers attended the  
3 training. Online training is available. So far,  
4 1,371 have completed training online.

5 Thanks to the involved at 17 program, we have  
6 placed 382 students as poll workers. We will continue  
7 confirming poll workers for the election. We've  
8 already received confirmation from 8,133 poll workers  
9 which is 90 percent of our needs. And that's it.  
10 That's all I have. Thanks.

11 MR. SABIR: Thank you, Joe. Vice-chair Deeley,  
12 do you have any questions for Joe?

13 MS. DEELEY: I have none.

14 MR. SABIR: Secretary Bluestein, do you have any  
15 questions for Joe?

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

17 MR. SABIR: Thanks, Joe.

18 MR. LYNCH: Thank you.

19 MR. SABIR: And I'd like to thank you, Joe and  
20 staff. Make sure you relay that we're very  
21 appreciative of the work that you guys have done, and  
22 girls, we appreciate you.

23 MR. LYNCH: I will. Thank you.

24 MR. SABIR: Yeah. We will now proceed to new  
25 business. We will begin by considering our first

1 agenda item. A motion to deputize and authorize  
2 Philadelphia Board of Election Staff to prepare for  
3 the conduct and pre-canvas -- and canvas of absentee  
4 and mail-in ballots for the 2025 primary election. Is  
5 there a second?

6 MS. DEELEY: Second.

7 MR. SABIR: Does any commissioners have any  
8 comments before we proceed to vote?

9 MS. DEELEY: I have none.

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

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

13 MR. BLUESTEIN: Vice-chair Deeley?

14 MS. DEELEY: I vote aye.

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

16 MR. SABIR: Aye. This motion passes. That was  
17 the last item on our agenda. Before we adjourn,  
18 Commissioners, do you have anything that you want to -  
19 - any business to be raised?

20 MS. DEELEY: I have none.

21 MR. BLUESTEIN: I have none.

22 MR. SABIR: Okay. I just see Aubrey from our --  
23 Aubrey Powers from our managing director's office is  
24 here. As president, I always like to thank the MDO  
25 for always working together with us. I'll make a



1 motion that we end the meeting. Is there a second?

2 MS. DEELEY: Second.

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

5 MR. BLUESTEIN: Vice-chair Deeley?

6 MS. DEELEY: Aye.

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

8 MR. SABIR: Aye. This meeting is adjourned.

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CERTIFICATE OF TRANSCRIPTIONIST

I, JOHN GACHANJA, 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 30th day of May, 2025.



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John Gachanja

<hr/>	<b>382</b>	<b>9:00</b>	<b>applicatio</b>	<b>board</b>
<b>1</b>	7:6	6:11	<b>n</b>	3:4,6,10
<b>1,371</b>	<hr/>	<b>9:45</b>	6:1,4,17	5:3,14
7:4	<b>4</b>	4:22	<b>applicatio</b>	6:1,9,19,
<b>102,864</b>	<b>4,550</b>	<hr/>	<b>ns</b>	21 7:1
5:6	5:7	<b>A</b>	5:7,9,16,	<b>business</b>
<b>13th</b>	<b>41,220</b>	<b>a.m.</b>	17,18	4:25 7:25
5:21	5:17	3:2 4:22	<b>apply</b>	<hr/>
<b>14</b>	<hr/>	6:12	5:20	<b>C</b>
5:5	<b>5</b>	<b>absentee</b>	<b>appreciati</b>	<b>call</b>
<b>14th</b>	<b>5:00</b>	5:15,24	<b>ve</b>	3:5
3:7	6:11	6:2	7:21	<b>cards</b>
<b>17</b>	<hr/>	<b>absentee/</b>	<b>approved</b>	5:10,11,13
7:5	<b>6</b>	<b>mail-in</b>	5:15	<b>centuries</b>
<b>1711</b>	<b>634</b>	6:17	<b>assembly</b>	3:21
3:20	5:10	<b>accessible</b>	3:20	<b>chance</b>
<b>1799</b>	<b>65</b>	6:7,8	<b>attacks</b>	4:7
3:23	6:4	<b>accordance</b>	4:14	<b>change</b>
<b>1951</b>	<hr/>	3:17	<b>attended</b>	5:11
4:1	<b>7</b>	<b>Act</b>	7:2	<b>charge</b>
<hr/>	<b>7,443</b>	3:8 4:16	<hr/>	3:10
<b>2</b>	5:23	<b>added</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>Charter</b>
<b>2,884</b>	<b>73,492</b>	5:16	<b>back</b>	4:1
5:16	5:15	<b>additional</b>	5:24	<b>City</b>
<b>2025</b>	<b>7:00</b>	5:10	<b>ballot</b>	3:6,9,11,
3:7 5:5	6:12	<b>administer</b>	5:21,22	14,18
<b>20th</b>	<hr/>	3:16	6:2,6,17	<b>civilian</b>
5:23	<b>8</b>	<b>adoption</b>	<b>ballots</b>	5:19
<b>27th</b>	<b>8,133</b>	3:25	5:24	<b>coincides</b>
6:24	7:8	<b>age</b>	<b>begin</b>	3:13
<hr/>	<b>8:00</b>	6:4	7:25	<b>comment</b>
<b>3</b>	6:13	<b>agenda</b>	<b>beginning</b>	4:6,7,10,
<b>3,258</b>	<hr/>	4:11	4:3	19
7:2	<b>9</b>	<b>alternativ</b>	<b>bipartisan</b>	<b>commenters</b>
<b>32,272</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>e</b>	3:10	4:3
5:18	7:9	6:6	<b>Bluestein</b>	<b>comments</b>
			4:21,22	4:2,3,21,
			7:14,16	23

<b>Commissioner</b> 3:12,22 4:20,24	<hr/> <b>D</b>	<b>election-related</b> 3:23	<b>Friday</b> 6:11	<b>include</b> 6:15
<b>Commissioners</b> 3:6,9,15, 19 5:2	<b>date</b> 5:23	<b>elections</b> 3:7,11,17 5:14 6:1, 9,19,21	<b>fully</b> 6:7	<b>includes</b> 5:18
<b>completed</b> 7:4	<b>day</b> 5:22 6:10, 12	<b>electronic</b> 5:18	<hr/> <b>G</b>	<b>indiscernible</b> 5:8,12
<b>compliance</b> 3:8	<b>deadline</b> 5:20	<b>email</b> 4:21,23 6:22	<b>girls</b> 7:22	<b>information</b> 6:13
<b>concern</b> 4:10	<b>decorum</b> 4:13	<b>emerge</b> 3:24	<b>Good</b> 3:3,4	<b>involved</b> 7:5
<b>conduct</b> 3:16	<b>Deeley</b> 7:11,13	<b>emergency</b> 5:25 6:1, 2,3,6	<hr/> <b>H</b>	<hr/> <b>J</b>
<b>confirmation</b> 7:8	<b>departmental</b> 3:15	<b>enforce</b> 3:15	<b>hand</b> 4:17	<b>Joe</b> 7:11,12, 15,17,19
<b>confirming</b> 7:7	<b>dialogue</b> 4:7	<b>extend</b> 4:9	<b>handicapped</b> 6:7	<b>Joseph</b> 5:1
<b>continue</b> 7:6	<b>director</b> 5:1	<hr/> <b>F</b>	<b>Hearing</b> 4:19	<hr/> <b>L</b>
<b>continuing</b> 7:1	<b>disability</b> 6:5	<b>fax</b> 6:22	<b>held</b> 3:20	<b>laws</b> 3:18
<b>correcting</b> 5:9	<b>discretion</b> 4:10	<b>federal</b> 3:17	<b>Home</b> 3:25	<b>learned</b> 6:7
<b>Council</b> 3:14	<b>discriminatory</b> 4:14	<b>Finally</b> 4:12	<b>hours</b> 6:10	<b>letter</b> 6:20
<b>County</b> 5:14 6:1, 9,18,21	<hr/> <b>E</b>	<b>focus</b> 3:20	<hr/> <b>I</b>	<b>letters</b> 6:14
<b>created</b> 3:19	<b>elected</b> 3:10,12	<b>form</b> 3:25	<b>ID</b> 5:10 6:14, 21	<b>lists</b> 3:22
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<b>cycle</b> 5:6		<b>four-year</b> 3:13	<b>in-person</b> 6:23	<b>living</b> 6:5
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<b>g</b>	6:5	7:9	<b>proof</b>	6:9
3:22	<b>offer</b>	<b>permanent</b>	6:16,17,	<b>replacemen</b>
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3:5,7 4:11	7:3,4	<b>phillyelec</b>	<hr/>	<b>required</b>
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6:23	4:6	3:16	<b>R</b>	<b>responsibi</b>
<b>military</b>	<b>order</b>	<b>poll</b>	<b>raise</b>	<b>lity</b>
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<b>Monday</b>	<hr/>	<b>preserve</b>	<b>received</b>	<b>rule</b>
5:13 6:10	<b>P</b>	4:12	5:23 6:20	3:25
<b>morning</b>	<b>p.m.</b>	<b>primary</b>	7:8	
3:3,4 5:2,	6:13	6:25	<b>recognize</b>	

<hr/>	5:25 6:20	<b>up-to-date</b>	<b>week</b>	
<b>S</b>	<b>submitted</b>	5:20	5:11	
<b>SABIR</b>	5:8	<b>update</b>	<b>week's</b>	
3:3,5 4:24	<b>Sunday</b>	5:4	5:16	
7:11,14,	6:11	<hr/>	<b>weekend</b>	
17,19,24	<b>Sunshine</b>	<b>V</b>	5:12	
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4:20 7:14	<hr/>	6:3	4:18	
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3:12	<b>taxation</b>	<b>on</b>	7:21	
<b>sessions</b>	3:20	6:14	<b>workers</b>	
7:2	<b>taxpayer</b>	<b>verified</b>	7:1,2,6,7,	
<b>set</b>	4:6	6:18	8	
3:15	<b>telephone</b>	<b>Vice-chair</b>	<hr/>	
<b>slanderous</b>	6:23	7:11	<b>X</b>	
4:14	<b>term</b>	<b>violation</b>	<b>XX:XX</b>	
<b>speak</b>	3:13	4:16	3:2	
4:9	<b>three-</b>	<b>vote</b>	<hr/>	
<b>speaker</b>	<b>member</b>	5:15,24	<b>Y</b>	
4:8	3:9	<b>vote.</b>	<b>yesterday</b>	
<b>special</b>	<b>time</b>	<b>phila.gov.</b>	5:21	
6:25	4:9	6:14		
<b>spring</b>	<b>today's</b>	<b>voter</b>		
7:1	4:11	3:11,16,18		
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7:20	4:15,18	<b>voters</b>		
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3:22	7:1,3,4	<b>voting</b>		
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3:17 4:3	5:14,23	<hr/>		
<b>step</b>	<b>U</b>	<b>W</b>		
4:19	<b>unit</b>	<b>website</b>		
<b>students</b>	7:1	6:14		
7:6		<b>Wednesday</b>		
<b>submit</b>		3:7		