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*** AUDIO TRANSCRIPTION ***

PHILADELPHIA_CITY_COMMISSIONERS_05202026_PRECANVASS
_MEETING-20260609073606

for PHILADELPHIA CITY COMMISSIONER PRECANVASS
MEETING

* * *

Transcribed
By: Kanan Dutta Suyal
Job No.: 1721464

1 MR. SABIR: Good morning.

2 SPEAKER 1: Good morning.

3 SPEAKER 2: Good morning.

4 MR. SABIR: I call to order the meeting
5 of the Philadelphia City Commissioners Board
6 of Elections for Wednesday, May 20th, 2026.
7 This meeting is in compliance with the
8 Pennsylvania Sunshine Act. The Philadelphia
9 City Commissioners are a three-member
10 bipartisan board of elected officials in
11 charge of elections and voter registration for
12 the City of Philadelphia.

13 Each commissioner is elected to serve a
14 four-year term that coincides with the
15 municipal election cycle for mayor and City
16 council. The commissioner set and enforced
17 departmental policies to administer voter
18 registration and conduct elections in
19 accordance with federal and state voter
20 registration election laws.

21 The City Commissioners were created by
22 the Pennsylvania Assembly in 1711, but they
23 focus on taxation and held various regulatory
24 powers throughout the centuries. The
25 commissioner started maintaining voter lists

1 in 1799 and took on more election-related
2 responsibilities, but didn't emerge in its
3 current form until the adoption of
4 Philadelphia's Home rule Charter in 1951.

5 We will start off with public comments.
6 Before beginning their comments, commenters
7 shall state where they live or if they are not
8 a resident of Philadelphia, and that they are
9 a Philadelphia taxpayer. Public comment is
10 not an opportunity for dialogue or Q&A. It is
11 public comment, a chance for you to tell us
12 what you think.

13 Each speaker will have two minutes to
14 speak. However, I may extend the time at my
15 discretion. Public comment must concern
16 matters on today's meeting agenda. Finally,
17 it is my responsibility to preserve the order
18 and decorum of the meetings.

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

1 Anyone wishing to offer public comment,
2 please step forward. Hearing none, we will
3 now move to a report from secretary for email
4 public comments. Commissioner Bluestein, are
5 there any email public comments?

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

8 MR. SABIR: Thank you. We will now
9 proceed to old business. But first, we have a
10 report from, from our directors of election
11 operation and administration, Mr. Joe Lynch
12 and Mark Johnson. Joe, we'll start with you.

13 MR. LYNCH: Yes, good morning
14 commissioners.

15 MR. SABIR: Good morning.

16 MR. LYNCH: I just wanted to make a
17 correction first from last week's meeting on
18 May 13th. I had mentioned that we sent 27,386
19 ID cards out. And Commissioner Deeley, you
20 would ask me if they were in reference to the
21 polling place change, and I said, "Yes." Why
22 I stand corrected, I was wrong, I apologize.

23 So they were actually ID cards for newly
24 registered voters. And the poll -- and the
25 cards that went out from Barton & Cooney for -

1 - were for polling place changes. Okay. As
2 far as yesterday --

3 SPEAKER 3: Real quick, Joe.

4 MR. LYNCH: I'm sorry.

5 SPEAKER 3: Just for clarity, so you
6 saying that we mailed out 27,000 for the new
7 registered voters?

8 MR. LYNCH: Yes.

9 SPEAKER 3: And the people that had the
10 polling place change, they got their ID cards
11 as well?

12 MR. LYNCH: No, they got -- they got a
13 separate card, like it was -- it was like an
14 index card tone that they're --

15 SPEAKER 3: (Indiscernible)

16 MR. LYNCH: Yes.

17 SPEAKER 3: Okay.

18 MR. LYNCH: Okay. As far as yesterday,
19 yesterday's election went, I think it went
20 great. This election cycle, and as always,
21 the whole department from top to bottom pulled
22 together. We had a great, successful
23 election, but -- and the returns were coming
24 in faster than they've ever come -- I mean,
25 in, in the last few years, come in. It was

1 very successful.

2 And thanks to everybody from IT all the
3 way to the County Board of Elections, you
4 know, the poll book unit, everybody.
5 Everybody stuck together and pulled together,
6 and we unloaded those cards and got everything
7 read in, in good timing. So I appreciate
8 everybody's help and look forward to
9 November's election.

10 MR. SABIR: Thank you, Joe.

11 SPEAKER 4: Good morning, Commissioner.

12 MR. SABIR: Good morning.

13 SPEAKER 4: I just want to reiterate,
14 reiterate, reiterate with Joe just mentioned
15 about the success of yesterday's election,
16 even though some of our results that is
17 initial. But I believe, looking at how
18 everything was run, I believe the civil
19 service and working staff here did an
20 excellent job, and we actually appreciate
21 everything that they do.

22 I also want to make sure that we mention
23 that, you know, our elections, even though
24 City Commissioner run, that we rely on our
25 partners to make sure that it all occurs.

1 So all the way from Office of Emergency
2 Management, from the Police Department, Fire
3 Department, Law Office, and that we
4 appreciated everything they did and their
5 presence here as we were going through the
6 selection process, and look forward to make
7 for the next one so.

8 MR. SABIR: Thank you. Vice Chair
9 Deeley, did you have any questions or
10 comments?

11 MS. DEELEY: Thank you. First of all,
12 Joe, thank you for correcting the record. And
13 I would also just like to thank the staff.
14 They do a great job. And especially the poll
15 workers yesterday, you know, such an
16 unseasonably hot, sunny weather, 97 degrees.
17 It was a rough day for, for all -- for a lot
18 of them, if not most of them. So it does
19 take, take all of us. So thank you. Thank
20 you. I have nothing else.

21 MR. SABIR: Secretary Bluestein.

22 MR. BLUESTEIN: Thank you, Chairman.
23 Thank you, Joe, Mark, and to the entire team
24 and the department. I think the public
25 doesn't always realize that the complexity of

1 an election cycle doesn't necessarily relate
2 to the turnout. And this election cycle, in
3 particular, is a challenging one.

4 It's very difficult when you have
5 division-level races on the ballot, especially
6 ones that are potentially contentious, like
7 committee people. And everyone did a really
8 great job. And to echo, Commissioner Deeley,
9 thank you also to the poll workers for putting
10 up with the heat and everything that they had
11 to deal with out of the polling places.

12 So, I was really happy with how
13 everything went yesterday. So thank you all.

14 SPEAKER 3: Of course, I go -- of course,
15 my colleagues, I really thank you, you know,
16 for being new, innovative, and not being
17 afraid to try different things. I know
18 sometimes, in a city government, sometimes we
19 just keep on doing things the way how they
20 were done, just because they were doing it
21 that way before we got there.

22 So, again, I'd like to -- y'all guys to
23 keep being and gals to keep being imaginative,
24 excellence, bold, and keep on, you know, doing
25 the best thing we could do for the citizens of

1 Philadelphia.

2 But what I would also like to sort of
3 talk about the turnout. When you looked at
4 the top 10 wards they were in -- most of them
5 were in the top was in the Congressional
6 District, the Third Congressional District,
7 which is competitive race. And we saw
8 extremely high turnouts in those wards.

9 And if there was a competitive race in
10 the Second Congressional District, or if it
11 was competitive race in the Fifth
12 Congressional District, I believe we probably
13 would have had the highest voter turnout in
14 the history of Philadelphia. So, again, keep
15 up the great work. More work to be done, and
16 I'm looking forward to November.

17 MR. SABIR: So that completes our old
18 business for today's meeting. Vice Chair
19 Deeley, do you have any other business to be
20 raised at this meeting?

21 MS. DEELEY: I have none, thank you.

22 MR. SABIR: Secretary Bluestein, do you
23 have any other business to be raised this
24 meeting?

25 MR. BLUESTEIN: I have none, thank you.

1 MR. SABIR: Okay, hearing no other
2 business, I motion to adjourn today's meeting.
3 Is there a second? Secretary Bluestein,
4 please call the rule.

5 MR BLUESTEIN: Vice Chair Deeley.

6 MS. DEELEY: I vote aye.

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

9 MR. SABIR: Aye. This meeting is
10 adjourned.

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14 (End of audio recording.)

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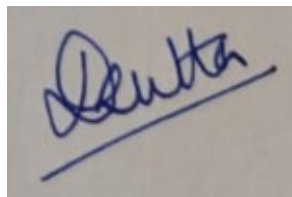
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1 CERTIFICATE OF TRANSCRIPTIONIST

2
3 I, KANAN DUTTA SUYAL, do hereby certify:4
5 That said audio transcription is a true
6 record as reported by me, a disinterested
7 person.8
9 I further certify that I am not
10 interested in the outcome of said action, nor
11 connected with, nor related to any of the
12 parties in said action, nor to their
13 respective counsel.14
15 IN WITNESS THEREOF, I have hereunto set
16 my hand this 16th day of June, 2026.17
18 A rectangular box containing a handwritten signature in blue ink. The signature appears to be 'Kanan Dutta' written in a cursive style.19
20

Kanan Dutta Suyal

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