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Elections Meeting

DATE: September 13, 2023
TIME: 12 p.m.-12:30 p.m.
LOCATION: City Hall
Room 387
1400 JFK Boulevard
Philadelphia, PA 19107
JOB No.: 34598

1 A P P E A R A N C E S

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3 Judge James Crumlish

4 Judge Vincent Furlong

5 Executive Director Lynch

6 Deputy Commissioner Kapenstein

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1 JUDGE CRUMLISH: Good morning,
2 everyone. I'm going to call to order the
3 September 13, 2023 meeting of the Philadelphia
4 County Board of Elections. And, as you know,
5 it is my obligation to conduct this meeting
6 and consistent with the fashion, that not only
7 the business of the county board gets done
8 properly, but also that the public is given an
9 opportunity to watch these proceedings. Now,
10 the public is invited to object during the
11 course of this meeting and to assert comments,
12 as well. So anyone may object during the
13 meeting to perceive violation of the public
14 meeting law. If you do so, state your
15 objection concisely and, again, do it so in
16 such a manner that you do not obstruct the
17 ordinary process of the meeting. So having
18 said that, public comment is not an
19 opportunity for -- to filibuster or obstruct
20 this meeting, as I have said. A speaker who
21 has a comment in this public part of the
22 hearing is expected to not use more than two
23 minutes as it's the business of the commission
24 has to be conducted in an efficient matter.
25 So, again, any public comments have to be

1 relative -- relevant or germane to this
2 meeting's process and, therefore, we do not
3 allow ad hominem or personal attacks or
4 arguments to be made. And having said that,
5 do we have anyone here present that wants to
6 make a public comment that is germane to the
7 proceedings of the commission? Hearing none,
8 Judge Furlong, I'm going to call on you now to
9 report to the extent that you had any email
10 public comments.

11 JUDGE FURLONG: Thank you, Mr.
12 Chairman. All comments that were emailed by
13 9:45 a.m. today were shared with members of
14 the board and the deputies at 10 a.m. have
15 been provided to each member of the board at
16 the beginning of the meeting and are available
17 for com -- for at a public comment table. We
18 received one comment from Maria Serna. I
19 reviewed the comment and asked that it be
20 moved into the record.

21 JUDGE CRUMLISH: Yes. And
22 consistent with that comment, as it is brief,
23 Judge Furlong, can you read that comment for
24 us?

25 JUDGE FURLONG: Sure. This is

1 from Maria Serna. She inquires, I want more
2 information about how immigrant communities
3 can participate in the Philadelphia County
4 Board of Elections. She signs it Maria Serna.

5 JUDGE CRUMLISH: I will request
6 that the professional staff of the commission
7 reach out for Mr. Serna and communicate with
8 her our efforts to continue to enhance
9 participation of the electors in our community
10 in the city county of Philadelphia. So I
11 appreciate that input.

12 Next, I would call on Executive
13 Director Lynch. Mr. Lynch, you may read the
14 executive director report.

15 MR. LYNCH: Good afternoon, your
16 Honors. Good afternoon, audience. The
17 Sunshine Report for September 13, 2023, the
18 County Board Of Elections Report. The County
19 Board of Elections is now accepting mail-in
20 and absentee ballot applications. Voters will
21 need to complete and return their application
22 to the County Board of Election by October
23 31st to vote by mail for the general election.
24 Voters may apply online at vote.phila.gov
25 rather than returning the paper application.

1 As of yesterday, we have approved 83,769 vote
2 by mail applications. Of those, 50,887 are
3 paper applications and 32,882 are electronic
4 applications. This includes civilian overseas
5 and military voters. Of those, 58 electronic
6 applications are waiting to be processed.
7 Tuesday, September 26, 2023, is the deadline
8 for filing Cycle 4, six Tuesday pre-general
9 campaign finance reports. Cycle 4 includes
10 transactions through September 18th, 2023.
11 All candidate committees and political
12 committees that have made expenditures to
13 influence a city election must file a report.
14 Voter registration union, the election cycle
15 77,995 voter registration applications have
16 been processed. 35,707 ID cards have been
17 mailed out to date. The unit is also stuffing
18 instruction cards and secrecy envelopes in
19 their outer -- outer envelopes. The unit is
20 currently under construction, so
21 accommodations are being made for the safety
22 of the employees and the public. The election
23 board unit trainings for upcoming general
24 election started on September 5th. The
25 carpenter's union hall had 170 board workers

1 attend the first week of classes. This week
2 they're doing trainings at Mariana Bracetti
3 school. Election poll book refresher
4 trainings are being held every Friday at our
5 Delaware and Spring Garden location on the
6 sixth floor. That's all I have.

7 JUDGE CRUMLISH: Thank you very
8 much, sir. Deputy Commissioner Kapenstein,
9 would you please give the deputy report,
10 please?

11 MR. KAPENSTEIN: Hello, your
12 Honors. In keeping with the requirements of
13 2022's language access expansion motion, the
14 deputy commissioners have prepared a report on
15 the number of ballots cast in Spanish and
16 Chinese on ExpressVote XLs in the 2023 primary
17 at the division level. There was a total of
18 1,938 ballots cast on the ExpressVote XLs in
19 Spanish and 291 ballots cast in Chinese.
20 There was a total of 203,842 ballots cast on
21 the ExpressVote XLs in English. There were
22 170 voters who either applied to vote by mail
23 in Spanish or who had previously identified a
24 preference for receiving voting materials in
25 Spanish. Of those, 107 ballots were returned

1 and counted. There were similarly 82
2 applications for Chinese ballots, of which 48
3 were returned and counted. There were 96,010
4 ballots requested by voters who didn't specify
5 a language preference, of which 72,703 were
6 returned and counted. The deputy
7 commissioners hosted a meeting of the language
8 access advisory committee yesterday in
9 preparation for the upcoming municipal
10 election. We were pleased by the
11 participation of community representatives and
12 look forward to meeting again after the
13 election to receive additional feedback. And
14 that's all I have for you.

15 JUDGE CRUMLISH: Thank you. So
16 having said that, we have any new business? I
17 do have a motion I'd like to make. I'd like
18 to move that the stipend for attending the
19 electronic poll book refresher training course
20 be set 30. Do I hear a --

21 JUDGE FURLONG: Second I.

22 JUDGE CRUMLISH: I also vote in
23 favor of the motion a quorum having been
24 present, the motion passes. We have the form
25 of motion? We'll move on. So Judge Furlong,

1 do you have any additional items?

2 MR. FURLONG: No, Mr. Chairman.

3 JUDGE CRUMLISH: Having no
4 remaining items on the agenda, this meeting
5 will be adjourned to the call of the chair.
6 Thank you, everyone.

7 MR. FURLONG: Thank you.

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CERTIFICATE OF TRANSCRIBER

I, CYNTHIA BAUERLE, do hereby certify that this transcript was prepared from the digital audio recording of the foregoing proceeding, that said transcript is a true and accurate record of the proceedings to the best of my knowledge, skills, and ability; that I am neither counsel for, related to, nor employed by any of the parties to the action in which this was taken; and, further, that I am not a relative or employee of any counsel or attorney employed by the parties hereto, nor financially or otherwise interested in the outcome of this action.

Cindy Bauerle

CYNTHIA BAUERLE, CSR

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