

1 MEETING OF THE COMMISSIONERS

2 \* \* \* \* \*

3 WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2022

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6 COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

7 LISA DEELEY, CHAIRWOMAN  
8 SETH BLUESTEIN, COMMISSIONER  
9 OMAR SABIR, COMMISSIONER

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HELD AT:  
11 Gas Commission  
12 1515 Arch Street, 18th Floor  
13 Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

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REPORTED BY: Samantha Clearfield

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STREHLOW & ASSOCIATES  
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2 P-R-O-C-E-E-D-I-N-G-S

3 \* \* \* \* \*

4 CHAIRWOMAN DEELEY: Good morning. I  
5 call the meeting of Wednesday September 14,  
6 2022, to order.

7 First, I will preserve the order and  
8 decorum of these meetings. Everyone in  
9 attendance should be on notice that shouting  
10 out or interrupting the proceedings will not  
11 be tolerated. Those who violate this will be  
12 asked to leave.

13 The Sunshine Act permits anyone  
14 attending a public meeting to object to a  
15 perceived violation at any time during the  
16 meeting.

17 If you choose to do so please  
18 succinctly state your objection. Objecting is  
19 not an opportunity for speech making.

20 We will now move to public comment.  
21 Commenters shall state where they live or if  
22 they are not a resident of Philadelphia that  
23 they are a Philadelphia taxpayer.

24 Public comment is not an opportunity

1 for dialogue or Q&A. It is public comment, a  
2 chance for you to tell us what you think.  
3 Each speaker shall have two minutes however I  
4 may extend this time at my discretion. All  
5 public comments must to relevant or germane to  
6 board business.

7 Finally it is my responsibility to  
8 preserve the order and decorum of the  
9 meetings. As such profane, slanderous or  
10 discriminatory or personal attacks will not be  
11 tolerated.

12 Is there anyone here that wishes to  
13 make public comment? Seeing none we will now  
14 move to Commissioner Bluestein for e-mailed  
15 public comments.

16 COMMISSIONER BLUESTEIN: There were no  
17 publics e-mailed by 9:45 a.m.

18 CHAIRWOMAN DEELEY: Thank you. I will  
19 now ask Deputy Custodio to read the executive  
20 director report on behalf of Joe Lynch.

21 MR. CUSTODIO: Thank you,  
22 Commissioners.

23 County Board Report: A special  
24 election has been called for the offices of

1 District Council 7th and 8th (sic) districts  
2 to occur during the general election on  
3 November 8th. For those interested in running  
4 for the office, pertinent nomination paperwork  
5 must be filed by 5 p.m. on Monday  
6 September 26th.

7 As of yesterday we have approved  
8 109,280 vote-by-mail applications. Of those  
9 73,633 are paper applications and 35,647 are  
10 electronic applications.

11 This is including civilians overseas,  
12 military and permanent ballot voters who  
13 applied in the primary.

14 Ballot application processing is caught  
15 up through Friday. There are approximately  
16 337 paper applications and 729 electronic  
17 applications waiting to be processed.

18 Voter Registration Unit: For this  
19 cycle to date we have processed 115,973 voter  
20 registration applications of which 39,550 were  
21 paper applications. By next week we will have  
22 sent out 77,431 ID cards. Both DPU units are  
23 processing electronic and paper registrations.  
24 Documents unit is working on appeal

1 applications.

2 Correspondence unit is working on  
3 cancellations and assisting with voter  
4 registration applications.

5 Polling Place Unit: To date, we have  
6 confirmed 428 polling sites for the November  
7 election.

8 Election Board Unit: The election  
9 board unit have confirmed 1,551 poll workers  
10 to work the November elections. They are also  
11 out doing field work and training seminars.

12 CHAIRWOMAN DEELEY: Nick, could you --  
13 for clarification could read again the special  
14 election notice.

15 MR. CUSTODIO: The special election has  
16 been called for the offices of District  
17 Council 7th and 8th District to occur during  
18 the general election on November 8th.

19 CHAIRWOMAN DEELEY: Thank you. I will  
20 now call on Commissioner Sabir for a motion.

21 COMMISSIONER SABIR: Thank you, Madam  
22 Chair. Philadelphia is the 6th largest city  
23 in the country with the voting population in  
24 excess of 1.1 million spread across more than

1 approximately 140-square miles.

2 Our elections are as massive and swell  
3 and require significant funding and resources  
4 to make sure every eligible voter can  
5 participate.

6 Poll workers are a part of the critical  
7 infrastructure that make our elections happen.  
8 Without a sufficient supply of trained poll  
9 workers, we would be unable to hold our  
10 elections.

11 Over recent years we have seen a  
12 decline in the number of individuals willing  
13 to take on this critical task. Several  
14 factors -- aging of the population, increased  
15 dependence on technology, long election date  
16 hours and recent concern over COVID exposure  
17 have contributed to declining poll worker  
18 volunteerism but significant factor continues  
19 to be low poll worker conversation.

20 Now that we have accepted additional  
21 funding of the election integrity grant  
22 program, we have sufficient appropriation to  
23 increase election board worker pay.

24 Therefore I motion that we increase the

1 base pay for working for election board  
2 workers and bilingual interpreters by \$85 and  
3 the stipend for attending trainings by \$20  
4 beginning with the trainings after Labor Day  
5 2022.

6 Bilingual interpreters support two  
7 divisions holding another position on the  
8 election board with a no event received more  
9 than \$295 for working for one election.

10 COMMISSIONER BLUESTEIN: Second.

11 CHAIRWOMAN DEELEY: Commissioner  
12 Bluestein please call the roll.

13 COMMISSIONER BLUESTEIN: Commissioner  
14 Deeley?

15 CHAIRWOMAN DEELEY: Aye.

16 COMMISSIONER BLUESTEIN: I vote aye.  
17 Commissioner Sabir?

18 COMMISSIONER SABIR: Aye.

19 CHAIRWOMAN DEELEY: Motion carries.  
20 Increase poll worker pay motion has passed  
21 unanimously. I have a motion as well.

22 As part of the electronic pollbook  
23 implementation, the City Commissioners' staff  
24 and others were part of the overall project

1 team subjected the electronic pollbooks to  
2 rigorous real word situations.

3 While they performed well, the project  
4 team encountered a freezing issue in certain  
5 scenarios. The project team has recommended  
6 that the electronic pollbook deployment be  
7 postponed so that the issue can be corrected  
8 by the vendor and a new software version  
9 certified if needed.

10 This will allow the smoothest possible  
11 deployment. Therefore I motion that pursuant  
12 to this recommendation, paper pollbooks be  
13 used throughout Philadelphia for the 2022  
14 general election on November 8, 2022.

15 COMMISSIONER BLUESTEIN: First I would  
16 like to just thank the project team for their  
17 tremendous work on this project so far. The  
18 timeline for November citywide implementation  
19 was always ambitious.

20 While many of the milestones were  
21 achieved, both the City and ES&S have more  
22 steps ahead to ensure a seamless transition to  
23 the new technology.

24 I'm looking forward to a full rollout



1 the next year and the positive experience  
2 we'll provide Philadelphia voters and  
3 therefore I second the motion.

4 CHAIRWOMAN DEELEY: Commissioner  
5 Bluestein, please call the role.

6 COMMISSIONER BLUESTEIN: Commissioner  
7 Deeley?

8 CHAIRWOMAN DEELEY: Aye.

9 COMMISSIONER BLUESTEIN: I vote aye.  
10 Commissioner Sabir?

11 COMMISSIONER SABIR: Aye.

12 CHAIRWOMAN DEELEY: The paper pollbook  
13 for '22 general election motion has passed  
14 unanimously.

15 Commissioner Bluestein do you have  
16 items to be added to the agenda?

17 COMMISSIONER BLUESTEIN: I have none.

18 CHAIRWOMAN DEELEY: Commissioner Sabir,  
19 do you have any items to be added to the  
20 agenda?

21 COMMISSIONER SABIR: Yes I do. I would  
22 just like to recognize that we have Sam Staten  
23 Jr. here, business manager, Laborers Local  
24 332.

1           As you know me being a young man  
2           working on the construction sites to give poll  
3           workers a fair wage that's always been and we  
4           have a great union staff here at the Board of  
5           Elections but definitely wanted to recognize  
6           Sam Staten being here.

7           CHAIRWOMAN DEELEY: Absolutely. Thank  
8           you, Commissioner. It is a pleasure to see  
9           you, Mr. Staten. Please come back again.  
10          Much respect.

11          With no items remaining on the agenda  
12          this meeting is adjourned to the call of the  
13          chair. Thank you.

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15          (Whereupon the meeting concluded at 11:09 a.m.)

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C E R T I F I C A T I O N

I hereby certify that the proceedings and evidence noted are contained fully and accurately in the stenographic notes taken by me upon the foregoing matter, and that this is a correct transcript of the same.

Court Reporter-Notary Public

(The foregoing certification of this transcript does not apply to any reproduction of the same by any means, unless under the direct control and/or supervision of the certifying reporter.)

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