

PHILADELPHIA CITY COMMISSIONERS

SUNSHINE MEETING

Wednesday, October 15, 2025

11:00 a.m.

Job No.: 1013728

1 ATTENDANCE

2 OMAR SABIR, CHAIRMAN

3 KHALIF CHESTNUT, CHIEF DEPUTY

4 LISA DEELEY, VICE CHAIR

5 NICK CUSTODIO, DEPUTY TO THE VICE-CHAIR

6 SETH BLUESTEIN, COMMISSIONER

7 ERIC KAPENSTEIN, DEPUTY

8 JOSEPH LYNCH, DIRECTOR OF ELECTION OPERATIONS

9 MARK JOHNSON, DIRECTOR OF ELECTION ADMINISTRATION

10 CHARLES STROMAN, POLLING PLACE INVESTIGATION
11 SUPERVISOR

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

2 (11:00 a.m.)

3 CHAIRMAN SABIR: Good morning. And I call to
4 order the meeting of the Philadelphia City
5 Commissioners Board of Elections for Wednesday,
6 October the 15th, 2025. This meeting is in compliance
7 with the Pennsylvania Sunshine Act.

8 The Philadelphia City Commissioners are a three-
9 member, bipartisan board of elected officials in
10 charge of elections and voter registration for the
11 City of Philadelphia. Each Commissioner is elected to
12 serve a four-year term that coincides with the
13 municipal election cycle for mayor and City council.

14 The Commission has set and enforced departmental
15 policies to administer voter registration and conduct
16 elections in accordance with Federal and State voter
17 registration and election laws.

18 The City commissioners were created by the
19 Pennsylvania Assembly in 1711 with a focus on taxation
20 and held various regulatory powers throughout the
21 century. The commissioners started maintaining voter
22 lists in 1799 and took on more election-related
23 responsibilities, but didn't emerge into its current
24 form until the adoption of Philadelphia's Home Rule
25 Charter in 1951.

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

11 Finally, it is my responsibility to preserve the
12 order and decorum of the meetings; as such, profane,
13 slandorous, discriminatory, or personal attacks will
14 not be tolerated. If you wish to make a public
15 objection to a perceived Sunshine Act violation,
16 please raise your hand and I will recognize you.
17 Outbursts will not be tolerated.

18 Anyone wishing to offer public comment, please
19 step forward. But before we -- I know there are
20 people here. If you're planning on making a public
21 comment about a polling place to change, well, wait
22 for that part of the agenda.

23 Are you here to make a public comment? Oh, he's
24 here to observe it. We don't get that many visitors.
25 Thanks for coming. Okay.

1 SPEAKER 1: I didn't hear or understand what
2 you're saying.

3 CHAIRMAN SABIR: I'm sorry. I said, were you
4 here for public comment?

5 SPEAKER 1: No. I'm here for information.

6 CHAIRMAN SABIR: Okay, good. Well, welcome,
7 welcome. We don't get that many visitors often, so I
8 said thank you for coming.

9 Having no public comment, we will now proceed to
10 email comment.

11 Secretary Bluestein, are there any email public
12 comments?

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

15 CHAIRMAN SABIR: Thank you very much.

16 We will now proceed to old business. First, we
17 have a report from our Directors of Election
18 Operations and Administration, Mr. Joseph Lynch and
19 Mr. Mark Johnson.

20 Joe, we'll start off with you.

21 MR. LYNCH: Good morning, Commissioners.

22 CHAIRMAN SABIR: Good morning.

23 MR. LYNCH: This is our public meeting update for
24 October 15th, 2025. At the Election Warehouse, the
25 Voting Machine Services Unit finished final repairs

1 and made sure all machines that required a repair were
2 final tested, time-checked, reset, and cleared for
3 election day. They're also getting all the machines
4 ready to ship.

5 The E-Poll Book Unit is working to ensure the
6 electronic poll books are fully prepared and
7 operational for election day. The Election Materials
8 Unit has been working to ensure that the supplies
9 needed for our poll workers are ordered, organized,
10 and ready for packing.

11 For the election cycle to date, the O'Hara and
12 Spring Garden has processed 114,274 voter registration
13 applications, of which 109,224 were electronic and
14 5,050 were paper. All applications are up to date.

15 As of Tuesday, the County Board of Elections
16 approved 92,334 vote-by-mail and absentee
17 applications, which is 6,704 added from the last
18 week's total. Of those, 51,848 are paper applications
19 and 40,486 are electronic. This includes military and
20 civilian overseas voters. We currently have 228
21 electronic applications waiting to be processed. A
22 total of 92,462 ballots have been sent out. So far,
23 we've received 29,772 ballots through the United
24 States Postal Service and 3,062 through drop boxes,
25 for a total of 32,834 valid ballots. This total does

1 not include the UOCAVA ballots.

2 The County Board of Elections Office, located at
3 City Hall, Room 140, is open for in-person mail ballot
4 services. Voters can request an absentee, mail-in, or
5 replacement ballot in person and return all in the
6 same visit. Office hours are 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.,
7 Monday through Friday, and 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on
8 Saturday and Sunday.

9 Voters who would like to vote by mail for the
10 November 4th municipal elections can apply for a mail-
11 in or absentee ballot at vote.phila.gov. The deadline
12 to apply is Tuesday, October 28th at 5:00 p.m.

13 ID verification letters have gone out to voters
14 that either did not include the required proof of
15 identification on their absentee/mail-in ballot
16 application, or the proof of identification could not
17 be verified by the County Board of Elections Office.
18 Voters who have received this letter may submit their
19 proof of ID to the County Board of Elections via
20 email, phillyelection@phila.gov; fax, U.S. mail,
21 telephone, or in person. Voters have until midnight
22 on November 10th to return their proof of
23 identification for the municipal election.

24 Cycle five second Friday pre-election campaign
25 finance reports are to be completed by City candidates

1 and their committees as of October 20th, 2025. The
2 following deadline for the County Board to receive all
3 reports is October 24th, 2025.

4 The Board Workers Unit is finishing up its fall
5 training seminars with 2,260 participants already in
6 attendance. The schedule is posted on our website.
7 3,985 Board workers completed online trainings, which
8 is available on our website. Weekly reminders are
9 being sent to poll workers who have not yet confirmed
10 their attendance. Confirmation calls for all wards
11 continue, and so far we have confirmed 6,599 poll
12 workers.

13 Satellite election offices are open to the public
14 with staff available from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.,
15 Monday through Friday, and 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on
16 Saturday and Sunday. Locations are listed on our
17 website at vote.phila.gov. Drop boxes throughout the
18 City are open for voters to drop off their ballots.

19 Thank you. That's all I have, Commissioners.

20 CHAIRMAN SABIR: Thank you, Joe.

21 Vice Chair Deeley, do you have any questions for
22 Joe?

23 MS. DEELEY: Thank you, Chairman. I have none.

24 CHAIRMAN SABIR: Secretary Bluestein, do you have
25 any questions?

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

2 CHAIRMAN SABIR: Thanks, Joe. I appreciate you.

3 MR. LYNCH: Thank you.

4 CHAIRMAN SABIR: Mark, can you please provide
5 your report?

6 MR. JOHNSON: Good morning, Commissioners.

7 CHAIRMAN SABIR: Good morning.

8 MR. JOHNSON: Just give me a little grace because
9 I'm still catching up with my voice.

10 With just a few weeks remaining, our six
11 administrative units remain focused on operational
12 readiness and supporting the integrity of the election
13 process, budget, and procurement. The team continues
14 to manage ongoing budget activities, including the
15 renewal of key contracts and the processing of
16 encumbrances across multiple financial systems.

17 Efforts remain focused on ensuring that all
18 invoices and vendor payments are completed in a timely
19 manner to support election operations. The Department
20 is also reviewing legacy accounts and reconciling
21 outstanding financial items from past fiscal years to
22 maintain full compliance and transparency. Immediate
23 priorities include finalizing contract renewals,
24 monitoring expenditures, and aligning remaining funds
25 to ensure all operational needs are met leading up to

1 the general election.

2 Communications this week. The Communications
3 Unit focused on public-facing voter education and
4 internal coordination with upcoming media events. The
5 team created and posted social media content
6 highlighting voter registration reminders, office
7 closures, and poll worker recruitment graphics. They
8 finalized and distributed new flyers for satellite
9 office hours, drop box locations, and alternative
10 ballot return sites while continuing updates to the
11 2025 General Election social media toolkit.

12 The revised poll worker training video was
13 finalized and uploaded, and website content was
14 updated to include unverifiable ballot guidance and
15 translated material for white boxes. Communications
16 also supported press logistics for both the upcoming
17 voter registration deadline press conference and the
18 Lieutenant Governor's event, which was held this
19 morning. They assisted PSA with poll workers events
20 at SE0 9 to 10, managed the Department's press inbox,
21 and coordinated PSA content corrections with media
22 consultants.

23 Engagement Unit: The Engagement Team continues
24 citywide voter outreach through our several successful
25 events. Staff distributed resources and demonstrated

1 voting machines at locations including Beyond
2 Literacy, Congressional Redoubt Salaam, Parkway
3 Central Library, and the North Beach Regional Library.

4 Residents expressed appreciation for the
5 availability of translated material and opportunities
6 to learn about the voting process. One memorable
7 interaction came from a voter education session where
8 a father explained to his young son that voting means
9 choosing candidates who represent our values and
10 protect our rights.

11 Additional outreach took place at the Thomas F.
12 Donatucci Library and the Philadelphia Fire Department
13 Engine 20. The team is also preparing to participate
14 in the upcoming taste of the Philippines events as
15 part of the PECO Multicultural Series later this
16 month.

17 Human Resources: workplace planning continues as
18 the team manages staffing, training, and transaction-
19 related activities. Temporary staff orientations are
20 ongoing, which should be coming to a close. I think
21 we've hired all our temporary staff. And HR continues
22 to oversee active investigations and employee
23 relations matters.

24 As of October 13th, our total workforce stands at
25 200 employees, including 31 exempts, 169 civil

1 servants, 21 temporary staff hires for the general
2 election. This breakdown includes 54 clerk I's, 32
3 clerk II's, 20 clerk III's, 8 trade helpers, and 8
4 voting machine mechanics.

5 The Information Technology Unit remains focused
6 on election night preparations, including police route
7 mapping and polling place optimization analysis. They
8 are actively configuring the cell phones used by the
9 Poll Workers Unit and have successfully activated all
10 assigned devices. All camera-monitoring drop box
11 locations are currently active and recording as
12 required. The IT Department is also working closely
13 with the City Commissioners Investigation Unit to
14 ensure all polling locations are accurately documented
15 and mapped for election day operations.

16 In addition, IT Unit is coordinating with the
17 Police Department reports and control units to
18 finalize polling place data for the election voting
19 material collection. The team continues to support
20 technical operations across all satellite offices and
21 remain voter-facing platforms to ensure accessibility
22 and accuracy.

23 From a security standpoint, coordination
24 continued with the Philadelphia Police Department,
25 OEM, and contracted partners. This team remains

1 focused on securing staff, facilities, and voters
2 throughout the election period.

3 CHAIRMAN SABIR: Thank you, Mark.

4 Vice Chair Deeley, do you have any questions?

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

6 CHAIRMAN SABIR: Secretary Bluestein, do you have
7 any questions?

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

9 CHAIRMAN SABIR: Thank you, Mark.

10 We will now proceed to new business. We'll begin
11 by considering our first agenda item, Polling Place
12 Changes. We will hear from our Polling Places and
13 Investigation Supervisor, Charlie Stroman.

14 MR. STROMAN: Good morning, Commissioners. This
15 is the last of four hearings, and I have seven
16 proposals for changes today. The first four will be
17 in the 12th Ward: the 4th Division, the 5th Division,
18 the 6 Division, and the 7th Division. All are moving
19 out of the Shrine and Miraculous Medal to the Haitian
20 Church, and this is due to a refusal.

21 CHAIRMAN SABIR: Having heard the recommendation
22 of the professional staff, I move that we accept the
23 polling place change for Ward 12: Divisions 4, 5, 6,
24 and 7. Is there a second?

25 MS. DEELEY: Second.

1 CHAIRMAN SABIR: Secretary Bluestein, please go
2 ahead and roll.

3 MR. BLUESTEIN: Vice Chair Deeley?

4 MS. DEELEY: I vote aye.

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

6 CHAIRMAN SABIR: Aye. Please proceed.

7 MR. STROMAN: Next two will be in the 30th Ward:
8 the 8th Division and the 16th Division. Moving out of
9 this storefront at 2439 South Street to another
10 storefront at 617 South 24th Street due to a refusal.

11 CHAIRMAN SABIR: Having heard the recommendation
12 of the professional staff, I move that we accept the
13 polling place change for Ward 30: Divisions 8 and 16.
14 Is there a second?

15 MS. DEELEY: Second.

16 CHAIRMAN SABIR: Secretary Bluestein, please call
17 the roll.

18 MR. BLUESTEIN: Vice Chair Deeley?

19 MS. DEELEY: Aye.

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

21 CHAIRMAN SABIR: Aye. Please proceed.

22 MR. STROMAN: Last but not least, in the 51st
23 Ward, the 3rd Division. Moving out of Philly's Auto
24 and Parole to the Comegy School, and that is due to a
25 refusal.

1 CHAIRMAN SABIR: Having heard the recommendation
2 of the professional staff, I move that we accept the
3 polling place change for Ward 51, Division 3. Is
4 there a second?

5 MS. DEELEY: Second.

6 CHAIRMAN SABIR: Secretary Bluestein, please call
7 the roll.

8 MR. BLUESTEIN: Vice Chair Deeley?

9 MS. DEELEY: Aye.

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

11 CHAIRMAN SABIR: Aye.

12 This is our last item on the agenda before we
13 adjourn. Thank you, Charlie.

14 MR. JOHNSON: You're welcome.

15 CHAIRMAN SABIR: Before we adjourn, Vice Chair
16 Deeley, did you have any business to be raised at this
17 meeting?

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

19 CHAIRMAN SABIR: Secretary Bluestein, do you have
20 any other business to be raised at this meeting?

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

22 CHAIRMAN SABIR: There is no other business. A
23 motion to adjourn today's meeting. Is there a second?

24 MS. DEELEY: Second.

25 CHAIRMAN SABIR: Secretary Bluestein, please call

1 the roll.

2 MR. BLUESTEIN: Vice Chair Deeley?

3 MS. DEELEY: Aye.

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

5 CHAIRMAN SABIR: Aye.

6 This meeting is adjourned.

7 (The meeting was adjourned.)

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CERTIFICATE OF TRANSCRIPTIONIST

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I, ANN NJERI, Legal Transcriptionist, do hereby
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That the foregoing is a complete and true
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of the testimony and proceedings captured in the
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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 23rd day of October, 2025.



Ann Njeri

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Public Meeting Agenda

October 15, 2025 – 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
 - A. Polling Place Changes
- V. Non-agenda items

Philadelphia
City Commissioners

	Wd	Div	OLD POLLING PLACE, Address	PP	NEW POLLING PLACE, Address	PP
1	12	04	SHRINE OF THE MIRACULOUS MEDAL, 500 E CHELTEN AVE	MH	HAITIAN CHURCH, 814 E CHELTEN AVE	FN
2	12	05	SHRINE OF THE MIRACULOUS MEDAL, 500 E CHELTEN AVE	MH	HAITIAN CHURCH, 814 E CHELTEN AVE	FN
3	12	06	SHRINE OF THE MIRACULOUS MEDAL, 500 E CHELTEN AVE	MH	HAITIAN CHURCH, 814 E CHELTEN AVE	FN
4	12	07	SHRINE OF THE MIRACULOUS MEDAL, 500 E CHELTEN AVE	MH	HAITIAN CHURCH, 814 E CHELTEN AVE	FN
5	30	08	STOREFRONT 2439 SOUTH ST	FN	STOREFRONT, 617 S 24TH ST	FN
6	30	16	STOREFRONT 2439 SOUTH ST	FN	STOREFRONT, 617 S 24TH ST	FN
7	51	03	PHILLY'S AUTO AND PAROLE, 5224 WOODLAND AVE	MN	COMEGYS SCHOOL, 5100 GREENWAY AVE	ML