

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24

- - - - -

November 5TH, 2025

- - - - -

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

LISA M. DEELEY, VICE CHAIR
SETH BLUESTEIN, COMMISSIONER
OMAR SABIR, COMMISSIONER

HELD:

Philadelphia City Commissioners Office
11311 Roosevelt Boulevard
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19152

REPORTED BY: Jacqueline Gissinger
Lexitas Court Reporting
(215)504-4622

1 PROCEEDINGS

2 - - - - -

3 COMMISSIONER SABIR: Good morning.

4 I call to order the meeting of the
5 Philadelphia City Commissioners Board of
6 Elections for Wednesday, November 5, 2025.

7 This meeting is in compliance with the
8 Pennsylvania Sunshine Act.

9 The Philadelphia City
10 Commissioners are a three member bipartisan
11 board of elected officials in charge of
12 elections and voter registration for the City
13 of Philadelphia. Each commissioner is elected
14 to serve a four year term that coincides with
15 the municipal election cycle for Mayor and
16 City Council. The Commissioners set and
17 enforced departmental policies to administer
18 voter registration and conduct elections in
19 accordance with Federal and State voter
20 registration election laws.

21 The City Commissioners were
22 created by the Pennsylvania assemblies in 1711
23 with the focus on taxation, held various
24 regulatory powers throughout the centuries.

1 The Commissioner started maintaining voter
2 lists in 1799 and took a more election related
3 responsibility, but didn't emerge in its
4 current form until the adaption of
5 Philadelphia Home Loan Charter in 1951.

6 We will start off with public
7 comments. Before we get into comments,
8 commenter's shall state where they live or if
9 they are not a resident of Philadelphia, and
10 that they are a Philadelphia taxpayer. Public
11 comment is not an opportunity for dialog or Q
12 and A. It is public comment, a chance for you
13 to tell us what you think. Each speaker will
14 have two minutes to speak. However, I may
15 extend the time at my discretion. Public
16 comment must concern matters on today's
17 meeting agenda.

18 Finally, it is my responsibility
19 to preserve the order and decorum of the
20 meetings, as such profane, slanderous,
21 discriminatory personal attacks will not be
22 tolerated. If you wish to make a public
23 objection to a perceived Sunshine Act
24 violation, please raise your hand and I will

1 recognize you. Outbursts will not be
2 tolerated. Anyone wishing to offer public
3 comment, please step forward.

4 Hearing none. We will now move to
5 a report from the secretary for email public
6 comments. Secretary Seth Bluestein, are there
7 any email public comments?

8 COMMISSIONER BLUESTEIN: As of
9 9:45 a.m. there were no email public comments.

10 COMMISSIONER SABIR: Thank you
11 very much. We will now proceed to old
12 business. First, we have report from our
13 directors of election operation and
14 administration, Mr. Joseph Lynch and Mark
15 Johnson. Joe, we will start off with you.

16 MR. LYNCH: Yes. Good morning,
17 Commissioners. I just wanted to start off
18 saying yesterday, it was a huge success. We
19 had some hiccups over the weekend and into
20 yesterday with one item missing out of the
21 materials box, but we handled that through
22 e-card drivers and our staff. But other than
23 that, everything went well. Nothing really
24 was horrible. Nothing went really horribly

1 wrong.

2 Yesterday, we did that new process
3 of bringing everything to the warehouse, and
4 it worked out well, and we're going to
5 continue to do that, and we're going to make
6 strides of making it easier and better for
7 everything to be under one roof.

8 But really though, I want to
9 thank the staff here at the warehouse at the
10 SEOs, and Delaware and Spring Garden. Kevin
11 and I worked out yesterday. We worked
12 things out. We worked hand in hand with each
13 other. It worked out well, and the call
14 center went well. So everybody was chipping
15 in, and then at the end of the night,
16 everybody pulled together, and we pulled off a
17 good feed. I appreciate all your support.
18 Thank you.

19 COMMISSIONER SABIR: Thank you.
20 Joe. Commissioner Deeley, do you have any
21 questions or comments?

22 COMMISSIONER DEELEY: I have none.
23 Thank you.

24 COMMISSIONER SABIR: Secretary

1 Bluestein, do you have any questions or
2 comments?

3 COMMISSIONER BLUESTEIN: I just
4 wanted to say congratulations to Joe, Mark
5 and the entire team for their successful
6 implementation of the new process for
7 returning materials that Joe referenced.
8 We've never received more materials back as
9 quickly as we did. So good job for everyone
10 that helped us implement a new process.

11 COMMISSIONER SABIR: I echo the
12 sentiments of Commissioner Bluestein. There
13 were a lot of naysayers that said that you
14 couldn't get it done, and through all that
15 noise, through all the bad talk, you guys
16 delivered. Thank you. We appreciate that.

17 Mark, would you like to speak?

18 MR. JOHNSON: Good morning,
19 Commissioners. I want to echo Joe and thank
20 the staff. I think everyone did a wonderful
21 job, particularly with our last minute change.
22 But I also want to make sure that we
23 recognize and thank our partners from the
24 Philadelphia Fire Department, the Police

1 Department and Sheriff's Office.

2 We were a little apprehensive
3 about some of the things we wanted to do, but
4 they just supported it wholeheartedly, and I
5 think that added to our ability to
6 successfully make it through another Election
7 Day. So I just want to make sure we thank OEM
8 and everyone else who consistently supports us
9 and gives us everything that we can possibly
10 ask for.

11 COMMISSIONER SABIR: Thank you.
12 Commissioner Deeley, do you have any comments
13 or questions?

14 COMMISSIONER DEELEY: I do not.

15 COMMISSIONER SABIR: Secretary
16 Bluestein?

17 COMMISSIONER BLUESTEIN: I just
18 wanted to also congratulate Mark on his first
19 election in his new role. Mark, you and
20 everyone did a great job. So thank you again
21 for making sure that Election Day was
22 successful.

23 MR. JOHNSON: Thank you,
24 Commissioner.

1 COMMISSIONER SABIR: Thank you. I
2 want to echo, of course, sentiment to
3 Secretary Bluestein. I mean, it's been great,
4 man, having you here, having that position
5 being filled. You know, it's a lot of work on
6 the deputies filling in. Thank you.

7 And also, you know, outreach and
8 the outreach team and communications, they're
9 under your preview. I mean, we actually
10 doubled turnout -- primary. I think that's
11 the first time in history that happened in the
12 Philadelphia election.

13 So, you know, I'd like to keep on
14 going, but you know me, I'm greedy. So I like
15 to see, you know, the next election,
16 hopefully, you know, I like to see between 500
17 to 600,000 voters come out to Philadelphia and
18 vote. You know, I know we had bad,
19 embarrassing turnouts, but we definitely want
20 to increase our voter turnout. So thank you
21 for all the work that you do. We're
22 definitely looking forward to working with you
23 again in the future.

24 Okay. That was the last item on

1 our agenda. Now, before we adjourn,
2 Commissioner Deeley, did you have any other
3 business for this meeting?

4 COMMISSIONER DEELEY: Yes, I do,
5 please. Thank you. First of all, of course,
6 I would like to thank the staff for all
7 their hard work as always. I would just like
8 to mention that constructive criticism is
9 not -- that does not -- it detract from the
10 staff. Changing a important procedure days
11 before an election is reckless.

12 We are fortunate and grateful
13 for your hard work, and we're glad that it
14 got done properly. But for as long as I've
15 been here, and even before then, I've always
16 been told by even the people before me that we
17 are more responsible in our procedure
18 changing.

19 So there was never a doubt that
20 it would get done. It just was the fact that
21 it changed so quickly before an election. And
22 speed does not trump accuracy ever. So
23 although we get a lot of it back quicker, we
24 want to always be -- always be assured that

1 what we're getting back is accurate.

2 So of course, always the staff
3 does a great job. But you know, we didn't
4 just get here today. It's a lot of work that
5 got us here, by the way. So thank you all
6 very much.

7 COMMISSIONER SABIR: Secretary
8 Bluestein?

9 COMMISSIONER BLUESTEIN: I have
10 nothing to add. Thank you.

11 COMMISSIONER SABIR: Well, again,
12 I just like to reiterate, you know, you will
13 get the same results if you do the same
14 things over and over again. And yes -- do
15 things differently to get different results,
16 and I think the results are excellent. I
17 just don't want that to be drowned out. And
18 we can do different things inside this
19 department. Just because we've been doing
20 things the way -- how they always been done,
21 doesn't necessarily mean it's been
22 successful.

23 I'd like to thank our staff for
24 having the confidence, having to know how to

1 deliver an accurate, fair, and fast election,
2 because our constituents want fast results.
3 They also want accurate results, and we do
4 not compromise the integrity of our election
5 just because we move faster.

6 So again, I'd like to say thank
7 you again, and whatever new changes that you
8 have, please bring them to this
9 Commissioner's Board. We'll definitely look
10 at it, and we definitely will implement it.

11 Now, with that, I'll make a motion
12 to adjourn this meeting. Secretary, blue
13 Stein, please call the roll motion.

14 COMMISSIONER DEELEY: Motion
15 second.

16 COMMISSIONER BLUESTEIN: Vice
17 Chair Deeley.

18 COMMISSIONER DEELEY: I.

19 COMMISSIONER BLUESTEIN: I vote I.
20 Chairman, Sabir?

21 COMMISSIONER SABIR: I.

22 Motion passed. This meeting is
23 adjourned.

24 - - -

1 (Whereupon, the meeting concluded at
2 11:10 a.m.)

3 - - -

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

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

2

3 I, Jacqueline Gissinger,
4 hereby certify that the proceedings and
5 evidence noted are contained fully and
6 accurately in the stenographic notes
7 taken by me in the foregoing matter, and
8 that this is a correct transcript of the
9 same.

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

- *Jacqueline Gissinger* - -
Court Reporter - Notary Public

(The forgoing 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.)

<hr/>	accurate	<hr/>	<hr/>	12,16	communic
1	10:1	B	C	4:3	ations
1711	11:1,3	back	call	commente	8:8
2:22	Act	6:8	2:4	r's	complian
1799	2:8	9:23	5:13	3:8	ce
3:2	3:23	10:1	11:13	comments	2:7
1951	adaption	bad	center	3:7	compromi
3:5	3:4	6:15	5:14	4:6,7,9	se
<hr/>	add	8:18	centurie	5:21	11:4
2	10:10	bipartis	s	6:2	concern
2025	added	an	2:24	7:12	3:16
2:6	7:5	2:10	Chair	commissi	conduct
<hr/>	adjourn	blue	11:17	oner	2:18
5	9:1	11:12	Chairman	2:3,13	confiden
5	11:12	Bluestei	11:20	3:1	ce
2:6	adjourne	n	chance	4:8,10	10:24
500	d	4:6,8	3:12	5:19,	congratu
8:16	11:23	6:1,3,	change	20,22,	late
<hr/>	administ	12	6:21	24 6:3,	7:18
6	er	7:16,17	changed	11,12	congratu
600,000	2:17	8:3	9:21	7:11,	lations
8:17	administ	10:8,9	changing	12,14,	6:4
<hr/>	ration	11:16,	9:10,18	15,17,	consiste
9	4:14	board	charge	24 8:1	ntly
9:45	agenda	2:5,11	2:11	9:2,4	7:8
4:9	3:17	11:9	Charter	10:7,9,	constitu
<hr/>	9:1	box	3:5	11	ents
A	apprehen	4:21	chipping	16,18,	11:2
a.m.	sive	bring	5:14	19,21	construc
4:9	7:2	11:8	City	Commissi	tive
ability	assembli	bringing	2:5,9,	11:9	9:8
7:5	es	5:3	12,16,	Commissi	continue
accordan	2:22	business	21	oners	5:5
ce	assured	4:12	coincide	2:5,10,	Council
2:19	9:24	9:3	s	16,21	2:16
accuracy	attacks		2:14	4:17	created
9:22	3:21		comment	6:19	2:22
			3:11,		

criticis m 9:8	detracti on 9:9	2:15,20 3:2 4:13	faster 11:5	grateful 9:12	huge 4:18
current 3:4	dialog 3:11	7:6,19, 21	Federal 2:19	great 7:20	_____
cycle 2:15	differen tly 10:15	8:12,15 9:11,21 11:1,4	feed 5:17	8:3 10:3	I
_____	director s 4:13	election s 2:6,12, 18	filled 8:5	greedy 8:14	implemen t 6:10 11:10
D	discreti on 3:15	email 4:5,7,9	filling 8:6	guys 6:15	implemen tation 6:6
Day 7:7,21	discrimi natory 3:21	embarras sing 8:19	Finally 3:18	_____	importan t 9:10
days 9:10	doubled 8:10	emerge 3:3	Fire 6:24	H	increase 8:20
decorum 3:19	doubt 9:19	end 5:15	focus 2:23	hand 3:24 5:12	inside 10:18
Deeley 5:20,22 7:12,14 9:2,4 11:14, 17,18	drivers 4:22	enforced 2:17	form 3:4	handled 4:21	integrit y 11:4
Delaware 5:10	drowned 10:17	entire 6:5	fortunate 9:12	happened 8:11	item 4:20 8:24
deliver 11:1	_____	excellen t 10:16	forward 4:3 8:22	hard 9:7,13	_____
delivere d 6:16	E	extend 3:15	future 8:23	Hearing 4:4	J
departme nt 6:24 7:1 10:19	e-card 4:22	_____	_____	held 2:23	job 6:9,21 7:20 10:3
departme ntal 2:17	easier 5:6	F	G	helped 6:10	hiccups 4:19
deputies 8:6	echo 6:11,19 8:2	fact 9:20	Garden 5:10	history 8:11	Joe 4:15 5:20 6:4,7, 19
	elected 2:11,13	fair 11:1	glad 9:13	Home 3:5	Johnson 4:15 6:18
	election	fast 11:1,2	good 2:3 4:16 5:17 6:9,18	horrible 4:24	
				horribly 4:24	

7:23	making	6:18	official	6:24	pulled
Joseph	5:6	motion	s	8:12,17	5:16
4:14	7:21	11:11,	2:11	Police	_____
_____	man	13,14,	operatio	6:24	Q
K	8:4	22	n	policies	question
Kevin	Mark	move	4:13	2:17	s
5:10	4:14	4:4	opportun	position	5:21
_____	6:4,17	11:5	ity	8:4	6:1
L	7:18,19	municipa	3:11	possibly	7:13
laws	material	l	order	7:9	quicker
2:20	s	2:15	2:4	powers	9:23
lists	4:21	_____	3:19	2:24	quickly
3:2	6:7,8	N	Outburst	preserve	6:9
live	matters	naysayer	s	3:19	9:21
3:8	3:16	s	4:1	preview	_____
Loan	Mayor	6:13	outreach	8:9	R
3:5	2:15	necessar	8:7,8	primary	raise
long	meeting	ily	_____	8:10	3:24
9:14	2:4,7	10:21	P	procedur	received
lot	3:17	night	partners	e	6:8
6:13	9:3	5:15	6:23	9:10,17	reckless
8:5	11:12,	noise	passed	proceed	9:11
9:23	22	6:15	11:22	4:11	recogniz
10:4	meetings	November	Pennsylv	PROCEEDI	e
Lynch	3:20	2:6	ania	NGS	4:1
4:14,16	member	_____	2:8,22	2:1	6:23
_____	2:10	O	people	process	referenc
M	mention	objectio	9:16	5:2	ed
maintain	9:8	n	perceive	6:6,10	6:7
ing	minute	3:23	d	profane	registra
3:1	6:21	OEM	3:23	3:20	tion
make	minutes	7:7	personal	properly	2:12,
3:22	3:14	offer	3:21	9:14	18,20
5:5	missing	4:2	Philadel	public	regulato
6:22	4:20	Office	phia	3:6,10,	ry
7:6,7	morning	7:1	2:5,9,	12,15,	2:24
11:11	2:3	_____	13 3:5,	22 4:2,	
	4:16		9,10	5,7,9	

reiterate 10:12	11:20, 21	Spring 5:10	supported 7:4	turnout 8:10,20	wishing 4:2
related 3:2	secretary 4:5,6	staff 4:22	supports 7:8	turnouts 8:19	wonderful 6:20
report 4:5,12	5:24	6:20		V	work 8:5,21
resident 3:9	7:15	9:6,10	T	Vice 11:16	9:7,13
responsibility 3:3,18	8:3	10:2,23	talk 6:15	violation 3:24	10:4
responsible 9:17	10:7	start 3:6	taxation 2:23	vote 8:18	worked 5:4,11, 12,13
results 10:13, 15,16	11:12	4:15,17	taxpayer 3:10	11:19	working 8:22
returning 6:7	8:2	3:1	team 6:5 8:8	voter 2:12, 18,19	wrong 5:1
role 7:19	6:12	started 3:1	term 2:14	3:1	Y
roll 11:13	SEOS 5:10	state 2:19	things 5:12	8:20	year 2:14
roof 5:7	serve 2:14	step 4:3	7:3	voters 8:17	yesterday 4:18,20 5:2,11
S	set 2:16	strides 5:6	10:14, 15,18, 20	W	
Sabir 2:3	Seth 4:6	success 4:18	time 3:15	wanted 4:17	
4:10	Sheriff's 7:1	successful 6:5	8:11	6:4	
5:19,24	slanderos 3:20	7:22	today 10:4	7:3,18	
6:11	speak 3:14	10:22	today's 3:16	warehouse 5:3,9	
7:11,15	6:17	successfully 7:6	told 9:16	Wednesday 2:6	
8:1	speaker 3:13	Sunshine 2:8	tolerate 3:22	weekend 4:19	
10:7,11	speed 9:22	3:23	4:2	wholeheartedly 7:4	
		support 5:17	trump 9:22		