

1 PHILADELPHIA CITY COMMISSIONERS
2 RETURN BOARD CERTIFICATION MEETING

3 - - -

4 Wednesday, November 6, 2024

5 - - -

6 COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

7 OMAR SABIR, CHAIRMAN

8 KHALIF CHESTNUT, DEPUTY TO THE CHAIR

9 SETH BLUESTEIN, COMMISSIONER

10 ERIC KAPSTEIN, DEPUTY TO COMMISSIONER

11 NICHOLAS CUSTODIO, DEPUTY TO VICE-CHAIR

12 LISA DEELEY, VICE-CHAIR

13

14 HELD AT:

15 City Commissioners Warehouse

16 11311 Roosevelt Boulevard

17 Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19154

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23 REPORTED BY: Michelle A. Landman
24 Lexitas Legal/Philadelphia
25 215-504-4622

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

2 COMMISSIONER SABIR: Good morning.

3 I call to order the meeting of the
4 Philadelphia City Commissioners, Wednesday,
5 November 6th, 2024. This meeting is in
6 compliance with the Pennsylvania Sunshine
7 Act.

8 The Philadelphia City
9 Commissioners are a three-member bipartisan
10 board of elected officials in charge of
11 elections and voter registration for the
12 City of Philadelphia.

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

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

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

6 We will start off with public
7 comments. Before beginning their comments,
8 commenter shall state where they live or if
9 they are not a resident of Philadelphia,
10 that they are a Philadelphia taxpayer.

11 Public comment is not an
12 opportunity for dialogue or Q and A. It is
13 public comment, a chance for you to tell us
14 what you think.

15 Each speaker will have two
16 minutes to speak, however, I may extend the
17 time at my discretion. Public comment must
18 concern matters on today's meeting agenda.

19 Finally, it is my responsibility
20 to preserve the order and decorum of the
21 meetings, as such, profane, slanderous,
22 discriminatory and personal attacks will not
23 be tolerated.

24 If you wish to make a public
25 objection to a perceived Sunshine Act

1 violation, please raise your hand and I will
2 recognize you, outbursts will not be
3 tolerated.

4 Anyone wishing to offer public
5 comment please step forward.

6 (No response.)

7 COMMISSIONER SABIR: There are no
8 public comments.

9 We will now move to a report from
10 Secretary Bluestein. Are there any E-mailed
11 public comments?

12 COMMISSIONER BLUESTEIN: There are
13 no public comments Eed-mail by 9:45 a.m.

14 COMMISSIONER SABIR: Thank you
15 very much.

16 We will now proceed to old
17 business.

18 We have a report from our
19 Director of Election Administration and
20 Operations, which will be reported by
21 Mr. Joseph Lynch and Ms. Stephanie Reed.

22 MR. LYNCH: Good morning
23 Commissioners. That was a big one.

24 So I don't have much to say. I
25 say that last night, it's almost like

1 Thanksgiving dinner, all that preparation
2 and then before you know it, it's all over.
3 So now that all that's left over is cleanup.
4 So I think yesterday went pretty well
5 considering -- all things considered.

6 So I just want to thank the
7 Commissioners for all the support you gave
8 and all the employees throughout the
9 Department and the services that supported
10 us. I really appreciate it.

11 On to the primary of 2025. All
12 right. Thank you.

13 COMMISSIONER SABIR: Vice-Chair
14 Deeley, any questions?

15 COMMISSIONER DEELEY: No, I would
16 just like to say thanks to everybody, really
17 great job as always. Thank you Chairman.

18 COMMISSIONER SABIR: Secretary?

19 COMMISSIONER BLUESTEIN: I agree,
20 I have nothing else to add. Thank you.

21 COMMISSIONER SABIR: I echo the
22 sentiments of our colleagues, satellites,
23 special election and the election, like wow,
24 we appreciate it everybody.

25 Stephanie.

1 MS. REED: Good morning

2 Commissioners, thank you.

3 I'll just echo what Joe said,
4 yeah, thank you all so much for your
5 support. And to all of our staff, all of
6 our partners, all the City Departments,
7 state and federal agencies that supported
8 us. It was a really incredible
9 collaborative effort, and I think one of the
10 things that came up over and over again
11 yesterday, when there were things that we
12 needed to solve, was people kept saying,
13 yeah, we can solve this, because we've
14 worked this out before, we have been meeting
15 together, we know who to call. And that was
16 only possible because so many people have
17 been at the table for so long.

18 And to watch our staff really
19 work together and very quickly solve some
20 complicated things that were really
21 stressful for them, but to do it with such
22 grace and staying calm and walking all of
23 our election workers through it was really a
24 privilege to see. So thank you to everyone.

25 And I guess 2025 will come soon

1 enough, but I'm still okay with 2024.

2 COMMISSIONER SABIR: Thank you.

3 Vice-Chair, do you have any comments you
4 wish to add?

5 COMMISSIONER DEELEY: Just the
6 same, super thanks.

7 COMMISSIONER BLUESTEIN: I'm good,
8 thank you.

9 COMMISSIONER SABIR: Again, I just
10 want to say thank you.

11 We will now move to new business,
12 which we have none.

13 Vice-Chair, do you have any other
14 business you want to be raised at this
15 meeting?

16 COMMISSIONER DEELEY: I have none,
17 thank you.

18 COMMISSIONER SABIR: Secretary
19 Bluestein, do you have any business you want
20 to raise at this meeting?

21 COMMISSIONER BLUESTEIN: I have
22 none, thank you.

23 COMMISSIONER SABIR: With no
24 items, I make a motion that we adjourn this
25 meeting.

1 COMMISSIONER DEELEY: Second.

2 COMMISSIONER SABIR: Secretary

3 Bluestein, please call the roll.

4 COMMISSIONER BLUE STEN:

5 Vice-Chair Deeley?

6 COMMISSIONER DEELEY: I vote aye.

7 COMMISSIONER BLUESTEIN: I vote

8 aye.

9 Chairman Sabir?

10 COMMISSIONER SABIR: Aye.

11 This meeting is adjourned. Thank

12 you.

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14 (Whereupon, the meeting concluded
15 at 11:08 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 in the foregoing matter, and that
this is a correct transcript of the same.



Michelle A. Landman - 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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