

1 PHILADELPHIA CITY COMMISSIONERS

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SUNSHINE MEETING

10

11 Wednesday, December 11, 2024

12 11:00 a.m.

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ATTENDANCE

OMAR SABIR, CHAIRMAN
LISA DEELEY, VICE CHAIR
SETH BLUESTEIN, COMMISSIONER
JOSEPH LYNCH, DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS
STEPHANIE REID, DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS

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

2 (11:00 a.m.)

3 CHAIRMAN SABIR: Good morning. I call to order
4 the meeting of the Philadelphia City Commissioner's
5 Board of Elections for Wednesday, December 11, 2024.
6 This meeting is in compliance with the Pennsylvania
7 Sunshine Act.

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

14 The commissioners set and enforce departmental
15 policies to administer voter registration and conduct
16 elections in accordance with federal, state voter
17 registration election laws.

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

1 We will start off with public comments. Before
2 beginning their comments, commenters shall state where
3 they live or if they are not a resident of
4 Philadelphia, and that they are a Philadelphia
5 taxpayer. Public comment is not an opportunity for
6 dialogue or Q&A. It is public comment, a chance for
7 you to tell us what you think.

8 Each speaker will have two minutes to speak.
9 However, I may extend the time at my discretion.
10 Public comment must concern matters on today's meeting
11 agenda.

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

19 Anyone wishing to offer public comment, please
20 step forward.

21 Seeing no public comment, we will now move to
22 report from Secretary Bluestein.

23 Commissioner Bluestein, are there any e-mail
24 public comments?

25 MR. BLUESTEIN: There were no e-mail public

1 comments.

2 CHAIRMAN SABIR: Thank you very much. We will
3 now proceed to old business. First, we have our
4 report from our directors of elections administration
5 and operations, Mr. Joseph Lynch and Ms. Stephanie
6 Reid.

7 Joe, we'll start off with you.

8 MR. LYNCH: Morning, commissioners.

9 CHAIRMAN SABIR: Good morning.

10 MR. LYNCH: Just want to let you know that the
11 warehouse team is clearing out the voting machines and
12 conducting an inventory of any remaining materials.

13 I want to make a note that all units are
14 performing their post-election inventory and
15 operational checks to prepare for the next election.
16 Voter registration is actually -- actively working on
17 assistance declarations and processing affirmations.

18 Now that the next election is officially open, we
19 can also begin processing voter registration
20 applications. The SEO team is scanning all return
21 mail balance and respective voter files to ensure that
22 all records remain up to date. So we delivered trays
23 of undelivered -- trays of undeliverable ID cards and
24 applications to the SEOs, and they're going to scan
25 them into the voters file. And that's all I have.

1 CHAIRMAN SABIR: Thank you.

2 MR. LYNCH: Thank you.

3 MS. REID: Good morning, commissioners.

4 CHAIRMAN SABIR: Good morning.

5 MS. REID: My last couple weeks has been focused
6 on working with each of the people who report to me on
7 transition plans, making sure that they know what
8 they're going to be doing for the next few weeks.

9 The big update, which I'm sure everybody wants to
10 know about, is budget. We have a new budget officer
11 starting on December 23rd, coming from the health
12 department. A good, good background, I think, for the
13 work that happens here.

14 And yesterday, I met with four people on our
15 staff to start going through all of the forms and the
16 information that needs to be pulled together so that
17 when he starts, they will have all the information
18 just to plug in, which will allow him to have a bit of
19 a head start on that.

20 So we'll just make sure that he's as --
21 everyone's as prepared as possible for him, and we
22 have a good transition plan.

23 CHAIRMAN SABIR: Thank you. Anybody have any
24 questions? I guess I would just add, just, is it
25 possible you would turn it -- I know it's a day or

1 two, but can you send something else, though, for his
2 actual transition?

3 MS. REID: Yeah.

4 CHAIRMAN SABIR: If it's was not too much.

5 MS. REID: I have that -- I have it ready for
6 you.

7 CHAIRMAN SABIR: Okay.

8 MS. DEELEY: Chairman?

9 CHAIRMAN SABIR: Yes?

10 MS. DEELEY: If I may, Stephanie, are they --
11 have we working -- have we begun work on the
12 reimbursement for this special election?

13 MS. REID: I have not received the details. Oh,
14 for the special? Yes, Brian has been working on that
15 in the interim. We have not received any details for
16 -- that I know of. I have not received anything for
17 the recount yet for the details for what to submit.

18 MS. DEELEY: Thank you.

19 CHAIRMAN SABIR: Thank you. Okay. We will now
20 proceed to new business.

21 We will begin by considering our first agenda
22 item, the acceptance of resignation of our director of
23 election of administration. I move to accept the
24 resignation of our director of election
25 administration. Is there a second?

1 MS. DEELEY: Second.

2 CHAIRMAN SABIR: Does any commissioners want to -
3 - have any comments before we move?

4 MR. BLUESTEIN: Yes, Mr. Chairman. I just want
5 to thank Stephanie for all your work this past year,
6 and not just in this role as director of election
7 administration, but everything you did for this
8 department in your prior position with the managing
9 director's office.

10 You've worked with us for a very long time to
11 make sure that all of our elections have been
12 successful, and I really appreciate it.

13 CHAIRMAN SABIR: Thank you. Vice Chair? Okay.

14 I would like to also say thank you. Appreciate
15 you. And you're not going anywhere. You're still
16 going to be in the city, so we're definitely going to
17 be working together. So I definitely have some ideas
18 I definitely was taking, so I definitely know you're a
19 resource department, and we -- we'll continue to work
20 together.

21 MR. LYNCH: Can I just add something,
22 Commissioner?

23 CHAIRMAN SABIR: Yes, you may.

24 MR. LYNCH: I would like to thank Stephanie also
25 for being my partner. This past year, we had two

1 successful elections, special election and a general
2 election and actually the primary. So, I mean, I
3 really appreciate all the hard work you did. You're
4 very dedicated to this department, and you will be
5 missed. Thank you. If you need anything, give me a
6 call.

7 CHAIRMAN SABIR: Sure.

8 MR. BLUESTEIN: What is it? Two more?

9 CHAIRMAN SABIR: Okay. That's why we here. I
10 mean, anybody else want to say anything? We got all
11 the staffers. Anybody else want to say anything?
12 Good.

13 MS. REID: For the vote is -- am I allowed to?

14 I, I have deeply enjoyed working with everyone in
15 this department. The commitment that I've seen from
16 the staff is unlike anything I've ever seen before.

17 You know, when I first interacted with this
18 department in 2020, I remember just being almost
19 dumbfounded at the commitment that the staff had, even
20 in the most unbelievably difficult circumstances. And
21 that has carried on in all the time that I've been
22 here.

23 And the staff in this department, they know what
24 they're doing. They understand elections. They take
25 their work very seriously. And it has been an honor

1 to support that work over the last year, and I thank
2 you for the opportunity.

3 CHAIRMAN SABIR: Thank you. And again, let's not
4 get all sentimental because you're still in the city,
5 and we're still going to be working together at some
6 point or capacity. I see we got two more back there.
7 We got -- we're going to be working together. Please
8 go out of room.

9 MR. BLUESTEIN: Vice Chair Deeley?

10 MS. DEELEY: I vote aye.

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

12 CHAIRMAN SABIR: Aye.

13 That was our last item on the agenda. Before we
14 adjourn, Vice Chair Deeley, do you have any business
15 to raise at this meeting?

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

17 CHAIRMAN SABIR: Secretary Bluestein, do you have
18 any business to raise at this meeting?

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

20 CHAIRMAN SABIR: Hearing no other business, a
21 motion to adjourn this meeting today. Is there a
22 second?

23 MS. DEELEY: Second.

24 CHAIRMAN SABIR: Secretary Bluestein, please call
25 the roll.

1 MR. BLUESTEIN: Vice Chair Deeley?

2 MS. DEELEY: I vote aye.

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

4 CHAIRMAN SABIR: Aye.

5 (The meeting was adjourned.)

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CERTIFICATE OF TRANSCRIPTIONIST

I, IVY JUNG, Legal Transcriptionist, do hereby
certify:

That the foregoing is a complete and true
transcription of the original digital audio recording
of the testimony and proceedings captured in the
above-entitled matter. As the transcriptionist, I
have reviewed and transcribed the entirety of the
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 6th day of February, 2025.



Ivy Jung

<hr/> <p>1</p> <p>11 3:5</p> <p>11:00 3:2</p> <p>1711 3:19</p> <p>1799 3:22</p> <p>1951 3:25</p> <hr/>	<p>add 6:24 8:21</p> <p>adjourn 10:14,21</p> <p>adjourned 11:5</p> <p>administer 3:15</p> <p>administra tion 5:4 7:23, 25 8:7</p> <p>adoption 3:24</p>	<hr/> <p>B</p> <p>back 10:6</p> <p>background 6:12</p> <p>balance 5:21</p> <p>begin 5:19 7:21</p> <p>beginning 4:2</p> <p>begun 7:11</p>	<hr/> <p>C</p> <p>call 3:3 9:6 10:24</p> <p>capacity 10:6</p> <p>cards 5:23</p> <p>carried 9:21</p> <p>centuries 3:21</p> <p>Chair 8:13 10:9, 14 11:1</p> <p>Chairman 3:3 5:2,9 6:1,4,23 7:4,7,8,9, 19 8:2,4, 13,23 9:7, 9 10:3,11, 12,17,20, 24 11:3,4</p>	<p>13,18 8:16 10:4</p> <p>clearing 5:11</p> <p>coincides 3:12</p> <p>comment 4:5,6,10, 19,21</p> <p>commenters 4:2</p> <p>comments 4:1,2,24 5:1 8:3</p>
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Public Meeting Agenda

February 5, 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
- IV. New Business
 - A. Motion to approve City Commissioners' Fiscal Year 2026 budget Proposal for inclusion in Mayor's proposed budget (pending City Council approval)
 - B. Motion to approve Provisional Ballot Envelope Redesign project
- V. Non-agenda items