

PHILADELPHIA CITY COMMISSIONERS

PHILADELPHIA BOARD OF ELECTIONS MEETING

Wednesday, December 17, 2025

11:00 a.m.

Reported by: Kiyziah Vaughn

Job No.: 1034488

1 ATTENDANCE

2 OMAR SABIR, CHAIRMAN

3 SETH BLUESTEIN, COMMISSIONER

4 LISA M. DEELEY, COMMISSIONER

5 JOSEPH LYNCH

6 LIZA BOND

7 MARK

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

2 (11:00 a.m.)

3 MR. BLUESTEIN: Good morning. I call to order
4 the meeting of the Philadelphia Board of Elections for
5 Wednesday, December 17th, 2025. I would like to note
6 for the record that Chairman Sabir is present and
7 attending this meeting telephonically.

8 For public comments, we'll start off public
9 comments. Before beginning their comments, commenters
10 shall state where they live, or if they are not a
11 resident of Philadelphia, that they are a Philadelphia
12 taxpayer. Public comment is not an opportunity for
13 dialog or Q&A. It is public comment, a chance for you
14 to tell us what you think.

15 Each speaker will have two minutes to speak.
16 However, I may extend the time at my discretion.
17 Public comment must concern matters on today's meeting
18 agenda. Finally, it is my responsibility to preserve
19 the order and decorum of the meetings. As such,
20 profane, slanderous, discriminatory, or personal
21 attacks will not be tolerated.

22 If you wish to make a public objection to a
23 perceived Sunshine Act violation, please raise your
24 hand, and I will recognize you. Outbursts will not be
25 tolerated. Anyone wishing to offer public comment,

1 please step forward.

2 As of 9:45 a.m., there were also no email public
3 comments. Seeing no public comments, we'll move
4 forward with old business with reports from our
5 directors of election operations and election
6 administration. We'll start with Mr. Joseph Lynch.
7 Joe?

8 MR. LYNCH: Yes. Good morning, Commissioners.

9 MR. BLUESTEIN: Morning.

10 MR. LYNCH: For our voter registration report,
11 the unit has processed all affirmation and assistance
12 declarations from the November election. They have
13 processed 25,169 voter registration applications with
14 850 being paper.

15 They are printing out close to 8,000 AVN letters
16 that they will be mailing out this week. They will
17 begin to print ID cards out after the New Year.

18 Excuse me. County Board will be preparing to mail out
19 certificates to the board workers winner -- the board
20 worker winners. They are hoping to have them mailed
21 out by early next week.

22 The unit is also gearing up for community people
23 petitions for the May 19th primary. The election
24 board unit sent out 8,388 payroll checks to board
25 workers that worked in the November election.

1 Satellite election offices are open to the public for
2 voter services 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday through
3 Friday.

4 The voting machine warehouse guys are working on
5 the post-election maintenance of the XL machines.
6 Poll, poll book unit is doing the same task. Thank
7 you. That's all I have.

8 MR. BLUESTEIN: Thank you. Vice Chair Deeley, do
9 you have any questions for Joe?

10 MS. DEELEY: I have none.

11 MR. BLUESTEIN: Chairman Sabir, do you have any
12 questions for Joe?

13 MR. SABIR: I have none.

14 MR. BLUESTEIN: Thank you. Mark, your report
15 please.

16 MR. MARK: Good morning, Commissioners.

17 MR. BLUESTEIN: Morning.

18 MR. MARK: With the general election now
19 concluded, our focus has shifted to preparation for
20 the May 2027 primary election. Over the past several
21 weeks, I've asked all unit managers to meet with their
22 teams to assess what worked well during the election,
23 identify areas for improvement, and outline what
24 resources or changes may be needed moving forward.

25 Nearly all units have completed this process and

1 are currently preparing to present their findings at a
2 comprehensive executive staff meeting scheduled for
3 early next year.

4 In parallel, we are actively working on the
5 FY2027 budget, and human resources continues to focus
6 on staffing needs and related concerns to ensure our
7 office remains well-prepared to properly support --
8 to, to be properly supported for upcoming elections.

9 This gives us the opportunity to reflect, make
10 practical improvements, and continue moving forward in
11 a positive direction. And just want to wish everyone
12 a happy and safe holiday if I don't get to talk to
13 everyone after this.

14 MR. BLUESTEIN: Thank you. Vice Chair Deeley, do
15 you have any questions for Mark?

16 MS. DEELEY: I have none.

17 MR. BLUESTEIN: Chairman Sabir, do you have any
18 questions for Mark?

19 MR. SABIR: I have none.

20 MR. BLUESTEIN: All right. Thank you. Thank
21 you, Mark. We will now move on to new business, where
22 we will consider the first agenda item, which is the
23 casting of lots for tie votes for judges of election.
24 We'll now call up Deputy Executive Director Dana
25 Eberg. Good morning, Eliza.

1 MS. DEELEY: Good morning. Good morning,
2 everyone.

3 MR. SABIR: Good morning.

4 MS. DEELEY: Before we begin, I just want to go
5 over the rules before we proceed. The county board
6 will draw an order of board and division. If more
7 than one person is present to draw for the same race,
8 the candidate that was checked in first will draw
9 first, and so on.

10 The candidate that draws ball number one wins the
11 position of judge of election. To draw on behalf of a
12 candidate as a proxy, the proxy must have a letter
13 signed by the candidate authorizing them to do so.
14 The County Board of Elections employee will draw for
15 candidates not present.

16 For all races where no candidate or proxy is
17 present, we will use a random function in Excel to
18 decide the tiebreaker. The candidate that draws the
19 largest number in the random function will win the
20 tie.

21 Once a race has been drawn in person or in Excel,
22 we will not redo the tiebreaker draw for any reason.
23 All board worker position winners will be mailed a
24 certificate in the beginning of next week. Does
25 anybody have any questions before we proceed? Okay.

1 I'm going to let Eliza check.

2 MS. BOND: Okay. First we have Sherry Hankala
3 for 3318.

4 SPEAKER A: Head northeast.

5 MS. BOND: Okay. Ball number two. So I'm going
6 to -- hold on. Let me get to the microphone. I am
7 picking on behalf of Eric Connor Sr., who drew ball
8 number 1 and will be the judge of election for 3318.
9 Okay. Can we please call up Brian Lindelman?

10 Yeah. Okay. Ball number -- ball number 2, so
11 for 6404, Dara Schmutz will be the judge of election.
12 That concludes the lotto for today.

13 MR. BLUESTEIN: All right. Thank you all for
14 that. We'll move on to the second item of new
15 business, which is a motion that I have. First, I'd
16 like to thank all the judges of election who came here
17 today for drawing of lots, and your interest in
18 serving the city and your neighbors is deeply
19 appreciated.

20 Earlier this year, we held a series of very
21 successful piece with poll workers events throughout
22 the city at our satellite election offices. At these
23 events, we were able to thank our poll workers for
24 their service to the community.

25 It was also an excellent opportunity to get

1 feedback directly from the poll workers who spend 14
2 hour days at least twice a year making sure that
3 Philadelphia's elections remain successful.

4 A common refrain I heard at these events came
5 from our judges of elections who have additional
6 responsibilities on election day beyond the norm for
7 the rest of their boards, and they were wondering why
8 their pay is only \$5 more than the rest of the
9 workers.

10 While remaining mindful of our fiscal
11 limitations, I believe it's worth recognizing the
12 extra efforts to which these judges elections go. So
13 I'm proposing to increase the stipend for our judges
14 as follows.

15 I move that an additional stipend, the additional
16 stipend paid for judges of election for transporting
17 the election materials, be increased by \$10 per
18 election, making the total value of that stipend \$15
19 per election. Is there a second?

20 MR. SABIR: Second.

21 MR. BLUESTEIN: Before we vote on the motion,
22 Vice Chair Deeley, do you have any questions or
23 comments?

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

25 MR. BLUESTEIN: All right. Thank you. Mr.

1 Chairman, do you have any questions or comments?

2 MR. SABIR: I just echo your sentiments on
3 regards with the motions, man. I really thank you for
4 your leadership, for stepping up the motion.

5 MR. BLUESTEIN: Thank you, Chairman. We will now
6 move forward to a vote on the motion. Vice Chair
7 Deeley, how do you vote?

8 MS. DEELEY: Aye.

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

10 MR. SABIR: Aye.

11 MR. BLUESTEIN: All right. The motion passes
12 three to zero. Thank you both. Before we move on to
13 adjournment, Vice Chair Deeley, do you have any other
14 business to be raised at this meeting?

15 MS. DEELEY: I have none.

16 MR. BLUESTEIN: Thank you. Chairman Sabir, do
17 you have anything else to raise at this meeting?

18 MR. SABIR: Yes. I'd like to thank the staff, as
19 always -- as always, for all your hard work. I'd like
20 to -- like to thank the poll workers for all the hard
21 work that they do.

22 And, you know, we're up here making way to
23 Harrisburg to lobby, you know, for the city
24 commissioner so we can get, you know, more resources
25 and we can definitely have more accountability.

1 So, again, I thank you, the two commissioners,
2 for stepping up and filling in. The three-member
3 bipartisan board, I'm very excited that the meeting
4 was still going to go on, even though I wasn't
5 physically present.

6 MR. BLUESTEIN: Thank you, Chairman. With
7 nothing else on the agenda, I'd like to make a motion
8 to adjourn. Do I have a second?

9 MR. SABIR: Second.

10 MR. BLUESTEIN: Great. Thank you. Vice Chair
11 Deeley, how do you vote?

12 MS. DEELEY: Aye.

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

14 MR. SABIR: Aye.

15 MR. BLUESTEIN: Okay. Thank you. This meeting
16 is adjourned. I wish everyone happy holidays, and
17 we'll see you in the New Year.

18 MR. SABIR: Okay.

19 (Proceedings concluded at 11:15 a.m.)

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CERTIFICATE OF DIGITAL REPORTER

I, KIYZIAH VAUGHN, a Digital Reporter, do hereby
certify:

That the foregoing proceeding hereinbefore set
forth was accurately captured with annotations by me
during the proceeding.

I further certify that I am not related to any of
the parties to this action by blood or marriage, and
that I am in no way interested in the outcome of this
matter.

IN WITNESS THEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand
this 17th day of December, 2025.



Kiyziah Vaughn

CERTIFICATE OF TRANSCRIPTIONIST

I, HILLARY MADETE, 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 18th day of December, 2025.



Hillary Madete

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