

From: [Mark Shaffer](#)
To: [Luzerne County Council Meeting Public Comments](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL]: Public Comment for Hearing Tonight
Date: Tuesday, June 13, 2023 12:46:16 PM

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Hello Council,
Mark Shaffer, Wilkes-Barre, I would like my comment to be read into the record at tonight's hearing on the proposed ballot question.

I'm writing to you tonight to express my opposition to the proposed amendment to restructure the boards of elections. The entire point of a board of elections is to be a nonpartisan entity that is not directly controlled by elected officials. As it currently stands, having the board elect its own chair ensures that the chair is a bipartisan pick. Since there are 2 appointed members from each party to get a majority any chair cannot be appointed with purely the votes of one party. This change would make it so if one party has a majority on county council they can appoint a 3 person majority with no consultation from the minority party. That may sound good to the republican majority right now since they have a 10 to 1 majority, but think about if the council ever flips. Would you like Democrats to be able to just appoint a majority without consulting you? The current system defends against one party domination and protects the rights of minority parties and thus should be preserved.

Thank you,
Mark Shaffer

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