

From: [Carole Shearer](#)
To: [Luzerne County Council Meeting Public Comments](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL]: August 22 meeting of County Council :PLEASE READ AT PUBLIC COMMENT DURING THE VOTING SESSION
Date: Tuesday, August 22, 2023 10:12:29 AM

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emailed on August 22, 2023 at 10:08 AM

Members of the Luzerne County Council,

I submit this email to you in reference to the proposed amendment to the County Charter regarding the Board of Elections, voted on by Council on June 13, and sent to the BOE for certification.

This amendment proposal as written soundly failed to pass BOE scrutiny last week, and was sent back to Council.

No wonder.

1) Most importantly, it is ridiculously lengthy as currently proposed (over 1000 words long) which gives me the impression of it being deceptive at best. How is it deceptive? Most voters may not realize WHAT the entire proposal includes, as the amendment on the ballot as proposed will be only around 50 words long. Voters would need to refer to a "plain language explanation" (which will NOT appear on the ballot) to know what the entire amendment REALLY says and means. There is court case precedent to support that a ballot amendment must be EASILY understood.

2) It proposes to vacate the entire election board in January of 2024, causing loss of institutional knowledge and more work to replace those board members. *The mishaps and unnecessary logistic/supply issues of the past two election cycles should serve as a sharp reminder of what happens when there is not sufficient time to pass along institutional knowledge.*

3) It reduces terms (which were already not lengthy) for members, also creating loss of institutional knowledge.

Holding an additional closed (secret?) meeting at 5PM today is not what this constituent expects of Council. This whole process of attempting to revise the charter regarding election processes - and jamming a proposal on a ballot with little to no time to educate the voting public - appears to be a thinly-veiled attempt to wield more power over processes than any one political party should have.

I call for the County Council to cancel or rescind the ballot question altogether and get back to the more important business of representing pressing needs of the entire county population.

Sincerely,
Carole Shearer
Drums, PA

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