

Please read my email at tonight's meeting of County Council.

I wanted to state my opinion regarding the proposed ballot question that is currently in debate. My name is Cindy Malkemes and I am a resident of Dallas Township in Luzerne County.

I attended the BOE meeting last week where there was much debate over certifying the ballot question that County Council has proposed. First, let me say that this meeting was a bit unusual, to say the least. There appears to be many questions regarding this amendment, that the BOE were trying to get answered, that were met with roadblocks from those that were meant to be supportive and to answer their questions. There was much back and forth between the chair of the BOE and the Office of Law, to the level that I wasn't sure who was on which side. Finally, the BOE sent it back for review, which is why we are here today.

The question itself is complicated and really not easy to understand. The BOE identified 8 separate questions nestled in one ballot question. Is County Council trying to push this through the voters of Luzerne County? It certainly does appear to be the case. Take, for instance, how County Council is intending to take control of the BOE by allowing themselves to choose the chair of the department, rather than the established way of doing this, allowing the BOE itself to appoint this person. Another bad move: allowing people who are running for office to also be a part of the BOE...would they certify themselves for office? What about firing the entire BOE right before a major election. Think this is good practice?

Do they think they will always have party control in Luzerne County? What happens when they don't? Will they still think this is a good idea? I think the only people who think this amendment is a good idea are the current members of County Council, who, frankly I hope will be voted out of office during the next election after they show the voters of Luzerne County exactly what they are made of. Do they represent the body of the voters of Luzerne County? I think not.

In closing, I would like to commend the current members of the BOE who I think are doing an amazing job of trying to keep some level of sanity in the workings of this county.

Thank you for your time.