

PLEASE READ MY STATEMENT BELOW DURING TODAY'S HEARING ON BALLOT DROP BOXES AND AGAIN DURING THE PUBLIC COMMENTS SECTION (on agenda items) OF THE COUNCIL MEETING. Thank you.

My name is Lisa Napersky, and I am a lifelong resident of Luzerne County. Given the long list of important issues that need to be tackled in our county, it's very disappointing to watch Council spend valuable time on something so frivolous as trying to eliminate the use of drop boxes.

There is absolutely no evidence that the use of drop boxes in Luzerne County over the past few elections had any negative impact on our elections, and there is no practical reason whatsoever to curtail their use. Drop boxes have a proven track record not just here in Luzerne County, but in many other states as well. They have made casting a ballot more convenient while remaining secure and reducing the burden on the postal service and local election officials.

I personally know many Luzerne County voters who have benefitted from the use of drop boxes. For example, seniors and handicapped persons for whom standing in long lines on Election Day is very difficult; people whose work schedules prevent them from voting on Election Day; people who have compromised immune systems and prefer not to vote in person for health reasons. They are able to cast their vote directly and do not have to worry about issues with the US Postal Service causing unforeseen delays in returning their ballots.

Everyone knows the ordinance before council today is nothing but a thinly veiled scheme to make it harder for people to vote, nothing more. This debate is a huge waste of time and I have no doubt that the vast majority of citizens would prefer that Council work on legitimate issues of concern rather than wage war on our voting rights.

Every eligible Luzerne County citizen should have the ability to cast their ballot safely and with confidence. I urge council to make voting easier, not more difficult, for your constituents.

Thank you for taking the time to hear my concerns.