

From: [Karen Baranoski](#)
To: [Luzerne County Council Meeting Public Comments](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL]: Election Drop Boxes: 7:03 (A) 1 & 7:03 (A) 2Re: August 23rd 5:45 Public Session
Date: Tuesday, August 23, 2022 2:51:14 PM

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From: Karen Baranoski ; Wilkes-Barre City I would like this read at the meeting tonight- thanks!

Dear Council Members,

I have witnessed this fiasco in person, attending an April Election Board Meeting where several Council Members in attendance decried election drop boxes, one person even telling us to watch the debunked "2000 Mules, " to see the truth; when in fact that movie used bogus GPS information and uncovered no real fraud. Otherwise I have followed all the news articles about the embarrassingly inept, wasted County Council meeting time spent (several meetings) on this fake MAGA-agenda topic instead of actual necessary county business.

Conveniently located drop boxes are very helpful to voters, especially seniors, those with disabilities, and working voters with long-hour jobs unable to get to the County Office during normal business times or to the polls to vote in person. Our goal in society should be making it easier to vote, rather than make extra hoops to jump through. National studies of drop boxes, used in many states for years have uncovered no real fraud. Perhaps a husband might add a wife's ballot- sensibly allowed in some states anyway. Why would anyone want to cheat anyway?

Many drop box opponents claim people can mail the ballots. The problem is someone might apply a little late for a no-excuse or absentee ballot, or ballots might be sent from the election office later due to errors, etc. Sometimes the mail is slow and the mailed ballot does not arrive in time to be counted. What if the stamp falls off? The bottom line- if a voter uses a drop box, they know their ballot has been received on time.

In the past few elections, drop boxes were delivered and retrieved by Luzerne County workers in their normal work hours/duties, with county trucks and medical/disability insurance in case of injuries. I understand we have 5 drop boxes, which are extremely heavy, and would involve paying for truck rental, and might cause some civic-minded volunteer to be injured or killed. For what logical reason other than to make a political statement?

Please realize how sacred the process of being able to vote in an American democracy is to everyone! Anything we could do to get every eligible citizen to vote should be the goal of all of our elected officials.

Finally, I was happy to see when Carl Bienas, one of our wonderful Honor Society students at Hanover was elected to the Council. I thought to myself- he is a person who will represent us well!

Thanks!

Respectfully,

Karen Baranoski

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