

**From:** [Nancy Zola](#)  
**To:** [Luzerne County Council Meeting Public Comments](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL]: Tonight's Agenda—Ballot Sorting System  
**Date:** Monday, August 29, 2022 2:22:31 PM

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Luzerne County Council,

This comment is in reference to tonight's agenda regarding the ballot sorting system:

I implore you NOT to purchase the ballot-sorting system. It is an obscene and unnecessary use of \$490,500 tax-payer dollars. While the money paying for the system is "...from a \$1.04 million state election integrity grant the county expects to receive in early September," according to the article "Luzerne County Council to vote on ballot-sorting system purchase Monday" in today's Standard Speaker, the grant money still ultimately came from Pennsylvania tax-payers. This tax-payer money can still go to more worthwhile endeavors in our state. I highly doubt that, as Beth McBride reported to the Standard Speaker, "the ballot-sorting system is essential to allow the bureau to finish processing ballots by midnight on election night." Somehow, it was possible to conduct timely elections without a ballot-sorting machine in the past. What could have possibly changed about elections that would make a machine that sorts ballots necessary?

Interestingly, on luzernecounty.org, tonight's meeting is marked to be on "Tuesday, August 29 at 4:00pm" while in the Standard Speaker reported that it is "Monday, August 29 at 5:00pm." The factual errors regarding the day of the week and time of the meeting present on one (or both) of these sources leads me to believe that the individual(s) who released the erroneous information do not want the public to be able to comment on this proposed purchase, perhaps so they can have the proposal approved quickly without public knowledge. If such individuals could confound county residents about basic information regarding a meeting date, couldn't they do the same with the ballots the proposed system sorted?

I am certain many others in the county would agree with me that such an expensive system that could potentially inhibit the fairness of future elections is not needed or wanted. Luzerne County Council, I implore you again, do not vote for this egregious proposal. Do not purchase this ballot-sorting system.

-Nancy Zola

Luzerne County Resident

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