

LUZERNE COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS
AND REGISTRATIONS SPECIAL MEETING
MINUTES JUNE 7 2021

CALL TO ORDER 4:31 PM

PLEDGE OF ALLIGENCE

ROLL CALL

Missy Thomas here, Richard Nardone, here, Kathy Roth here, Audrey Serniak here, Denise Williams here

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion to amend the agenda to certify the statewide races (Justice of the Supreme Court, Judge of the Superior Court, Judge of the Commonwealth Court and Judge of Common Pleas) and 4 statewide question and postpone the county races due to revisions in some county races, allowing for review and filing.

Motion Denise Williams 2nd Rick Nardone unanimous, motions carries.

PUBLIC COMMENTS (4 minutes)

Walter Griffith-Cite law that allows for piecemeal certification. Romilda Crocamo-She spoke to State Attorney John Hartzell regarding bifurcation of election. June 14, 2021 is time for filing any challenges; Department of State supports and is a procedure used in other counties.

Bob Caruso-13,000 voters took advantage of write ins in the many blank races; board scattered if not enough write ins to win; votes are secret, sacred and deserve to be counted; scattered should be used for jokes not living people; Board has good people but inexperienced; this is a problem since the beginning of the Charter. Denise Williams-every vote was counted; just because they were scattered doesn't mean they weren't counted.

Sean Donahue-wants to know why his name didn't appear; he wrote his name in for all offices; not the Board's place to not record his name; don't certify the election.

ADGENDA ITEM

Motion to certify Justice of the Supreme Court, Judge of the Superior Court, Judge of the Commonwealth Court and Judge of Common Pleas anf four ballot questions Audrey Serniak 2nd Rick Nardone

Roll call- Rick Nardone yes, Kathy Roth yes, Audrey Serniak yes, Missy Thomas abstain, Denise Williams yes 4 yes 1 abstain, motion carries

PUBLIC COMMENTS (4 minutes)

Ronald Knapp-a courtesy count was done for one candidate; he wants a recount based on he is just 57 votes short of a county council nomination; if courtesy recount is done for one it should be available to all.

Mike Butera responded-not a courtesy recount; there was a petition to recount in progress and he (Mr. Butera) arranged to have the recount be part of the 2% audit currently being conducted; the parties, DA, public, candidates were all informed; there had been comments made at the polling place that called into question the vote; count was shown to be correct.

Ronald Knapp-feels this is a gray area, petition deadline had passed Mike Butera-deadline had not passed Ronald Knapp we're taking a hammer and chisel to our democracy; needs to be equal and fair; feels he can make up the 57 votes Romilda Crocamo-there is time for a challenge

Adam Christian, Swoyersville-Term 'courtesy count' came from Bob Morgan, he received one more 'scattered' vote, did not get a copy of the petition, did not receive a continuance, feels not treated fairly

Bob Morgan-did refer to a 'courtesy count' but it was part of the audit Romilda Crocamo saw petition, advised Mr. Butera and he took over; will provide it if (Mr. Christian) wants it Mike Butera-asked if rather than file would doing it as part of the audit satisfy them? They agreed.

Sean Donahue-Office of Law advised the Board not to respond due to pending litigation. What determines scattered? Why are some votes counted and others not? Clarify the criteria. Feels he is being forced to file a lawsuit; has a constitutional right to vote for himself for Supreme Court Justice.

Diane Noss, Shickshinny-Some write in with the correct spelling and some don't; can a candidate go to court to claim votes? Mike Butera-Candidates can advise Bureau of write in campaigns prior to the election. After, they can petition the court to cumlulate and the court decides

Walter Griffith-the petition to recount the vote was not filed; Title 25 says how to do a recount; wants clarification of the filing deadline; Mike Butera is selectively using the law.

Diane Noss-Where can she find the list of names and number of signatures needed.

Romilda Crocamo-petition was brought to the Bureau who advised her to go to the courthouse; went to the Office of Law

Adam Christian-left the recount at 2:35 PM; was forced to be there

Rick Nardone-He was thre; participated in the audit; there was a potential petition; this didn't take away from anything and satisfied a candidate and extended the audit; maybe the Board needs a 3rd party election attorney; we did not favor one over the other

MOTION TO ADJOURN Rick Nardone 2nd Audrey Serniak unanimous motion carries

NEXT MEETING June 14 2021 6 PM for local races

ADJOURNED 5:31 PM