

**LUZERNE COUNTY  
BOARD OF ELECTIONS AND REGISTRATION  
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD MARCH 19, 2012**

The Luzerne County Board of Elections and Registration met on Monday, March 19, 2012 at the Emergency Management Agency (EMA) for the purpose of conducting regular business. Present were:

H. Jeremy Packard, Chairman  
Thomas J. Baldino, PhD, First Vice Chair  
John C. Ruckno, Second Vice Chair  
John F. Newman, Secretary  
Barbara J. Williams, Alternate Secretary  
Michael I. Butera, Esq., Solicitor  
Leonard C. Piazza, III Director of Elections

Chairman Packard called the meeting to order with the Pledge of Allegiance. There was no Public Comment. A motion to accept the minutes of the February 29, 2012 meeting was made by Dr. Baldino, seconded by Mr. Ruckno, and it was approved unanimously.

**NEW BUSINESS:** A motion to approve the Plain English Statement for the Hazleton Area School District Library Tax Referendum was made by Ms. Williams, seconded by Mr. Newman, and it was approved unanimously.

A motion to appoint the 2012 Primary Election Assistance Team for the upcoming elections was made by Mr. Ruckno, seconded by Dr. Baldino, and it was approved unanimously.

Mr. Piazza briefed the board on Pennsylvania's new voter ID Law. He stated that the law would not take effect until the November General Election. However, all voters will be asked to show a photo ID at the April Primary Election on a trial basis. It will not be a requirement, and there will be no provisional ballot necessary for those who do not furnish a photo ID. Funding for the photo ID requirement for the November election has not yet been determined. Mr. Piazza indicated that he will be querying Commonwealth election officials on the new photo ID Law Provisions for accepting municipal employee and school and college photo IDs, with the issue being the "expiration date provision".

Mr. Piazza stated absentee ballots are in print and dates for the military will be met. He further stated that there are no polling place vacancies. Mr. Piazza reported that there are mail problems between the County Courthouse mail room and Penn Place. Mail is being received in the office later than normal, and it is having an affect on the bureau workload and timeliness. Chairman Packard indicated that he will follow up with the County Manager.

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In lieu of public comment Controller Walter Griffith, who was attending a meeting of the Ethics Commission, asked Mr. Newman to query Mr. Piazza on the campaign finance web site, and why it has not been updated. Mr. Piazza replied that the web site was a courtesy and not a requirement by law. His workload for the upcoming Primary Election precluded him from the campaign finance update on the web site. He did state that all campaign finance reports are up to date and current.

**OLD BUSINESS:** Mr. Newman asked if Solicitor Butera had a decision on the complaint of Mr. Fred Heller of Fairview Township, and the query of Fairview Township Judge of Election Charles Lake. Solicitor Butera stated a decision will be forthcoming shortly.

There being no further business a motion to enter recess was made by Mr. Newman, seconded by Ms. Williams. All members voted in the affirmative. Accordingly, the meeting was recessed at the call of the Chair.

Respectfully submitted,

John F. Newman  
Secretary for the Board