

Election Board Meeting
December 4, 2024

The Monroe County Board of Elections held a meeting on October 2, 2024, in the Commissioners' Public Meeting Room at the Monroe County Administration Center with the following present: Chairperson John D. Christy, Vice-Chairperson David Parker, Commissioner Sharon S. Laverdure, Solicitor Deborah Huffman, Director of Voter Registration Sara May-Silfee, Deputy Director of Voter Registration Penny Robson, and public attendees.

Chairperson Christy called the meeting to order at 10:30 AM with a moment of silence followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

Motion by Vice-Chairperson Parker, seconded by Commissioner Laverdure, to approve the Election Board minutes for October 2, 2024. Motion carried.

Motion by Vice-Chairperson Parker, seconded by Commissioner Laverdure, to approve the General Election held on November 5, 2024, through November 25, 2024. Motion carried.

Mrs. May-Silfee stated that she was contacted by the West End Fire Company, and they informed her that the new West End Fire Hall, which was built across the street from the old fire department, is not big enough for the elections to be held at their facility for Chestnuthill 1 and Chestnuthill 4. She also stated that the old West End Fire Company building will be sold. Mrs. May-Silfee stated that she is looking at three potential facilities and has been in contact with the Chestnuthill Township Supervisors regarding these facilities. Chestnuthill 1 and Chestnuthill 4 would be placed at different facilities.

Chairperson Christy stated that the 2025 Municipal Primary will be held on May 20, 2025, and the Municipal Election will be held on November 4, 2025. He also provided the next Election Board meeting date, which will be held on February 5, 2025, at 10:30 AM.

Chairperson Christy stated that the cameras, which were located at the libraries for the ballot drop of boxes have been disabled.

Mrs. May-Silfee stated that the Election office will be working on the 5-year voter roll maintenance. Within the next several weeks voters who have been placed into an inactive status for Two Federal Elections will be cancelled. These voters have been mailed several letters from the Election office regarding this information. In January 2025 the Election office will be mailing voters their 1st letter informing them that they have not voted nor had any contact with the Election Office during the previous five years. The voters will need to update their information with our office.

During public comment, Theresa Pesce asked the Board of Elections if party affiliation could be added to the watcher form. She expressed a couple concerns regarding the November 5, 2025, Election. Ms. Pesce also stated that at four polling locations the poll watchers were not able to hear the voters names. She provided diagrams to the Board of Elections the lay of these four polling locations. Mr. Pesce stated that she had a photo of a poll watcher who was wearing a Dem Voter Protection badge. Deborah Huffman, Solicitor stated that she was contacted by Pete Begley, Chairman of the Republican Committee regarding this and she provided him with her cell phone number to reach out to her if there were any issues. She also stated that Penny Robson contacted the Judges of Elections and informed them that the poll watchers are not allowed to wear the badges inside of the polling place.

Pete Begley had concerns regarding the DJ's that were playing music loudly outside of several polling locations. He asked the Board of Elections if DJ's would be allowed at polling location in the future. Chairperson Christy stated that he will speak with Monroe County District Attorney Michael Mancuso regarding whether DJ's are allowed in public at polling locations. Vice-Chairperson Parker stated the volume of the music was an issue. Mrs. May-Silfee stated that she wasn't informed and doesn't know who sent the DJ's.

Janet Dooner stated that she was a poll watcher at Polk and stated things went well, but there was an issue with parking. She stated that there was only parking on one side of the building. Ms. Dooner stated that people were leaving the polling location and stated that they were not given the opportunity to vote with a Provisional ballot. She also stated that where poll watchers are to sit, she was unable to hear the voters names.

Maggie Hartman asked if there could be more training for the poll workers. Chairperson Christy stated that the poll workers receive in person training, and they also receive training videos, which are step by step. If the poll workers have any questions, they can contact the office or they can refer to training videos.

Pete Beley asked the Board of Elections about the time frame of when the cameras were recording on the ballot drop off boxes. Chairperson Christy stated that the cameras record during the operating hours of the libraries, which were utilized for approximately three weeks. Mr. Begley asked if the Board of Elections have reviewed the video footage from the ballot drop off box cameras. Chairperson Christy stated that he and Mrs. May-Silfee have reviewed them. Mr. Begley asked if the video footage would be livestreamed. Chairperson Christy stated that it would not be livestreamed.

Chairperson Christy read a statement to the Board of Elections from Peter Gardner due to him not being able to attend this Election Board meeting.

Motion by Commissioner Laverdure, seconded by Vice-Chairperson David Parker to adjourn at 11:10 AM.