Board of Elections Meeting - November 2, 2023

- Election Day, Tuesday, November 7th
  - Polls are open from 7:00AM until 8:00PM
  - Voter Services trained over 1,200 poll workers.

- chesco.org
  - Check your voter registration.
  - Information regarding Polling Locations
  - Sample ballots
  - Election Information Videos

- Ballot Summary Report

- There are 13 Drop Boxes in various places in the County. Please check our website for the hours and locations. Drop boxes will be open until 8:00PM on Election Day.

- Facebook Link - facebook.com/chescovoterservices

- Voter Services 610-344-6410

NOTICES

- On Tuesday, November 7th at 7:00AM, The County Board of Elections will conduct the central count of ballots which will take place on the 5th floor, located at 313 W. Market St., West Chester, PA.

- The Chester County Board of Elections will conduct periodic legal review of mail-in and absentee ballot envelopes at the times listed below on November 7th and November 8th at central scan, located at 313 W. Market Street, West Chester.
  - November 7th: 7:30 am, 10:00 am, 1:00 pm, 3:30 pm, 6:30 pm, 9:00 pm
  - November 8th: 9:00 am, 1:00 pm, 5:00 pm

- The official computation of the votes cast & the provisional votes cast at the Municipal Election held on Tuesday, November 7, 2023, in Chester County, as returned by the election officers of the precincts, will begin at 9:00AM on Friday, November 10, 2023, on the 5th floor, located at 313 W. Market St., West Chester, PA.

The following items where previously discussed but I would like to mention these items again:

- During last Board of Elections meeting there was a concern raised about sending mail-in and absentee ballots before Logic & Accuracy testing
  - We do receive a test deck from our ballot printing vendor and scan that test deck prior to giving the OK to print and mail ballots. Voter Services has many steps in their quality assurance process. We print specimen ballots along the way of ballot programming to make sure all functionality is accurately programmed and displayed. After we finalized our ballot programming process we conduct a full election management system review, we print specimen ballots from all possible printers, including from the mail house to make sure all ballots are accepted and tabulated by our voting machines. When that is successfully completed, we give the OK to print and mail the ballots.

- There was a concern raised about voters receiving multiple mail-in or absentee ballots.
  - There are many reasons why a voter possibly needs to request a new ballot; including: the voter never received their ballot, the voter is on the perm mailer and forgot to change their mailing address for the next election, the voter made a mistake in the process and would like to spoil their ballot, the ballot was returned but never received by Voter Services etc. In any event, the voter will need to request a new ballot via an official cancel and reissue form. Voter services will verify the request by comparing the signature to the voter’s official record in the SURE system. After the verification is successful, Voter Services will reissue a ballot. During this reissue process, Voter Services will block the barcode on the ballot return envelope that was originally mailed. This way, if the ballot return package does come back, the county will be able
to segregate the ballot return package as the mail machine that processes the ballot return package, will reject the package.

- **There was a concern raised about the random Dates of Registration (1/1/1800, 1/1/1900) on Voter’s registrations.**
  - Years ago, when the Department of State changed to the SURE system, they converted the data from all individual counties into the SURE database. During this process they used generic data sets for some of the information. Over the years, due to voter registration updates, these have become less in numbers.

- **There were concerns raised about Voter registrations which are tied to commercial buildings/places of business.**
  - When a voter registration displays an address that is not in the SURE system yet, voter services conduct a full investigation to determine if the address may be added. Voter Services investigates any addresses that are identified as non-residential.
  - When Voter Services becomes aware of a potential non-residential address that is already in the SURE system, we appropriately investigate and take steps as allowable by the law. Recently, we did a full review of all USPS locations and UPS addresses. It came to our attention that some of those locations were indeed in the database. We contacted all affected voters and give them a window in which they were asked to communicate with Voter Services to update their information, they also were informed that if that communication did not take place by a certain time, their record would be cancelled. After that window closed, the county did block those addresses in the SURE database.
  - During the last Board of Elections meeting, we were notified of a potential non-residential address. Voter Services is investigating this address and will follow the appropriate process in the allowable window established by law. We are unable to take these steps 90 days prior to a federal election and 30 days prior to a municipal election.

- **While not under the purview of the Board of Elections, there have been concerns raised about Voter Roll Maintenance, specifically when a voter appears on the United States Postal Services’ National Change Of Address (NCOA) list?**
  - The County Must Mail Notices to Voters Who May Have Moved, Using Information Provided by The U.S. Postal Service Through Its National Change of Address Program (NCOA)
    - If The Voter returns the Mailing Confirming the Voter’s Information, The County Updates Its Records Accordingly.
    - If The Mailing Is Not Returned or If It Is Returned as Undeliverable, The County Places the Voter on Inactive Status for Removal after they remain inactive for two federal elections.
      - Inactive Status at The Polling Place – Affirmation Required
        - The Poll Book will state that the Voter must complete an affirmation form prior to receiving their ballot. This affirmation form is similar as a voter registration form and the voter record will be updated with the information provided directly after the election is certified.
      - Under Federal and State Law, No Voter Registration May Be Cancelled Unless:
        - The Voter Affirmatively Requests That His or Her Registration Be Canceled.
        - The Voter Registration Commission Has Proper Proof the Voter Has Died.
        - The Voter is in an Inactive Status and does not vote for two federal elections.
        - The Five-year Notice Has Been Sent and The Voter Does Not Vote or Otherwise Communicate with County Election Officials Through Two General Elections (Even-numbered Years).
  - In 2023, Voter Services sent more than 12,000 notices to voters as part of voter roll maintenance.
  - 9,625 voters were removed from the rolls after the 2022 General Election.