

<b>Meeting Agenda:</b>	Board of Elections Meeting		
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	Monday, March 16th, 2026	<b>Time:</b>	<b>Start:</b> 11:02 am <b>End:</b> 11:23 am
<b>Meeting Facilitator:</b>	Brianna Nigrone-Souza, Deputy-Chief Clerk	<b>Location:</b>	Lehigh County Government Center, Public Hearing Room

<b>Attendance:</b>	
Brianna Nigrone-Souza	Deputy-Chief Clerk of Elections
Joshua Siegel	Lehigh County Executive, Election Board Chair
Michael O’Hare	Election Board Member
Dr. Jennifer Allen	Election Board Member (Via Zoom)
Jessica Baraket	Director of Administration
Sarah Murray, Esq.	Lehigh County Deputy Solicitor

The meeting is called to order by Executive Joshua Siegel at 11:02 am and announced that the meeting is being recorded for public record.

Approval of Minutes from January 20<sup>th</sup> & March 9<sup>th</sup>, 2026 Election Board Meetings

- Motion to approve the January 20<sup>th</sup> and March 9<sup>th</sup> Minutes made by Mr. Michael O’Hare and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Dr. Jennifer Allen. Motion passes 3-0.
- No public comment regarding the minutes.

Old Business (Tim Benyo’s Resignation & Process for Appointment of New Chief Clerk)

- Executive Siegel introduced Jessica Baraket, Director of Administration.
- Jessica Barakat provided an update to the job posting that 32 applicants have applied but she hopes to narrow it down to 14 candidates with transferable skills with the Board of Election’s direction.
  - o Mr. O’Hare expressed his trust in Jessica Baraket’s judgement.

- Jessica Barakat suggests with the Board of Election's direction to narrow down to about 8 applicants with elections, human resources, law, or other applicable experience.
- Dr. Allen asked if anyone with elections experience has applied.
  - Jessica Baraket said there are 4 applicants with elections experience. 1 Allentown Judge of Elections, a Northampton County employee, and 2 Lehigh County Employees; 1 current and 1 former.
- The Board of Elections agreed to narrow the applicants to interview.
  - Sarah Murray said the Board of Elections can vote to have a special meeting to do final interviews and potentially have something public. Executive Siegel wants the process to be transparent.
- Mr. O'Hare questioned how the applicants that aren't selected will be notified.
  - Executive Siegel said there are automatic email replies sent that thank the applicants for applying but inform them that they will not be selected.
- Jessica Baraket asked if the job posting should be closed.
  - Sarah Murray suggested the job to be open for a week after being posted and to take it down tomorrow marking a full week.
  - Jessica Baraket said the 8 total applicants could change depending what comes in the next 24 hours.
  - Dr. Allen questioned why the job posting would be closed if the position is not filled yet. Dr. Allen supports the posting to stay open.
  - Mr. O'Hare thinks it will be confusing with new applicants coming in.
  - Jessica Baraket suggests to keep the job posting open but only move forward with current applicants.
  - The Board of Elections agrees to have a reserve of applicants in case the first 8 are not successful.
- Sarah Murray and Mr. O'Hare suggest Jessica Baraket joins the Board of Elections to interview. Executive Siegel agrees.
- Sarah Murray suggests Mr. Benyo joins any interviews before his last day Friday March 20<sup>th</sup> to provide insight to the job.
  - Dr. Allen apologizes she will be out of town and unavailable Wednesday, March 18<sup>th</sup> to Saturday, March 21<sup>st</sup>.
- The Board of Elections thanks Mr. Benyo for his years of service, knowledge, and dedication.

New Business (Discussion/Approval of Letter to DOS pertaining to Electronic Pollbook Pilot Program)

- Sarah Murray introduced the drafted letter to be emailed to Secretary of the State, Al Schmidt.
  - o The letter is read by Executive Siegel.
  - o Dr. Allen approves the letter.
- Mr. O'Hare questions the logistics of electronic poll books such as paying for internet or hot spots at many polling locations that do not have Wi-Fi.
- Executive Siegel calls for a motion to send the letter with the correction of a small typo. Mr. O'Hare makes the motion, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Dr. Allen. Motion passes 3-0.
- Sarah Murray will correct the error and send the letter.

#### 2026 Special Election Final Certification Approval

- Motion for the First Certification of the 2026 Special Election made by Dr. Allen and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mr. O'Hare. Motion passes 3-0.

#### Public Comment

- Mr. Elbich thanks Sarah Murray and the Board of Elections for the well-crafted opposition to electronic poll books letter.

Motion to Adjourn made by Mr. O'Hare and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Dr. Allen, meeting adjourned at 11:23 am.