# BERKS COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES June 6, 2025 – 12:00 P.M.

Michael S. Rivera, Chair
Christian Y. Leinbach, Vice Chair
Dante Santoni, Jr., Commissioner
Anne Norton, Chief Clerk
Christine M. Sadler, County Solicitor - not present
Cody L. Kauffman, First Assistant County Solicitor

CALL TO ORDER: 12:20 P.M.

### APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

The Board approved the minutes from the May 29, 2025, Election Board meeting as presented.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS**

None

### Agenda Items

### 1. Breaking of Ties From the May 20, 2025 Municipal Primary.

Director of Election, Anne Norton, announced the rules of the drawing to break ties. Three ties for ballot position were decided as follows:

- a. Democratic Member of Council, St. Lawrence Borough
  - i. Michael C. Fritz 16
  - ii. David Eggert 11
- b. Democratic Member of Council, Robesonia Borough
  - i. Randall Gartner 7
  - ii. David Bright 9
- c. Republican Member of Council, Topton Borough
  - i. Julie Pummer 9
  - ii. Alane Falcone 12

### 2. Write-in Vote Cumulation

Ms. Norton stated that the Elections staff reviewed approximately 14,000 write-ins for the Municipal Primary. Further, the Elections office received 81 Petitions to Cumulate from write-in candidates.

First Assistant County Solicitor, Cody Kauffman, stated that current law is guided by voter intent as it pertains to write-in cumulation. The Board of Election determines whether or not to grant a candidate's petition to cumulate based upon the Board's determination of voter intent.

- i. On the motion of Commissioner Santoni, seconded by Commissioner Leinbach, the Board granted Steve Wilson's Petition to Cumulate Democrat write-in votes for Maxatawny Township Supervisor 6-year term, as presented.
- ii. On the motion of Commissioner Leinbach, seconded by Commissioner Santoni, the Board granted Michael Stump's Petition to Cumulate Republican write-in votes for Alsace Township Supervisor 6-year term, as presented.
- iii. On the motion of Commissioner Santoni, seconded by Commissioner Leinbach, the Board granted Kristi J. Piersol's Petition to Cumulate Democrat write-in votes for Exeter Township Tax Collector 4-year term, as presented.
- iv. On the motion of Commissioner Leinbach, seconded by Commissioner Santoni, the Board granted Matthew J. Stitzel's Petition to Cumulate Democrat write-in votes for Berks County Coroner as presented, with the exception of 17 write-in votes for "Mark Stitzel".
- v. On the motion of Commissioner Santoni, seconded by Commissioner Leinbach, the Board granted Matthew J. Stitzel's Petition to Cumulate Republican write-in votes for Berks County Coroner as presented, pursuant to <a href="Shambach v. Bickhart">Shambach v. Bickhart</a>, 845 A.2d 793 (Pa. 2004).
- vi. On the motion of Commissioner Leinbach, seconded by Commissioner Santoni, the Board granted Emily L. Bundy's Petition to Cumulate Republican write-in votes for Bern Township Auditor 4-year term, as presented.
- vii. On the motion of Commissioner Santoni, seconded by Commissioner Leinbach, the Board granted Karen E. Levengood's Petition to Cumulate Democrat write-in votes for Alsace Township Tax Collector 4-year term, as presented.
- viii. On the motion of Commissioner Leinbach, seconded by Commissioner Santoni, the Board granted Karen E. Levengood's Petition to Cumulate Republican writein votes for Alsace Township Tax Collector 4-year term, as presented, with the exception of 1 write-in vote for "Karen".
- ix. On the motion of Commissioner Leinbach, seconded by Commissioner Santoni, the Board granted Paul David Stengle's Petition to Cumulate Democrat write-in votes for Earl Township Auditor 6-year term, as presented.
- x. On the motion of Commissioner Santoni, seconded by Commissioner Leinbach, the Board granted George R. Bell III's Petition to Cumulate Democrat write-in votes for Exeter Township Supervisor 6-year term, as presented.
- xi. On the motion of Commissioner Leinbach, seconded by Commissioner Santoni, the Board granted Mark Paine's Petition to Cumulate Democrat write-in votes for Shoemakersville Borough Council 4-year term, as presented.
- xii. On the motion of Commissioner Santoni, seconded by Commissioner Leinbach, the Board granted Mark Paine's Petition to Cumulate Republican write-in votes for Shoemakersville Borough Council 4-year term, as presented, with the exception of 1 write-in vote for "Mark" and 1 write-in vote for "Brian Paine".
- xiii. On the motion of Commissioner Leinbach, seconded by Commissioner Santoni, the Board granted Tonya Liepins Campbell's Petition to Cumulate Democrat write-in votes for Cumru Township Commissioner 4-year term, as presented.
- xiv. On the motion of Commissioner Santoni, seconded by Commissioner Leinbach, the Board granted Matthew Robert McCluskey's Petition to Cumulate Democrat

- write-in votes for Washington Township Supervisor 6-year term, as presented, with the exception of 1 write-in vote for "Malcom Mcloskey".
- xv. On the motion of Commissioner Leinbach, seconded by Commissioner Santoni, the Board granted Robert John Shuttlesworth's Petition to Cumulate Republican write-in votes for Wyomissing Borough Council 4-year term, as presented.
- xvi. On the motion of Commissioner Santoni, seconded by Commissioner Leinbach, the Board granted Harold W. Steve, Jr.'s Petition to Cumulate Democrat write-in votes for Robeson Township Supervisor 6-year term, as presented.
- xvii. On the motion of Commissioner Leinbach, seconded by Commissioner Santoni, the Board granted Margaret Jean Fix's Petition to Cumulate Democrat write-in votes for Robeson Township Supervisor 6-year term, as presented.
- xviii. On the motion of Commissioner Santoni, seconded by Commissioner Leinbach, the Board granted Katie Ann Monahan's Petition to Cumulate Democrat write-in votes for Kutztown School Director 4-year term, as presented.
- xix. On the motion of Commissioner Leinbach, seconded by Commissioner Santoni, the Board granted Jennifer Heffner's Petition to Cumulate Republican write-in votes for Laureldale Borough Tax Collector 4-year term, as presented.
- xx. On the motion of Commissioner Santoni, seconded by Commissioner Leinbach, the Board granted Cherlynn Martin's Petition to Cumulate Republican write-in votes for Laureldale Borough Mayor 4-year term, as presented.
- xxi. On the motion of Commissioner Leinbach, seconded by Commissioner Santoni, the Board granted Cherlynn Martin's Petition to Cumulate Democrat write-in votes for Laureldale Borough Mayor 4-year term, as presented.
- xxii. On the motion of Commissioner Santoni, seconded by Commissioner Leinbach, the Board granted Willis W. Ruth's Petition to Cumulate Republican write-in votes for Greenwich Township Inspector of Election 4-year term, as presented.
- xxiii. On the motion of Commissioner Leinbach, seconded by Commissioner Santoni, the Board granted Helene Weigle Ruth's Petition to Cumulate Republican write-in votes for Greenwich Township Judge of Election 4-year term, as presented.
- xxiv. On the motion of Commissioner Santoni, seconded by Commissioner Leinbach, the Board granted Brian S. Eveland's Petition to Cumulate Democrat write-in votes for Bern Township Supervisor 6-year term, as presented.
- xxv. On the motion of Commissioner Leinbach, seconded by Commissioner Santoni, the Board granted Janet L. Hess' Petition to Cumulate Republican write-in votes for Laureldale Borough Council 4-year term, as presented, with the exception of 1 write-in vote for "Janet".
- xxvi. On the motion of Commissioner Santoni, seconded by Commissioner Leinbach, the Board granted Ron Peters' Petition to Cumulate Democrat write-in votes for Hamburg Borough Mayor 4-year term, as presented, with the exception of 1 write-in vote for "Ron".
- xxvii. On the motion of Commissioner Leinbach, seconded by Commissioner Santoni, the Board granted Carl Dunn's Petition to Cumulate Democrat write-in votes for Greenwich Township Supervisor 6-year term, as presented.
- xxviii. On the motion of Commissioner Santoni, seconded by Commissioner Leinbach, the Board granted Lelayna April Yarnall's Petition to Cumulate Democrat write-in votes for Daniel Boone School Director 2-year term, as presented.

- xxix. On the motion of Commissioner Leinbach, seconded by Commissioner Santoni, the Board granted Brandon Pugh's Petition to Cumulate 5 Republican write-in votes for Lyons Borough Mayor 4-year term, as presented; however, the Board denied Mr. Pugh's accompanying "supplemental petition" requesting to be declared the write-in winner as Mr. Pugh did not receive the requisite number of write-in votes to obtain the nomination pursuant to 25 P.S. § 3155.
- xxx. On the motion of Commissioner Santoni, seconded by Commissioner Leinbach, the Board granted Robert A. Jacobs' Petition to Cumulate Democrat write-in votes for Birdsboro Borough Council 4-year term, as presented, with the exception of 1 write-in vote for "Robert".
- xxxi. On the motion of Commissioner Leinbach, seconded by Commissioner Santoni, the Board granted Robert A. Jacobs' Petition to Cumulate Republican write-in votes for Birdsboro Borough Council 4-year term, as presented.
- xxxii. On the motion of Commissioner Santoni, seconded by Commissioner Leinbach, the Board granted Nancy L.S. Kauffman's Petition to Cumulate Republican write-in votes for Birdsboro Borough Council 4-year term, as presented.
- xxxiii. On the motion of Commissioner Leinbach, seconded by Commissioner Santoni, the Board granted Beth Ann Young's Petition to Cumulate Republican write-in votes for Laureldale Borough Council 4-year term, as presented.
- xxxiv. On the motion of Commissioner Santoni, seconded by Commissioner Leinbach, the Board granted Ann L. Reynolds' Petition to Cumulate Republican write-in votes for Robesonia Borough Tax Collector 4-year term, as presented.
- xxxv. On the motion of Commissioner Leinbach, seconded by Commissioner Santoni, the Board granted Nancy L.S. Kauffman's Petition to Cumulate Democrat write-in votes for Birdsboro Borough Council 4-year term, as presented, with the exception of 1 write-in vote for "Nancy".
- xxxvi. On the motion of Commissioner Santoni, seconded by Commissioner Leinbach, the Board granted Ann L. Reynolds' Petition to Cumulate Democrat write-in votes for Robesonia Borough Tax Collector 4-year term, as presented.
- xxxvii. On the motion of Commissioner Leinbach, seconded by Commissioner Santoni, the Board granted David M. Bright's Petition to Cumulate Democrat write-in votes for Robesonia Borough Council 4-year term, as presented.
- xxxviii. On the motion of Commissioner Santoni, seconded by Commissioner Leinbach, the Board granted David L. Behm's Petition to Cumulate Republican write-in votes for Upper Tulpehocken Township Supervisor 6-year term, as presented.
  - xxxix. On the motion of Commissioner Leinbach, seconded by Commissioner Santoni, the Board granted David L. Behm's Petition to Cumulate Democrat write-in votes for Upper Tulpehocken Township Supervisor 6-year term, as presented.
    - xl. On the motion of Commissioner Santoni, seconded by Commissioner Leinbach, the Board granted Marsha A. Wert's Petition to Cumulate Republican write-in votes for Exeter Township Majority Inspector 4-year term, as presented.
    - xli. On the motion of Commissioner Leinbach, seconded by Commissioner Santoni, the Board granted Nathan Hollister's Petition to Cumulate Republican write-in votes for Kutztown Borough Mayor 4-year term, as presented.

- xlii. On the motion of Commissioner Santoni, seconded by Commissioner Leinbach, the Board granted Giovanna Romano's Petition to Cumulate Democrat write-in votes for Kutztown Borough Council 4-year term, as presented.
- xliii. On the motion of Commissioner Leinbach, seconded by Commissioner Santoni, the Board granted Frederick C. Levering's Petition to Cumulate Democrat write-in votes for Wyomissing Borough Mayor 4-year term, as presented.
- xliv. On the motion of Commissioner Santoni, seconded by Commissioner Leinbach, the Board granted Nytza I. Santiago's Petition to Cumulate Republican write-in votes for Laureldale Borough Council 4-year term, as presented.
- xlv. On the motion of Commissioner Leinbach, seconded by Commissioner Santoni, the Board granted Wesley O. Roma's Petition to Cumulate Republican write-in votes for Washington Township Auditor 6-year term, as presented.
- xlvi. On the motion of Commissioner Santoni, seconded by Commissioner Leinbach, the Board granted Matthew Elgonitis' Petition to Cumulate Republican write-in votes for Birdsboro Borough Council 4-year term, as presented.
- xlvii. On the motion of Commissioner Santoni, seconded by Commissioner Leinbach, the Board granted Jared Robert Myers' Petition to Cumulate Democrat write-in votes for Birdsboro Borough Council 4-year term, as presented.
- xIviii. On the motion of Commissioner Leinbach, seconded by Commissioner Santoni, the Board granted Richard John Martino's Petition to Cumulate Republican writein votes for Daniel Boone School Director 2-year term, as presented.
- xlix. On the motion of Commissioner Santoni, seconded by Commissioner Leinbach, the Board granted Robert W. Reynolds, Jr.'s Petition to Cumulate Republican write-in votes for Maxatawny Township Supervisor 6-year term, as presented.
  - I. On the motion of Commissioner Leinbach, seconded by Commissioner Santoni, the Board granted David B. Scheidt's Petition to Cumulate Republican write-in votes for Exeter Township Auditor as presented.
  - li. On the motion of Commissioner Leinbach, seconded by Commissioner Santoni, the Board granted Kenneth Tom Parris' Petition to Cumulate Democrat write-in votes for Caernarvon Township Supervisor 6-year term, as presented.
  - lii. On the motion of Commissioner Santoni, seconded by Commissioner Leinbach, the Board granted Alison Epting's Petition to Cumulate Democrat write-in votes for Tilden Township Tax Collector 4-year term, as presented, with the exception of 1 write-in vote for "Allison".
  - liii. On the motion of Commissioner Leinbach, seconded by Commissioner Santoni, the Board granted Joshua Lee Adams' Petition to Cumulate Republican write-in votes for Union Township Supervisor 6-year term, as presented, with the exception of 1 write-in vote for "Joshua Taylor".
- liv. On the motion of Commissioner Santoni, seconded by Commissioner Leinbach, the Board granted Jonathan K. DelCollo's Petition to Cumulate Democrat write-in votes for Berks County Prothonotary as presented, with the exception of 1 write-in vote for "John Dercola" and 1 write-in vote for "Dell conno".
- lv. On the motion of Commissioner Leinbach, seconded by Commissioner Santoni, the Board granted Christopher Forte's Petition to Cumulate Democrat write-in votes for Tilden Township Supervisor 6-year term, as presented.

- lvi. On the motion of Commissioner Santoni, seconded by Commissioner Leinbach, the Board granted Christopher Forte's Petition to Cumulate Republican write-in votes for Tilden Township Supervisor 6-year term, as presented, with the exception of 1 write-in vote for "Crfrte".
- Ivii. On the motion of Commissioner Leinbach, seconded by Commissioner Santoni, the Board granted Mitchell R. Darcourt's Petition to Cumulate Democrat write-in votes for Berks County Treasurer as presented, with the exception of 1 write-in vote for "Mitch".
- lviii. On the motion of Commissioner Santoni, seconded by Commissioner Leinbach, the Board granted Jamie L. Schur's Petition to Cumulate Democrat write-in votes for Bernville Borough Mayor 4-year term, as presented.
- lix. On the motion of Commissioner Leinbach, seconded by Commissioner Santoni, the Board granted Isaac J. Jones' Petition to Cumulate Republican write-in votes for Union Township Supervisor 6-year term, as presented, with the exception of 1 write-in vote for "Issac".
- lx. On the motion of Commissioner Santoni, seconded by Commissioner Leinbach, the Board granted Thomas Moorhead's Petition to Cumulate Democrat write-in votes for Bethel Township Supervisor 6-year term, as presented.
- lxi. On the motion of Commissioner Leinbach, seconded by Commissioner Santoni, the Board granted Sherri A. Freifelder's Petition to Cumulate Democrat write-in votes for South Heidelberg Township Judge of Election 4-year term, as presented.
- lxii. On the motion of Commissioner Santoni, seconded by Commissioner Leinbach, the Board granted Tara Kennedy-Kline's Petition to Cumulate Democrat write-in votes for Shoemakersville Borough Council 4-year term, as presented.
- lxiii. On the motion of Commissioner Leinbach, seconded by Commissioner Santoni, the Board granted Mark Todd Watkins' Petition to Cumulate Republican write-in votes for Fleetwood Borough Council 4-year term, as presented.
- lxiv. On the motion of Commissioner Santoni, seconded by Commissioner Leinbach, the Board granted Mark Todd Watkins' Petition to Cumulate Democrat write-in votes for Fleetwood Borough Council 4-year term, as presented.
- lxv. On the motion of Commissioner Leinbach, seconded by Commissioner Santoni, the Board granted Heather Lynn Sustello's Petition to Cumulate Republican write-in votes for Laureldale Borough Council 4-year term, as presented.
- Ixvi. On the motion of Commissioner Santoni, seconded by Commissioner Leinbach, the Board granted Jami D. Jamison's Petition to Cumulate Democrat write-in votes for Bern Township Tax Collector 4-year term, as presented.
- Ixvii. On the motion of Commissioner Leinbach, seconded by Commissioner Santoni, the Board granted Thomas L. Schoener's Petition to Cumulate Republican write-in votes for Heidelberg Township Supervisor 6-year term, as presented.
- Ixviii. On the motion of Commissioner Leinbach, seconded by Commissioner Santoni, the Board granted Ronald B. Mest, Jr.'s Petition to Cumulate Republican write-in votes for Douglass Township Supervisor 6-year term, as presented, with the exception of 1 write-in vote for "Metz".

- lxix. On the motion of Commissioner Santoni, seconded by Commissioner Leinbach, the Board granted Lisa B. Bingaman's Petition to Cumulate Republican write-in votes for Amity Township Tax Collector 4-year term, as presented.
- lxx. On the motion of Commissioner Leinbach, seconded by Commissioner Santoni, the Board granted Robert Posenauer's Petition to Cumulate Republican write-in votes for Colebrookdale Township Judge of Election 4-year term, as presented.
- lxxi. On the motion of Commissioner Santoni, seconded by Commissioner Leinbach, the Board granted Beth A. Sattizahn's Petition to Cumulate Democrat write-in votes for Robesonia Borough Council 4-year term, as presented.
- lxxii. On the motion of Commissioner Leinbach, seconded by Commissioner Santoni, the Board granted Randall D. Gartner's Petition to Cumulate Democrat write-in votes for Robesonia Borough Council 4-year term, as presented.
- Ixxiii. On the motion of Commissioner Santoni, seconded by Commissioner Leinbach, the Board granted Harry L. Fox, Jr.'s Petition to Cumulate Republican write-in votes for Tulpehocken School Director 4-year term, as presented, with the exception of 2 write-in votes for "Rusty Fox".
- lxxiv. On the motion of Commissioner Leinbach, seconded by Commissioner Santoni, the Board granted Zachary Stevenson Baker's Petition to Cumulate Republican write-in votes for Brecknock Township Judge of Election 4-year term, as presented.
- lxxv. On the motion of Commissioner Santoni, seconded by Commissioner Leinbach, the Board granted Carl E. Reidler's Petition to Cumulate Republican write-in votes for Wernersville Borough Mayor 4-year term, as presented.
- lxxvi. On the motion of Commissioner Leinbach, seconded by Commissioner Santoni, the Board granted Mandy P. Miller's Petition to Cumulate Democrat write-in votes for Berks County Sheriff as presented, with the exception of 34 write-in votes for "Miller".
- Ixxvii. On the motion of Commissioner Santoni, seconded by Commissioner Leinbach, the Board granted Paul L. Whiteman, Jr.'s Petition to Cumulate Republican write-in votes for Caernarvon Township Supervisor 6-year term, as presented, with the exception of 1 write-in vote for "Paul Whitmeyer, Jr."
- Ixxviii. On the motion of Commissioner Leinbach, seconded by Commissioner Santoni, the Board granted Jason S. Coyle's Petition to Cumulate Democrat write-in votes for Brecknock Township Supervisor 2-year term, as presented.
- lxxix. On the motion of Commissioner Santoni, seconded by Commissioner Leinbach, the Board granted Ronald J. McClure's Petition to Cumulate Democrat write-in votes for Brecknock Township Supervisor 6-year term, as presented.
- lxxx. On the motion of Commissioner Leinbach, seconded by Commissioner Santoni, the Board granted Michael N. Oswald's Petition to Cumulate Republican write-in votes for Hamburg Borough Council 4-year term, as presented.
- lxxxi. On the motion of Commissioner Santoni, seconded by Commissioner Leinbach, the Board granted Anthony Tucci's Petition to Cumulate Republican write-in votes for Birdsboro Borough Council 4-year term, as presented.

### 3. Authorize Execution of the Following:

- a. On the motion of Commissioner Santoni, seconded by Commissioner Leinbach, the Board authorized the execution of the votes cast for state-wide offices from the May 20, 2025 Municipal Primary to the Department of State Bureau of Elections.
- b. On the motion of Commissioner Leinbach, seconded by Commissioner Santoni, the Board authorized the certification of the official results of votes cast during the Municipal Primary held on May 20, 2025.

## 4. <u>Discussion and decision as to whether to refer the Washington Township supervisor candidate complaints to the District Attorney's Office for further investigation</u>

Assistant County Solicitor, Alexa Antanavage, briefly explained issues surrounding the Washington Township supervisor candidate, including discrepancies with the candidate and committee campaign finance reports. Given the inconsistencies, Ms. Antanavage recommends referring the Washington Township supervisor candidate complaints to the District Attorney's office. On the motion of Commissioner Leinbach, seconded by Commissioner Santoni, the Board referred the Washington Township supervisor candidate complaints to the District Attorney's office for further investigation.

# 5. <u>Discussion of Oley Valley School District election advertising complaint for decision as to whether to refer the matter to the District Attorney's office for further investigation</u>

Mr. Kauffman explained that a complaint was submitted to the Election Services office regarding a text message sent on May 19, 2025 to registered Republicans in the Oley Valley School District which advocated for the election or opposition of certain candidates. Mr. Kauffman stated the text message did not include a disclaimer as to who paid for the text message. Therefore, Mr. Kauffman recommended forwarding the complaint to the District Attorney's office. On the motion of Commissioner Santoni, seconded by Commissioner Leinbach, the Board approved the referral of the Oley Valley School District election advertising complaint to the District Attorney's office for further investigation.

### 6. <u>Discussion and decision regarding the handling of campaign</u> signage/advertising complaints

In response to the high number of campaign signage and advertising complaints, the Board discussed establishing guidelines for managing campaign signage/advertising complaints. On the motion of Commissioner Leinbach, seconded by Commissioner Santoni, the Board approved the County Solicitor's office and the Election Services work jointly to establish uniform guidelines for handling campaign signage and advertising complaints.

### **Election Director's Report**

Ms. Norton stated that close to 100 candidates were nominated through write-ins in the 2025 Municipal Primary. The Election Services office will notify the winners about the next steps to take for accepting the nomination.

Additionally, Ms. Norton stated that the 2% audit was completed with no differences noted.

Lastly, Ms. Norton stated that the official results for the 2025 Municipal Primary will be posted to the website.

### General Comments from the Board regarding current election-related issues

The Board of Elections thanked the Election Services staff, Anne Norton, Cody Kauffman and Alexa Antanavage for all their work during the Municipal Primary. The Board also congratulated all the candidates who participated in the Municipal Primary.

Commissioner Leinbach read a letter from a constituent who serves as Judge of Election. The letter highly commended Anne Norton for her work and dedication as the Election Services Director. Commissioner Leinbach entertained a motion to add the letter to the official record. On the motion of Commissioner Santoni, seconded by Commissioner Rivera, the Board approved adding the letter to the official meeting record.

### **Public Comment**

Jeffrey Wolfe, of Brecknock Township, spoke about the importance of accuracy when counting ballots and using a hand count to audit the results if there are any discrepancies or accuracy concerns.

Andrew Kline, Alsace Township, commended and thanked Anne Norton for her service to the County. Mr. Kline noted that the letter Commissioner Leinbach read is exactly true to Anne and the quality work she does for the community.

Adjournment: 2:03 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Anne Norton, Chief Clerk



Christian Y. Leinbach, Commission and Chair Berks County Board of Commissioners Services Center, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor 633 Court Street Reading, PA 19601

#### Dear Commissioner Leinbach:

I am currently and have been for about five years a judge of elections. The purpose of this letter is to thank the Board for hiring Anne Norton as Director of the Board of Elections and to let you know that she is doing a remarkably good job supporting us.

I practiced law for over 40 years and interacted with local officials throughout the United States in connection with large and often controversial energy projects. This experience taught me what good governance and leadership is and by every measure Ann is a living example of it.

Here are some specifics: (1) Ann routinely attends election worker training sessions, listens and often writes down the questions that are asked. I think that she views the questions as an indicator of where improvements are needed and follows-up. (2) Ann either herself or through her staff promptly responds to questions and requests. (3) When Ann is asked if a process can be changed, she explains directly and clearly if there is a legal, financial or other constraint precluding its adoption. When it is possible to make the change, she does so promptly, often giving credit to election workers for its suggestion. (4) Perhaps most importantly her leadership demonstrates dedicated public service with integrity, virtue and excellence. Through her actions she sets the standard to which each poll worker understands they are expected to adhere.

I told Ann that I was sending you this letter because I did not want to inadvertently do anything to complicate her already busy life. She smiled, thanked me and told me that it was up to me to decide what to do. That's Ann.

