

**BERKS COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS
MEETING MINUTES
February 19, 2026 – 11:00 A.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 11:00 A.M.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

The Board approved the minutes from January 22, 2026, Election Board meeting as presented.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS

None.

AGENDA ITEMS

1. Election Day Additional County Staff Workers

Ms. Norton said Election Services is requesting the Board's approval for 73 County staff to work Election Day, processing mail-in/absentee ballots, answering phones and working as rovers. The Board asked questions and made comments on the matter. On the motion of Commissioner Santoni, seconded by Commissioner Leinbach, the Board approved the Election Day Additional County Staff Workers for the 2026 General Primary.

2. Early Processing of Mail-in and Absentee Ballot Applications

Commissioner Rivera introduced a request by Election Services to begin processing mail-in and absentee ballot applications earlier than the statutory 50 days before an election, due to operational needs. On the motion of Commissioner Leinbach, seconded by Commissioner Santoni, the Board approved the request for early processing of mail-in and absentee ballot applications for the 2026 General Primary.

3. Proposed Ballot Drop Box Schedule

Commissioner Rivera said that the proposed drop box schedule for the General Primary covers the same timeframe as prior elections and the boxes will be located at the Services Center, South Campus and Reading Regional Airport. On the motion of Commissioner Santoni, seconded by Commissioner Leinbach, the Board approved the ballot drop box schedule for the 2026 General Primary as follows:

DROP BOX SCHEDULE

**Locations: Services Center, South Campus
and Reading Regional Airport**

MAY 19, 2026 – GENERAL PRIMARY

DATE	HOURS
MONDAY - 5/4/26	8 AM - 5 PM
TUESDAY - 5/5/26	8 AM - 5 PM
WEDNESDAY - 5/6/26	8 AM - 5 PM
THURSDAY - 5/7/26	8 AM - 5 PM
FRIDAY - 5/8/26	8 AM - 5 PM
MONDAY - 5/11/26	8 AM - 5 PM
TUESDAY - 5/12/26	8 AM - 5 PM
WEDNESDAY - 5/13/26	8 AM - 5 PM
THURSDAY - 5/14/26	8 AM - 5 PM
FRIDAY - 5/15/26	8 AM - 5 PM
SATURDAY - 5/16/26	8 AM - 1 PM
SUNDAY - 5/17/26	12 PM - 4 PM
MONDAY - 5/18/26	8 AM - 6 PM
TUESDAY - 5/19/26	7 AM - 8 PM

4. Voter Hall of Fame Recognition

The Election Board congratulated Mary Kozak on being inducted in the Pennsylvania Voter Hall of Fame.

ELECTION DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Ms. Norton noted the Election Services office is anxious to begin processing the mail-in and absentee ballot applications. The petition circulating and filing period opened this week on February 17 and runs through 5:00 pm on March 10. County committepeople will file their petitions in the Election Services office. Anyone else that is on the ballot (including state committepeople) will file in Harrisburg for this election.

Commissioner Rivera reminded candidates running for office to please read and follow the instructions provided. He also reminded voters that request permanent mail-in and absentee ballots, that they need to apply every year.

GENERAL COMMENTS FROM THE BOARD REGARDING CURRENT ELECTION-RELATED ISSUES

None.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Jeffrey Wolfe, of Brecknock Township, has concerns about procedures when the DS200 tabulator malfunctions, and post-election audits.

ADJOURNMENT 11:23 A.M.

Respectfully Submitted,


Anne Norton, Chief Clerk

