



Olivia DeMarco <[REDACTED]>

Broad and Liberty/questions about changes to election board representation

2 messages

Marofsky, Adrienne [REDACTED]

Thu, Feb 2, 2023 at 12:48 PM

To: Todd Shepherd [REDACTED]

Cc: Olivia DeMarco [REDACTED]

Todd,

I spoke to both Councilwoman Reuther and the County Solicitor who worked with the Election Department to modernize the election provisions of the County administrative code. The election update is part of a planned review of the entire County Administrative Code. Last year, Council Chair Dr. Monica Taylor appointed a Code Review Committee to undertake that task. If you review Council's agendas over the last year you will note that several code amendments have been voted on including purchasing and park regulations, which was voted on last night.

All of the Administrative Code amendments have been advertised and posted in accordance with state law and the County Charter. The election code amendments, like the other code changes, were subject to two public readings of the statutes and public hearings, all of which have been listed in the timely posted County Council agendas. There were several people present to comment at both readings of the election code amendment ordinance and during the public hearing prior to adoption. Comments were both in favor of and opposed to the adoption of the ordinance which indicates general public awareness.

The Delaware County Charter gives the County Council unfettered discretion over who to select as the minority party member of the election board. State law requires that the Council select from a list provided by the chair of the minority party but provides no further guidance. The County Code provides a framework for implementing the state requirement. Both the County Solicitor and the Solicitor for the Election Board have reviewed the amended ordinance regarding the appointment of the minority party member of the election board and are confident it is consistent with state law.

Jim Allen, the County Director of Elections gives a description of the reasoning behind various procedural changes in the public hearing segment of the Council meeting where the election code amendment was adopted. You can watch that section by going to the County Council agenda for that meeting and clicking on the public hearing item. It will bring up the relevant part of the recorded meeting on the video. Councilwoman Reuther noted that most of the changes you asked about were addressed by Mr. Allen, with the exception of why a report on registered voters is no longer sent to the Commonwealth 20 days prior to the election. Act 77, adopted by the General Assembly in 2019 and effective for the 2020 primary election, changed the deadline for registering to vote prior to an election from 30 days to 15 days; the 20 day voter registration report required by the County Code was no longer consistent with state law.

Sincerely,

Adrienne Marofsky

Public Relations Director for Delaware County

201 W. Front Street | Media, Pennsylvania 19063

Office: [REDACTED] Cell: [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]



From: Todd Shepherd <[REDACTED]>

Sent: Wednesday, February 1, 2023 3:19 PM

To: Marofsky, Adrienne <[REDACTED]>

Cc: Olivia DeMarco <[REDACTED]>

Subject: (EXTERNAL) Re: (EXTERNAL) questions about changes to election board representation

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Good afternoon, Adrienne:

While doing some more work on this issue, our story/editorial will likely feature a quote from an expert who will say this move by the county is legally dubious, based on state election code 25 Pa. Stat. Ann. § 2641 (see the attached .pdf file). What would the county say in response to those who have legal concerns about the ordinance?

Please push the deadline out a couple of hours to noon or 1 p.m. since we put another question on your plate. Thanks.

Thanks, ~~~ts

On Wed, Feb 1, 2023 at 10:13 AM Marofsky, Adrienne <[REDACTED]> wrote:

Good Morning,

I am working on this request for you.

Sincerely,

Adrienne Marofsky