# MONTGOMERY COUNTY REPUBLICAN COMMITTEE PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY REPORT

June 24<sup>th</sup>, 2020

# **Montgomery County Republican Committee**

Chairman, Elizabeth Preate Havey Vice Chairman, Nancy Becker Treasurer, Anthony Spangler Executive Director, Julia Vahey

# **Table of Contents**

- A. Summary: Page 2
- B. Mail-In Ballots- Timing Issues: Page 4
- C. Mail-In Ballots- Incorrect Ballots: Page 11
- D. Drop-Off Ballot Boxes: Page 18
- E. Election Day Issues: Page 21
- F. Polling Location Changes and Poll Workers: Page 25
- G. Assisted Living and Personal Care Facilities: Page 26

# A. Summary

The Montgomery County Republican Committee (MCRC) has compiled the following report based upon hundreds of complaints our office received concerning the June 2<sup>nd</sup> Presidential Primary Election. Throughout the several weeks leading up to the Primary Election, Montgomery County election processes and procedures were plagued with issues. Notably, the Montgomery County Election Board, delayed the mailing of mail-in ballots, mailed 10,000 ballots with incorrect instructions, mailed 2,000 incorrect ballots to voters, did not adequately staff and supply polling locations for voter turnout, and took 17 days to count all mail-in and provisional ballots.

The Primary Election was originally scheduled for April 28th. Amid the Covid-19 pandemic, the Pennsylvania Legislature passed Senate Bill 422 postponing the Primary Election until June 2nd. This legislative change also consolidated polling locations, moved polls outside of assisted care facilities, and allowed counties to process mail-in ballots starting at 7 am on Election Day. Postponing the Primary Election provided Election Boards statewide an additional five weeks to prepare.

During a normal election, Montgomery County operates with 352 polling locations. The Montgomery County Election Board chose to reduce polling locations countywide by 40%, the largest reduction they were legally permitted to make. Montgomery County operated with 140 polling locations for the 2020 Primary Election all within Montgomery County public schools.

Additionally, in the 2016 Presidential General Election, the Montgomery County Election Board only processed 31,000 absentee ballots applications. For the 2020 Presidential Primary Election 158,965 mail-in and absentee ballots were requested in Montgomery County. Of the 158,965 ballots, 36,906 were Republican and 122,059 were Democrat.

Due to delays by both the Election Board mailing ballots and the Postal Service delivering ballots, the Election Board voted to place five ballot drop-off boxes at County-owned properties in Norristown, Pottstown, Lansdale, Willow Grove, and Green Lane. Despite a policy in place requiring security guards to check that voters were only dropping off their own ballots, MCRC received several reports that it was not followed. Additionally, at the end of each day ballots were collected from drop-off boxes and unsecurely transferred into a county employee's car. Republicans have no ability to oversee the transfer of these ballots and are in no way involved in any step in the process of the collection and recording of the ballots.

Further, at the start of the pre-canvass on Election Day of mail-in ballots, MCRC was told the declarations on the outside of all mail-in ballots were reviewed by county staff prior to the pre-canvass, and this step would not be repeated. This meant there was no way for Republicans to authenticate that the ballots submitted were by registered voters, or have an opportunity to challenge a specific ballot. We believe this is a violation of the Election Code.

Senate Bill 422 required all polls within independent living facilities to be moved to new locations. While some independent facilities function on their own, several within Montgomery County are combined facilities that also have personal care and skilled care. A mandate by the PA Department of Health required residents who left the premises of personal care, skilled care, or combined facilities to quarantine for 14 days upon their return to the facility. This policy meant voters in those facilities could not take their mail-in ballot to a drop-off box or go to their new poll and vote without having to quarantine for 14 days. We believe the combination of this policy and delays with mail-in ballots disenfranchised thousands of senior Republican voters.

While this was an unprecedented time due to the emergence of the Covid-19 pandemic, we believe the vast majority of the issues listed in this report were preventable. We ask the Montgomery County Election Board to conduct a full audit of the Election process and the Voter Services Department. Additionally, we ask for a reassessment of the Dominion Voting System, particularly the Dominion ImageCast Precinct Scanners so results can be processed faster. Both Philadelphia and Allegheny Counties received over 200,000 mail-in ballots and were able to count all ballots within days. The Montgomery County Election Board has a duty to provide a fair election. Significant changes must be made to ensure the legitimacy of the November General Election.

# **B. Mail-In Ballots- Timing Issues**

The Montgomery County Republican Committee (MCRC) initially asked for the date mail-in ballots would be printed and mailed to voters on Friday, February 21st during a bi-partisan meeting with the Election Board and the Montgomery County Democratic Committee. At this time, the Election Board did not have an expected date for mailing ballots. Over the next eight weeks, we emailed and called Karley Sisler, Director of Voter Services several times asking for this information which she repeatedly told us was forthcoming. On April 10th, via email Ms. Sisler communicated ballots were printed and would be mailed at the end of the following week, which would be Friday, April 17th at the latest. MCRC began mailing chaser letters to all Republican requestors in Montgomery County on Thursday, April 16th under the assumption official ballots were being mailed to voters.

MCRC was not aware of any timing issues until we received complaints from voters who had received our letter and were confused that their official ballot had not yet arrived. On May 5th, MCRC contacted Lee Soltysiak (County COO), Ken Lawrence (County Commissioner), John Marlatt (Election Board Solicitor), Karley Sisler (Director of Voter Services), and Matt Macekura (Voter Services Administrator) via email with our concerns that ballots were not arriving in a timely manner. We did not receive a written reply to this email, but Commissioner Ken Lawrence called MCRC Chairman Elizabeth Havey stating the County was overwhelmed with the demand of mail-in requests and hired a vendor to take over mailing ballots to voters. Commissioner Lawrence stated the vendor, Election IQ of Akron OH, was behind in mailing ballots due to the Department of State not releasing mail-in request files to them.

Wednesday, May 13th, 2020, the staff at the Fort Washington Post office informed Executive Director Julia Vahey that the Postal Service would stop guaranteeing Election Mail on May 20th – which is 13 days prior to the Primary Election. The deadline to request a mail-in ballot was Tuesday, May 26th, six days after the Postal Service guarantee date. We raised this issue to Lee Soltysiak (County COO), who responded that they were pushing for an extension for the return deadline of 8 pm on Election Day and that they were working on a plan for drop off box locations.

In the weeks leading up to the Primary Election, we received complaints from registered Republicans listed below who had not yet received their ballots. Many of these voters were ultimately forced to vote in person using a provisional ballot at the polls or did not vote and were disenfranchised. The Legislature's decision to move the Primary Election date to June 2nd provided Montgomery County Voter Services an additional five weeks to prepare. It is our opinion that these delays could have been avoided if Voter Services had mailed ballots sooner.

# Mail-In Ballots - Timing Issues - Complaints

## Redacted- Lower Merion Township

Quarantining in Utah, applied on 4/25, received confirmation from Voter Services but as of 6/12 had not received ballots. Wife, who is a Democrat, received her ballot on 5/28.

#### Redacted- Lower Salford Township

Did not receive ballot, could not go to poll due to health concerns.

#### Redacted- Lower Merion Township

Did not receive ballot, could not go to poll due to health concerns.

#### Redacted- Upper Moreland Township

Did not receive ballot, could not go to poll due to health concerns.

#### Redacted- Limerick Township

Applied 4/18, did not receive ballots. Could not go to poll due to health concerns.

## Redacted- Royersford Borough

Applied first week of May, did not receive ballot and could not go to poll due to health concerns.

**Redacted**- *Franconia Township* Received ballot on 5/30. Handicapped and quarantined so was unable to go to a drop-off box.

## Redacted- Lansdale Borough

Away at college, and voter services mistakenly mailed ballot to home address. It arrived on 5/30 and she was unable to travel home to drop it off or go to the polls.

## Redacted- New Hanover Township

Did not receive ballots, could not go to polls due to health concerns.

## Redacted- Skippack Township

Did not receive ballot, could not go to polls due to health concerns.

## Redacted- Upper Moreland Township

Ballot mailed on 5/10, did not receive as of 6/1 and could not go to poll.

## Redacted- Montgomery Township

Did not receive ballots, could not go to polls due to health concerns.

## Redacted- Collegeville Borough

Husband and wife applied the same day. received ballot; never arrived.

## **Redacted**- Upper Providence Township

Husband and wife applied the same day. received his ballot and submitted at dropoff box, did not arrive until June 3rd and she could not go to polls.

#### Redacted- Upper Providence Township

Ballot arrive 5/30, unable to go to drop off box and could not go to poll.

## Redacted- Springfield Township

Requested on 5/13, never arrived and could not go to poll due to health concerns.

## Redacted- Lansdale Borough

Applied on 5/4, did not receive ballot and could not go to the polls. Ballot showed up in mail on 6/13.

## Redacted- Schwenksville Borough

Applied on 4/1, no ballot received as of 5/30. Was travelling for business and was unable to vote in person.

#### Redacted- Worcester Township

Requested in April, did not receive ballot and could not go to poll due to health concerns.

#### Redacted- Upper Dublin Township

Applied in early March, ballot did not arrive until 6/1 and was unable to get to a drop off box.

## Redacted- Upper Providence Township

Ballot shown as mailed on 5/7. Did not receive and could not go to the polls due to health concerns.

#### Redacted- Upper Providence Township

Ballot did not arrive until 6/1. Was not aware of drop-off boxes so did not vote.

## Redacted- Montgomery Township

Requested in March, no ballot received as of 6/1 and was unable to go to poll.

#### Redacted- Plymouth Township

Applied on 5/2 received confirmation 5/4. Ballot never arrived and did not vote.

## Redacted- Lower Gwynedd Township

Ballot did not arrive until 5/31. Was unaware of drop off boxes so did not vote.

## Redacted- Whitpain Township

Applied in April, did not receive ballot until 6/2.

# **Redacted**- Horsham Township

Applied on 5/12, did not receive ballot.

#### Redacted- Abington Township

Family of 3 requested and received mail-in ballots. They were all returned in the mail on 5/18. Were received by the County, was not. On 6/1 Voter Services said it must be lost in the mail and his only option was to vote using a provisional ballot in person. Reluctantly broke quarantine and went to poll.

#### Redacted- Lower Providence Township

Husband and wife applied the same day. **Second** received ballot but did not know there were drop-off boxes and mailed it on 5/30, not sure if it counted. **Second** never received a ballot and called Voter Services 20 times between 2 days, no one answered, and the mailbox was full.

#### Redacted- Telford Borough

Applied in early May, ballot did not arrive until 5/30. Was out of town and was not able to go to a drop off location or travel back to the area to vote in person.

**Redacted**- *Collegeville Borough* Did not receive ballot.

**Redacted**- *Hatfield Township* Applied 5/13, did not receive ballot.

**Redacted**- *Abington Township* Applied 5/12, did not receive ballot.

**Redacted**- *Red Hill Borough* Did not receive ballot.

**Redacted**- *Upper Merion Township* Did not receive ballot.

**Redacted**- *Abington Township* Did not receive ballot.

**Redacted**- *Plymouth Township* Applied on 4/26, did not receive ballot.

**Redacted**- *Norristown Borough* Applied in April, did not receive ballot.

**Redacted**- *Whitpain Township* Did not receive ballot.

**Redacted**- *Souderton Borough* Applied early May, did not receive ballot. **Redacted**- *Lower Salford Township* Did not receive ballot.

**Redacted**- *Collegeville Borough* Did not receive ballot as of 6/1.

**Redacted**- *Lower Gwynedd Township* Applied 5/18, did not receive ballot.

**Redacted**- *Conshohocken Borough* Voter Services says ballot was mailed 5/7, never received ballot.

**Redacted**- *Springfield Township* Did not receive ballot.

**Redacted**- *Pottstown Borough* Did not receive ballot.

**Redacted**- *Lower Providence Township* Did not receive ballot.

**Redacted**- *Pottstown Borough* Did not receive ballot.

**Redacted**- *Skippack Township* Did not receive ballot.

**Redacted**- *Lansdale Borough* Did not receive ballot.

**Redacted**- *Upper Gwynedd Township* Did not receive ballot.

**Redacted**- *Perkiomen Township* Did not receive ballot.

**Redacted**- *Upper Merion Township* Did not receive ballot.

**Redacted**- -*Upper Gwynedd Township* Did not receive ballots.

**Redacted**- *Upper Merion Township* Did not receive ballot.

**Redacted**- *Lower Merion Township* Did not receive ballot.

**Redacted**- *Towamencin Township* Did not receive ballot.

**Redacted**- *Montgomery Township* Did not receive ballot.

**Redacted**- *Limerick Township* Did not receive ballot.

**Redacted**- *Limerick Township* Requested in March and ballot never arrived.

**Redacted**- *Upper Salford Township* Requested in April, ballot did not arrive and reluctantly went to the polls.

**Redacted**- *Montgomery Township* Did not receive ballot.

**Redacted**- *Upper Merion Township* Did not receive ballot until 6/2.

## Redacted- West Norriton

Applied in April. Online tracker said ballot was mailed on 5/5, had not arrived by 6/1. Voting in person.

## Redacted- Plymouth Township

Applied on 5/13, received notice it was mailed on 5/15. Ballot did not arrive until June 2nd at 4pm after she had voted a provisional ballot.

**Redacted**- *Upper Merion Township* Did not receive ballot.

**Redacted**- *Springfield Township* Applied early May, ballot not received as of 6/2. Could not go to polls.

**Redacted**- *Conshohocken Borough* Applied to vote by mail on May 5<sup>th</sup> ballot did not arrive until June 3rd.

## Redacted- Lower Merion Township

Applied in early April. Voter Services mistakenly mailed ballot without apartment number included so it did not arrive until 5/30.

# Redacted- Whitpain Township

Applied in April and as of 6/4 had not received a ballot.

# **Redacted**- Springfield Township

Applied in early May, received notification ballot was mailed on 5/15. Ballot did not arrive until 6/1.

# **Redacted**- *Collegeville Borough* Applied in April and received confirmation of application. Did not receive ballot as of 6/13.

# Redacted

Applied 5/5, ballot not received as of 6/2.

# Redacted

Applied 5/5, notification application received on 5/7. Did not arrive and did not vote.

# C. Mail-In Ballots- Incorrect Ballots

MCRC first became aware of voters receiving incorrect ballots on Saturday, May 23rd. We immediately contacted Karley Sisler, Director of Voter Services, who asked for the affected voters' contact information. It soon became clear this was not an isolated incident, and the Election Board created an online form for voters to submit in order to receive a correct ballot. County COO Lee Soltysiak advised that this was a computer error by their vendor, Election IQ, that affected roughly 2,000 voters who they had isolated and mailed new ballots. Given the existing delays in the mail, we advised voters affected to vote in person if they were able. The Election Board has not provided MCRC with information to verify that only 2,000 voters received wrong ballots.

Below is a list of the complaints MCRC received from registered Republicans who received incorrect ballots.

# Mail-In Ballots- Incorrect Ballots – Complaints

# Redacted- Schwenksville Borough

Received Democrat ballot for Limerick Township on 5/23. Received correct Republican ballot on 5/28 which she completed and took to drop-off box. On 6/1 she received another correct Republican ballot and believes she could have voted twice.

# Redacted- Trappe Borough

Received Democrat ballot on 5/25. Did not receive correct ballot and could not go to the polls. He is 96 years old and this was the first time he didn't vote.

# Redacted- Narberth Borough

Applied for ballot in early May and received a Democrat ballot on 5/28. Did not get correct ballot and could not vote.

# Redacted- Lower Salford Township

Received 5 Democrat ballots to his household for voters who do not live at his address. Could not get ahold of Voter Services after several attempts.

# Redacted- North Wales Borough

Received a Democrat ballot to her address for Peter Sandor Jr. No one of that name lives in her household. Called Voter Services and could not get through. She destroyed the ballot.

# Redacted- Towamencin Township

Received Democrat ballot. Received correct Republican ballot and submitted it, then received an additional Republican ballot 3 days later. Believes she could have voted twice.

# Redacted- Lower Providence Township

Received Democrat ballot for Norristown 3-2. Same day received a letter acknowledging the incorrect ballot asking her to destroy it and she'd receive a correct ballot soon. Never received a correct ballot, and she did not vote in person.

# Redacted- Marlborough Township

Both received Democrat ballots on 5/30. Went to the polls to vote and were instructed to vote a regular ballot not provisional.

# Redacted- Lansdale Borough

Mailed applications in same envelope on 4/25/2020. On 5/20/2020 as their ballots had not yet arrived, they called voter services several times before they got through to a person. Was told they had **application** and it was mailed on 5/5/20 but they had no record of **application**. **Constitution** resubmitted application. On 5/22/20 **application** ballot arrived but it was a Democrat ballot for Lower Providence 3-2. Called Voter Services again and could not get through. Both correct ballots arrived on 5/30/2020.

# Redacted- Whitpain Township

Applied in April, Democrat ballot for Lower Merion 10-2 arrived on 5/30. Never received correct ballot and went to vote in person.

## Redacted- Abington Township

Applied in April, received Democrat ballots for Lower Merion on 6/1.

## Redacted- Lower Providence Township

Received Democrat ballot on 5/30. No correct ballot received so went to poll.

# Redacted- Collegeville Borough

Both received Democrat ballots. Voted at poll.

## Redacted- West Norriton Township

Received Democrat ballots on 5/30. Did not receive a correct ballot and could not go to polls due to health concerns.

## Redacted- Plymouth Township

Received Democrat ballots on 5/30. Did not receive a correct ballot and could not go to polls due to health concerns.

# Redacted- Plymouth Township

Applied to vote by mail in early May. On 5/30 both received Democrat ballots for Lower Merion 10-2. Extremely frustrated with the process they decided not to vote.

## Redacted- Upper Providence Township

Received Democrat ballot. Would not go to polls due to health concerns.

## Redacted- Lower Providence Township

Received Democrat ballot. Would not go to polls due to health concerns.

#### Redacted- Lower Providence Township

Both received Democrat ballots, would not go to polls.

#### Redacted- Plymouth Township

Both received Democrat ballots, would not go to polls.

## **Redacted-** Whitemarsh Township

Both received Democrat ballots. Quarantined in NJ and did not receive correct ballot until after the primary, too late to mail it back and could not go to drop box.

**Redacted**- *Whitemarsh Township* Both received Democrat ballots on 5/30. Correct ballots did not arrive so voted in person.

## Redacted- Landsale Borough

Both received Democrat ballots for Lower Merion. Did not receive correct ballots until 6/2 at 4pm after they had voted in person.

## Redacted- Franconia Township

Applied in April, both received Democrat ballots on 5/31. Would not go to polls due to health concerns.

**Redacted-** *Lower Providence Township* Both received Democrat ballots on 6/2. Could not go to poll due to health concerns.

**Redacted-** *Upper Gwynedd Township* Received Democrat ballot on 5/26, correct ballot did not arrive until after election.

## Redacted- Lower Salford Township

Received Democrat ballot on 5/23, did not receive correct ballot until 5/30. Health issues and broke quarantine to go to a drop-off box.

## Redacted- Upper Dublin Township

Applied 5/1 and received Democrat ballot on 5/26. Was going out of town and did not receive correct ballot in time to vote.

## Redacted- Whitpain Township

Applied in April, received Democrat ballot on 5/28. Would not go to polls due to health concerns.

## Redacted- Lower Gwynedd Township

Received Democrat ballot. Reluctantly went to the polls.

# Redacted- Lower Providence Township

Both applied at same time in mid-April. received his ballot on 5/11 and sent it back. never received hers and contact Voter Services several times with no response. On 5/28 received a Democrat ballot and broke her quarantine to vote in person.

# Redacted- Plymouth Township

Both received Democrat ballots for Lower Merion 10-2 on 5/30. Correct ballots did not arrive before the primary, so they reluctantly went to polls.

# Redacted- Lower Merion Township

Received Democrat ballots on 5/29, correct ballot did not arrive on time and could not go to poll due to health concerns.

# Redacted- Lower Pottsgrove Township

Received Democrat ballot on 6/2. Could not go to the polls

# Redacted- Montgomery Township

Applied early May, received Democrat ballot with incorrect district on 5/29. Correct ballot arrived 6/1 but could not go to a drop-off box.

## Redacted- Towamencin Township

Received Democrat ballot. Correct ballot had not arrived by 6/2 and could not go to poll.

# Redacted- West Norriton Township

Received ballot for Upper Merion Township, did not receive correct ballot as of 6/9. Did not vote.

**Redacted-** *New Hanover Township* Received Democrat ballot. Could not go to the polls.

# Redacted- Montgomery Township

Submitted mail in ballot on 5/26 and received email from Voter Services that it was recorded. A few days later she received a second mail in ballot, which she destroyed but believes she could have voted twice.

# Redacted- Lower Gwynedd Township

Received a mail-in ballot at current address in Pennsylvania and a duplicate at child home where parents reside in New York. Parents shipped duplicate ballot to her and she believes she could have voted twice.

# Redacted- Whitemarsh Township

Both received Democrat ballots on 5/30, correct ballots did not arrive until after the primary. Went to vote in person and their poll had be moved, did not receive notice of polling location change until 6/4.

## Redacted- West Norriton Township

Received ballot for Upper Merion on 5/30, voted in person instead. Had not received a correct ballot as of 6/4.

# Redacted- West Norriton Township

Received Democrat ballot, correct ballot arrived 6/1.

# **Redacted-** Upper Providence Township

Received Democrat ballot, correct ballot arrived 6/2 but could not go to a drop off box.

# **Redacted**- Upper Salford Township

Received Democrat ballot for Lower Merion Township. Did not receive correct ballot so went and voted in person.

**Redacted-** *Lansdale Borough* Received Democrat ballot for Lower Merion.

# Redacted- Lower Gwynedd Township

Received Democrat ballot on 6/1. Called Voter Services over 10 times and could not get through so he went to the polls. Had not received correct ballot as of 6/8.

# Redacted- Telford Borough

Both received Democrat ballots for the wrong district. Had to go wait in lobby of One Montgomery Plaza for over an hour to receive a correct ballot from Voter Services.

**Redacted-** *Upper Dublin Township* Received Democrat ballot for Lower Merion. Did not receive correct ballot by 6/2.

## Redacted- Souderton Borough

Received Democrat ballot for Lower Merion. Voted in person.

# Redacted- Souderton Borough

Received Democrat ballot for Lower Merion. Voted in person.

# Redacted- Souderton Borough

Received Democrat ballot for Lower Merion 10-2. Voted in person.

# Redacted- - Horsham Township

Received Democrat ballot for Lower Merion 10-2.

**Redacted**- *Upper Providence Township* Received Democrat ballot.

**Redacted-** *Douglass Township* Received Democrat ballot.

**Redacted-** *Douglass Township* Received Democrat ballot.

**Redacted-** *Lower Gwynedd Township* Received Democrat ballot.

**Redacted-** *Towamencin* Received Democrat ballot. Correct ballot didn't arrive until 6/1.

Redacted- Perkiomen Township

Received Dem ballot on 5/25 did not receive correct ballot until after the primary. Voted provisional ballot in person.

**Redacted-** *Perkiomen Township* Received Democrat ballot. Voted provisional ballot in person.

# Redacted- Lower Providence Township

Received Democrat ballot on 5/28, correct ballot did not arrive until after the primary. Voted provisional ballot in person.

**Redacted**- *Lower Merion Township* Applied to vote by mail in early May, on 5/30 received a Democrat ballot. Reluctantly went to the polls to vote a provisional ballot.

**Redacted-** *Lower Merion Township* Received Democrat ballot. Voted in person.

**Redacted-** *Lower Merion Township* Received Democrat ballot. Did not vote.

**Redacted-** *Abington Township* Received Democrat ballot on 5/30.

**Redacted-** *Plymouth Township* Received Democrat ballot.

**Redacted-** *Plymouth Township* Received Democrat ballot.

**Redacted-** *Royersford Borough* Received Democrat ballot. Voted in person.

**Redacted-** *Limerick Township* Received Democrat ballot. Voted in person.

# Redacted- Upper Dublin Township

Received Democrat ballot. Received correct ballot on 6/2 and took to drop off box. Received email from Voter Services on 6/18 that ballot was too late to be counted.

# **Redacted-** Horsham Township

Received Democrat ballot for Lower Merion 10-2.

# Redacted- Horsham Township

Received Democrat ballot for Lower Merion 10-2.

# **D. Ballot Drop-Off Boxes**

Due to delays by both the Election Board mailing ballots and the Postal Service delivering ballots, the Election Board voted to place ballot drop-off boxes in various County-owned properties. We were not provided the locations of these boxes until Friday, May 22nd. Upon reviewing the County's plan for the drop-off locations, we were concerned there were not sufficient precautions in place to prevent ballot harvesting. County COO Lee Soltysiak stated there would be security in place to protect the box itself, but the boxes would function similarly to a regular mailbox, and the security would not interact with the public. MCRC disagreed with this believing it violated the Election Code and did not promote the boxes to our voters until they committed to us that the security guards would check that voters were only dropping off their own ballots. On May 25th, the County agreed to that policy. Despite that policy, we received multiple reports about security allowing multiple ballots to be dropped into the boxes.

Also, photos were provided to us of the transfer of the ballots from the ballot box in Green Lane that raise serious concerns about the security of those ballots. The photos are attached to this report. See below. Republicans have no ability to oversee the transfer of these ballots and are in no way involved in any step in the process of the collection and recording of the ballots.

There were five drop-off boxes locations: Norristown, Pottstown, Lansdale, Willow Grove, and Green Lane. We did not feel these boxes covered enough areas within Montgomery County or could handle the demand of the 158,965 ballots that had been requested. The County added five additional drop-off boxes on June 1st, which left us with limited time to communicate the changes to our voters.

We do not believe the ballot drop-off boxes were an adequate solution to the ballot timing issues and believe they set a dangerous precedent for the General Election in November. The following information details complaints we received regarding the ballot drop-off boxes.

# **Ballot Drop-Off Boxes - Complaints**

Green Lane Drop-Off Box 5/24: Pictured, unsecured ballots being put into the trunk of a County employees' car.



Green Lane Drop-Off Box 5/24: Pictured, security guard disconnecting the generator which supplies power to the security cameras. Was not reconnected until the next morning.



Willow Grove Drop-Off Box 6/1: Pictured, cars wrapped around the block and blocking railroad tracks. Reports from the location described tensions as high with voters screaming at each other. Most waited well over an hour to drop off their ballot.



# **Additional Complaints**

#### **Redacted-** Abington

Took ballot to drop-off box in Willow Grove. "The guard did not get up and was far back from the box and could not see who's ballot I was dropping off. I could have dropped off several ballots without him noticing."

#### Redacted- New Hanover

Did not check ballot at Pottstown location. Went back on 5/30 to check location security guard had posted sign "be back in 10 mins" so box was unguarded.

## Redacted- Whitemarsh Township

On two occasions observed security guard sitting across the room at the One Montgomery drop-off location in Norristown. Security guard did not get up or ask voters if they were dropping off their own ballot.

#### Redacted- West Norriton Township

Security guard at One Montgomery Norristown location sat across the room and did not check to make sure he was submitted one ballot.

#### Redacted- East Norriton

At One Montgomery Norristown location, no one checked that she was dropping off one ballot or that it was her own.

#### **Redacted-** Collegeville

Security guard sitting in his car at Pottstown drop-off location. Not instructing voters to place only their own ballot in the box.

#### Redacted- Montgomery Township

Security guard at Lansdale location allowed to submit two ballots mine and my husbands.

# **E. Election Day Issues**

Due to the various issues leading up to the Primary Election, MCRC was very concerned about issues arising at the polls. Montgomery County transitioned to new paper ballot voting machines in 2019. The new machines are from Dominion Voting Systems and utilize Dominion ImageCast Precinct Scanners. The following complaints detail various issues that happened at the polls on Election Day.

# **Election Day Complaints**

# <u>All Republican provisional ballots countywide were watermarked with the word "Sample"</u> <u>across the entire ballot.</u>

MCRC first received reports of this issue at 7:30 am. We immediately contact Karley Sisler (Director of Voter Services), who did not explain why it said sample, but that they would be counted all the same. The Democrat provisional ballots did not have the word sample on them.

# Ran out of Republican Ballots

MCRC first received reports of this issue at 6:45 am from Upper Pottsgrove. They had 300 Democrat ballots and only 100 Republican ballots even though they have a Republican registration advantage. We called Voter Services and spoke with Matt Macekura (Voter Services Administrator), who stated the number of ballots was determined from historical data and it had to be correct. He then stated if any polls did run out to call him directly, and someone from their staff would deliver more. Throughout the day several polls ran out of Republican ballots. Most poll workers were unaware of how to handle this situation and turned away voters. After several call attempts, MCRC finally heard from Karley Sisler (Director of Voter Services) who did not know why polls were running out of polls but stated that they could use the ADA touchscreen ballot marking device until more ballots arrived. It took several hours for some polls to receive their ballots. The following polls ran out of Republican ballots but did not run out of Democrat ballots:

- Salford Township
- Lower Salford Township 1 and 5
- Upper Pottsgrove Township
- Upper Frederick Township
- Marlborough Township
- New Hanover 1 Township
- Douglass Township
- Towamencin 1-1 Township
- Pennsburg Borough
- All Horsham Township Polls

# Ran out of Republican Provisional Ballots

In addition to running out of regular Republican ballots, some polls ran out of Republican provisional ballots and believe the number of ballots supplied was incorrect. We were again told by Matt Macekura (Voter Services Administrator) that these numbers were based on historical data. The following polls ran out of Republican ballots:

- Trappe Borough: Ran out at 2 pm did not receive them until 5 pm
- Worcester E1 and E3: Judge of Elections materials said he was supposed to receive 75 Democrat and 50 Republican provisional ballots, actually receive 75-D and 25-R
- **Upper Frederick**: Judge of Elections had Republicans use Democrat provisional ballots filling in their candidates as write-ins. These ballots were not counted.
- **New Hanover 1**: Judge of Elections had Republicans use Democrat provisional ballots filling in their candidates as write-ins. These ballots were not counted.
- Abington 3-2: Ran out of Republican provisional ballots but had plenty of Democrat provisional ballots left. Minority Inspector Robert Jasionowski signed off for 75 Democrat provisional ballots and only 25 Republican provisional ballots.
- Montgomery 2,6, and 7: Democrats and Republicans are roughly 50/50 registration split. There were about 600 Democratic provisional ballots and only 100 Republican provisional ballots.
- **Upper Merion Belmont 4:**Polling place was not given the correct number of provisional ballots listed on the materials supplied from the County. Republican ballots were 25 ballots short.

# **Ballot Issues**

# Redacted- Whitemarsh Township

Applied for mail-in ballot did not arrive by Election Day so went to poll at 5 pm to vote. Her name was listed on the absentee listing and in the book as needing to vote a provisional ballot. Was told by the Whitemarsh E2 Majority Clerk and Judge of Elections to destroy mail-in ballot when it arrived and that had to vote a regular ballot (this is what they had done all day). Completed regular ballot and scanned it in. Returned home and mail-in ballot had arrived that day. **Could have gone to a drop-off box and voted twice.** MCRC notified County COO Lee Soltysiak, who said he was calling the Judge of Elections but did not say how they planned to resolve this issue.

# Redacted- Marlborough Township

Both received incorrect Democrat ballots. They went to the polls to vote and were instructed to vote a regular ballot not provisional ballot which they did.

# Redacted- Trappe Borough

Voted absentee but her name was not registered on any list at the poll. She could have voted in person in addition to having voted absentee.

# Redacted- Upper Merion

When voting at Gulph Elementary, handed a Dem ballot instead of Republican.

# Redacted- Upper Merion

When voting at Gulph Elementary, handed a Dem ballot instead of Republican.

## **Machine Issues**

#### Trappe Borough:

Received scanner machine with no key to open it for set-up and the machine had 17 votes on it before set-up. Called County for help starting at 6:30 didn't get through to an actual person until 6:50 and the county employee did not arrive until 7:30 am so the poll opened late.

Collegeville 1: Machine was over by 60 votes when they closed the poll.

Upper Pottsgrove: Scanner was down for over an hour.

Upper Moreland: Poll did not open until 7:30am because they did not have a key to open the scanner.

Pottstown 5: Scanner was down for over an hour.

#### **Registration Issues**

#### **Redacted-** Lower Merion

Claims she changed registration to Republican was not shown as registered at all.

Redacted- Lower Gwynedd

Has always been Republican, went to vote and she was changed to a Democrat.

#### Redacted- Lower Moreland

Confirm registration with DMV as Republican. Was in the book as a Democrat

#### Redacted- Upper Moreland

Registered Republican showed up to vote and was told she was a Democrat.

#### Redacted- Lower Moreland

Has voted several primaries as a Republican. Has not changed registration but he showed up to vote and they said he was registered Democrat.

## Redacted- Cheltenham

He has voted in last 6 elections as a registered Republican. Went to the polls and was told his name was not on any list and they would not let him vote a provisional ballot.

## Redacted- Abington

Changed his registrations from Democrat to Republican in September and was told he was until registered Democrat and could not vote a Republican ballot.

# Redacted- Upper Merion

Has always been registered Republican. Arrived as was not on the list to vote and was told she could not vote a provisional ballot

# Redacted- Lower Salford

Registered to vote in February long before the deadline, showed up to vote and her name was not on either list and was told she could not vote a provisional ballot.

Montgomery Elementary School Poll:

6 voters who said they had previously changed their registrations from Democrat to Republican, but the voter rolls until show them as Democrats.

# New Hanover 1 Poll:

Multiple voters that were not found on the lists even though they voted as Republicans before. One voter was told they would just "add them to the end of the book" and they could vote a provisional ballot.

# **Instances of Bias**

General Nash Elementary School Poll- Towamencin Township

The man sitting in the middle of the table was making underhanded comments every time a Republican came up an asked for a Ballot. When asked for a ballot after being checked in, he said "Republican, really" and then to the next voter he said, "wow, another one."

Willow Grove Elementary- Upper Moreland 4-1

Judge of Elections turned away several voters until they came back wearing a mask.

# F. Polling Location Changes and Poll Workers

Montgomery County normally operates with 352 polling locations. The Montgomery County Election Board chose to reduce polling locations countywide by 40% and operated with 140 consolidated polling locations for the 2020 Primary Election. All polls were located within Montgomery County public schools. MCRC did not receive the polling place consolidation plan until May 1<sup>st</sup>.

We were told by County COO Lee Soltysiak that locations were selected based upon a GIS (geographic information system) analysis so that there were no more than five precincts in any location. They reviewed the minimum and the maximum number of registered voters at a poll and tried their best to set parameters to keep people within townships and school districts. Unfortunately, several polling locations were moved outside of their municipality, which proved to be confusing and difficult for voters. The County mailed a letter to every voter affected by this change, but unfortunately the vast majority of these letters arrived after Election Day.

Additionally, MCRC asked for the list of Poll Worker contact information on Friday, February 21<sup>st</sup> during a bi-partisan meeting with the Election Board and the Montgomery County Democratic Committee. Over the several months leading up the election, MCRC asked Karley Sisler, Director of Voter Services, for this information and offered to help staff polls but was never provided contact information.

On May 11<sup>th</sup>, MCRC received from Karley Sisler a list of Judge of Elections vacancies asking for help in filling these positions. On May 21<sup>st</sup>, the Election Board voted to increase poll worker pay to \$300 for a Judge of Elections and \$225 for all other poll workers; we were again requested by Karley Sisler to help fill vacancies. On May 27<sup>th</sup>, we were sent a list of crucial polls and were again requested to help fill vacancies. MCRC sent over 70 individuals' names and contact information to Karley Sisler and Brenda Costello (Voter Services Poll Worker Coordinator) to assist in filling vacancies. We rarely received a reply to these emails and later found that nearly all the individuals we sent them were not contacted to work.

On Primary Election Day, a majority of polls were understaffed or had first-time poll workers. This led to confusion, delays, and errors in procedures.

# **Specific Polling Change Complaints**

# **Rockledge Borough:**

An independent borough; everyone always goes to the same location. Poll was moved into Jenkintown Borough which caused confusion and possible voter suppression.

# West Conshohocken Borough:

Wished to keep its own poll and had it fully staff. Borough had less than 20 Covid cases but was being moved to Upper Merion Gulph school, where there were over 100 cases.

# Horsham 2-3:

Was listed on official county spreadsheet at two different polling locations. When reported to Voter Services, it took over a day to determine which was the correct location.

# G. Assisted Living and Personal Care Facilities

In Pennsylvania, there are three types of Senior care facilities: Independent Living, Personal Care, and Skilled Care. In Montgomery County, several polling locations are located within Independent Living facilities. Senate Bill 422 required all polls within Independent Living facilities to be moved to new locations. While some Independent Living facilities function on their own, several within Montgomery County are combined facilities that also have Personal Care and Skilled Care. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the PA Department of Health required residents who left the premises of a Personal Care, Skilled Care, or combined facilities to quarantine for 14 days upon their return to the facility. This policy meant voters in those facilities could not take their mail-in ballot to a drop-off box or go to their new poll and vote without having to quarantine for 14 days.

MCRC received several calls from voters in these facilities who opted not to vote due to the mandatory quarantine policy and fears of Covid-19. We believe the combination of this policy and delays with mail-in ballots disenfranchised thousands of senior voters.

The following is a list of Montgomery County Personal Care and Skilled Care facilities that would have been affected by this policy.

Abramson ResidenceAbramson Senior Care at Lankenau Medical CenterAmbler Extended Care CenterAristacare At Meadow SpringsArtman Lutheran HomeBeaumont At Bryn MawrBrittany Pointe EstatesBrookside Healthcare and Rehabilitation CenterChestnut Hill Lodge Health and Rehabilitation CenterDock TerraceDresher Hill Health & Rehabilitation CenterEdgehill Nursing and Rehabilitation Center

Elkins Crest Health & Rehabilitation Center

Elm Terrace Gardens

Fort Washington Estates

Foulkeways At Gwynedd

Fox Subacute at Clara Burke

Frederick Living – Cedarwood

Friends Life Care at Home

Garden Spring Nursing and Rehabilitation Center

Gwynedd Estates

Gwynedd Healthcare and Rehabilitation Center

Harborview Rehabilitation and Care Center at Lansdale

Harston Hall

The Hill at Whitemarsh

Hillcrest Center

Hopkins Center

Hrh Transitional Care Unit

Ivy Hill Rehab Center

Luther Woods Nursing and Rehabilitation Center

Manorcare Health Services-Huntingdon Valley

Manorcare Health Services-King of Prussia

Manorcare Health Services-Montgomeryville

Manorcare Health Services-Pottstown

Masonic Village at Lafayette Hill

#### Meadowood

Meadowview Rehabilitation and Nursing Center Montgomery Rehab Center of Chestnut Hill Norriton Square Nursing and Rehabilitation Center Normandy Farms Estates Papermill Road Nursing and Rehabilitation Center Parkhouse Rehabilitation and Nursing Center Pennsburg Manor Peter Becker Community Phoebe Wyncote Powerback Rehabilitation **Regina Community Nursing Center Rydal Park** Saint Mary Villa for Independent & Retirement Living Shannondell At Valley Forge Souderton Mennonite Homes Spring House Estates St. Martha Villa for Independent & Retirement Living Rosemont Center Rydal Park of Philadelphia Presbytery Homes Inc Saint Joseph Villa Sanatoga Center

Saunders House

Silver Stream Nursing and Rehabilitation Center

Souderton Mennonite Homes

St. Joseph's Manor

St. Mary Center for Rehabilitation & Healthcare

Suburban Woods Health & Rehabilitation Center

Towne Manor East

**Towne Manor West** 

Waverly Heights

Wesley Enhanced Living Upper Moreland

Willows of Living Branches

Wyncote Church Home

Wyndmoor Hills Rehabilitation and Nursing Center

# VERIFICATION

JULIA VAHEY, states that she is the Executive Director for the Montgomery County Republican Committee in this matter and the facts set forth in the foregoing report regarding the June 2, 2020 Primary Election are true and correct to the best of her knowledge, information and belief. The undersigned understands the statements therein are made subject to the penalty of Pa. C. S. 4904 relating to unsworn falsifications to authorities.

Julia Valey JULIA VAHEY