

# Allegheny County Satellite Election Offices | Mobilization

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**Board of Elections meeting**  
**5:00 pm Wednesday, August 28, 2024**  
**Gold Room, 4th floor Allegheny County Courthouse**  
**436 Grant St, Pittsburgh, PA 15219**

## BACKGROUND

The Allegheny Elections Division will be hosting a public information meeting on Wednesday August 28 at 5:00 in the Gold Room at the Allegheny County Courthouse. We anticipate that Allegheny County is considering adding satellite elections offices and other pro-voter changes ahead of the general election. In preparation for the General Election, they have put out a survey to voters to gauge interest in satellite election offices, etc. Well-located, properly resourced satellite election offices expand voting access by ensuring eligible voters can successfully cast ballots and have their ballots counted.

Satellite election offices are extensions of the county elections office. They serve the following functions: voter registration, mail-in ballot/absentee ballot requests, ballot return location, and ballot curing. By opening satellite election offices, the Allegheny Board of Elections would increase access and ease of voting for those residents eligible to vote.

## GOAL

**Allegheny County Board of Elections adds Satellite Elections Offices that: provides equitable access for county residents, serves population centers that lack public transportation, considers disability access for site selection, and provides availability to those voters whose job or family constraints make voting on Election Day difficult.**

## MOBILIZATION EFFORTS

### Residents fill out the SURVEY

The county is soliciting input from voters to gauge interest in satellite offices through a survey. [Please fill out the survey and consider supporting:](#)

- Satellite Election Offices
- Satellite Election Office locations that prioritize population centers that lack public transportation, serve dense population centers, prioritizes disability access, and provides availability outside of working hours for voters with complicated job and family schedules.

## Community ATTENDANCE at the BOE meeting

- 5:00 pm August 28, 2024
- Gold Room, 4th floor Allegheny County Courthouse
- Supporters of voting rights and voting access attend

## Community OUTREACH to Allegheny's Board of Elections

Allegheny County's Board of Elections is made up of three members: the County Executive, Sara Innamorato, as well as two at-large County Council Members, Samuel DeMarco III and Bethany Hallam.

**Email the board of elections NOW to express support for the addition of satellite offices in Allegheny County.**

BOE@alleghenycounty.us

Sara Innamorato, sara.innamorato@alleghenycounty.us

Samuel DeMarco III, samuel.demarco@alleghenycounty.us

Bethany Hallam, bethany.hallam@alleghenycounty.us

## TOOLS

## TALKING POINTS

### Topline Message:

Opening satellite voting offices in Allegheny County benefits all voters.

### Primary Messages:

- No matter who we are, where we live, or who we vote for, eligible voters should have the chance to cast a ballot at a time and place that's convenient for us.
- Well-located, accessible, and properly resourced Satellite Election Offices support eligible voters in successfully casting their ballots and having their votes counted.
- Satellite Election Offices give voters the opportunity to obtain services in their own communities, including registering to vote, applying for a mail ballot, marking it and submitting it all in one step.
- Satellite Election Offices make elections more fair by providing more points of access and more ways for eligible voters to participate. They increase ballot security by allowing voters to safely return their ballots directly to their County Elections Department.
- Every voter in Allegheny County would benefit from increased access to election office staff especially closer to their home community.
- Thousands of Pennsylvania voters — Democrats, Republicans, and Independents alike — have used Satellite Election Offices with great success.
- There should be more, not less, help for voters to exercise their freedom to vote.

- When voters have more ways to vote, it can increase turnout, reduce long lines on Election Day, and reduce mail ballot rejection rates.
- Ensuring that voter services are convenient and accessible means that more voters have the tools and information needed to safely and securely cast their vote — this is a win for voters AND the county.

### Secondary Messages:

- The locations of the satellite election offices should be convenient to voters, like places that have large parking areas that people frequent on a regular basis, and that are accessible for people with disabilities. Libraries, recreational centers, malls, and municipal and county buildings are examples of convenient and accessible locations for voters.
- Make sure that satellite offices are located near dense population centers with access to public transportation. Schedule hours of operation outside regular working hours to accommodate voters with atypical work or family schedules.
- The locations of the Satellite Election Offices should be promoted through various channels such as the county’s website, social media, and local media, so that voters are aware of the resources available to them.
- Location addresses, services offered, and hours of operation should be clearly listed and easy for voters to find online. When voters know about Satellite Election Offices, they use them with great success.
- By bringing voter services closer to home, County Board of Elections staff can provide hands-on, informative, and secure voting experiences for all eligible voters.

## BEST PRACTICES FOR PUBLIC COMMENTS

- Introduce yourself, state your municipality
- Know your audience: 2 commissioners may be inclined to approve policy
- Know your goal: we need 2 yes votes
- Be polite and respectful
- Be concise: pick one or two talking points
- Personalize your position: tell the commissioner why voting is important to you; to your loved ones;
  - If you have a story to tell about someone who would benefit from a Satellite Election Office due to complicated work schedules or family responsibilities, share how their access to voting would be improved by a SEO.
  - Be courteous but firm in your position
  - Say “thank you”

### Talking points

- Use the talking points above for both comments at the meeting and email comments.
- Embed the principle that you have **shared values** with the commissioners:

- Voting is a constitutional right.
  - Voting is a responsibility.
  - Voting is what makes America America.
  - Pennsylvania voters have the right to vote and have that vote counted.
  - Increasing access to election workers improves voting in Allegheny.
- Pick a talking point to make.
  - Don't forget to personalize it! Your story can be extremely persuasive.

### Email outline for commissioner outreach

- Introduce yourself and state your municipality.
- Highlight shared values: i.e. we all take voting seriously.
- Choose a talking point.
- Tell your story.
- Thank them.
- Ask if you can count on them to begin a policy for notifying voters and curing ballots.

## QUESTIONS

Contact **Becca** at [rcusumano-seidel@aclupa.org](mailto:rcusumano-seidel@aclupa.org) or 267-469-0204.