Easton, Pennsylvania  

A regular meeting of the Northampton County Council was held on the above date with the following present: Ronald R. Heckman, President; Lori Vargo Heffner (via telephone), Vice President; John Cusick; Matthew H. Dietz; Margaret L. Ferraro; Kevin Lott; William B. McGee; Robert F. Werner; Tara M. Zrinski; Linda M. Zembo, Clerk to Council and Christopher T. Spadoni, Solicitor to Council.

Pledge of Allegiance

Mr. Dietz led County Council in the pledge of allegiance.

Approval of the Minutes - April 4, 2019

Mr. McGee made the following motion:

Be It Moved By the Northampton County Council that the minutes of the April 4, 2019 meeting shall be approved.

Ms. Zrinski seconded the motion.

The minutes were approved by voice acclamation.

Confirmation of Appointments/Reappointments

Ms. Vargo Heffner called into the meeting at this time.

Mr. McGee introduced the following resolution:

R. 35-2019 RESOLVED, by the Northampton County Council that the following individuals shall be confirmed in their appointments/reappointments as indicated hereafter:

AREA AGENCY ON AGING

Appointment: Robert A. Pruznick
Term to Expire: 7/2/21
4640 Oakwood Lane
Nazareth, PA 18064
County Council Minutes

DRUG & ALCOHOL ADVISORY BOARD

Appointment:  
Frances Gallagher  
6121 Muhlenberg Court  
Bethlehem, PA  18017

Term to Expire:  6/30/21

FARMLAND PRESERVATION BOARD

Reappointments:  
Farmer Director  
Todd Gulick  
6504 Koehler Road  
Bangor, PA  18013

Terms to Expire:  6/30/22

Public Director  
Andrew Thierry  
682 Rose Inn Avenue  
Nazareth, PA  18064

LEHIGH VALLEY PLANNING COMMISSION

Appointment:  
Citizen Representative  
Dr. Christopher R. Amato  
755 Stone Hill Drive  
Walnutport, PA  18088

Term to Expire:  12/31/21

MENTAL HEALTH, EARLY INTERVENTION AND DEVELOPMENTAL PROGRAMS ADVISORY BOARD

Appointment:  
John Timothy Boyer  
5401 Hanover Road  
Bethlehem, PA  18017

Term to Expire:  1/23/22

WORKFORCE BOARD LEHIGH VALLEY

Appointment:  
Stephen H. Patterson  
155 Fox Run  
Easton, PA  18042

Term to Expire:  6/30/20
As there were no questions or comments, Mr. Heckman called for the vote.

The vote: McGee, "yes"; Ferraro, "yes"; Heckman, "yes"; Vargo Heffner, "yes"; Werner, "yes"; Zrinski, "yes"; Cusick, "yes" and Dietz, "yes".

The resolution was adopted by a vote of 9-0.

Courtesy of the Floor

Ms. Deb Hunter, 901 Frost Hollow Road, Easton, PA - stated she was the Vice-Chair for the Election Commission and was one of the two dissenting votes to recommend the Election Systems & Software (ES&S) Express Vote XL Voting System (XL). She further stated in August of 2018 the ES&S XL system was brought in as the Administration’s recommendation.

Ms. Hunter advised at that time this system was not certified by the State and prices were not provided for many of the voting systems. She further advised the ES&S paper system with their small marking ballot devices that Lehigh County was going with was never presented to them.

Ms. Hunter stated the original quote provided the Administration on December 19, 2018, from Clear Ballot was $1.9 million initial purchase price with a $455,000 discount that would take the initial price down to approximately $1.5 million. She further stated it was noted at their March 6, 2019 meeting that the State was giving the County $345,000 for whatever system was chosen so that would bring the initial price down to approximately $1.2 million.

Ms. Hunter advised she and her fellow Election Commission member Kathy Fox interviewed the Director of Elections for all third-class Counties. She further advised one of the reasons Lehigh County chose the paper ballot system with the one ballot marking device was for Americans with Disabilities Act compliance and the optical scanners was because they were worried that if HR1 was passed, they would have to purchase another system.

Ms. Hunter read Subtitle F, Section 1502(a)(2)(A)(i)(I) of HR1:
"The voting system shall require the use of an individual, durable, voter-verified paper ballot of the voter's vote that shall be marked and made available for inspection and verification by the voter before the voter's vote is cast and counted, and which shall be counted by hand or read by an optical character recognition device or other counting device. For purposes of this subclause, the term individual, durable, voter-verified paper ballot means a paper ballot marked by the voter by hand or a paper ballot marked through the use of a nontabulating ballot marking device or system, so long as the voter shall have the option to mark his or her ballot by hand."

Mr. Roger Dreisbach-Williams, 25 Tumble Creek Road, Easton, PA - stated having a paper ballot and a private area where it could be marked would speed up the voting process because the machine counting of it would only be a matter of entering it rather than have a voter spend the time to review the ballot before marking it. He further stated having a paper ballot the voter marked and putting into a secure location would allow the counting of those ballots after the election.

Mr. Dreisbach-Williams advised they would have preliminary results from the scanner, but then would have an actual count of the ballots, which would prevent and assure the voters there had been no tampering with any of the software involved between the time they submitted their ballot and the count was announced.

Mr. Dreisbach-Williams stated he was present during the last election and the count in the machine was noted and measured against the number of votes that had been cast, but there was no indication as to which candidates were selected by the voter so having a paper record of the selections was important to the integrity of the system. He further stated the system the County was proposing to adopt did not include that and this would present a problem for the future.

Mr. Gene Hunter, 901 Frost Hollow Road, Easton, PA - advised XL machines had a bar code on every ballot and after a person voted a new bar code was imprinted that had the information of how that voter voted. He further advised he had a problem with someone looking at a screen, making their selection then looking through glass at a smaller representation of how they voted and not have that representation actually be an official part of the audit trail.
Mr. Hunter stated he was in favor of a voter-verifiable paper audit trail and the machine being considered was going to enable a recount on the basis of these bar codes. He further stated it would only be through some extraordinary measures that might be taken that there would be a hand recount, but there was the danger of someone getting into the machines and altering the bar codes.

Mr. Hunter advised the paper ballot machines were going to be less expensive because they would not have to print out all of the ballots to 110% if there was a device in each polling location that could print up extra ballots. He further advised many computer experts believed that anything with a bar code was less secure and could more easily be hacked.

Ms. Kathy Fox, 1513 Elm Street, Bethlehem, PA – stated she was one of the two Election Commissioners who voted against the ES&S XL. She further stated when she talked to the Directors of Elections of third-class Counties she found those who used paper ballots did not have any problems.

Ms. Fox advised many people liked this machine because it was most similar to the Sequoia model currently being used by the County so training would be easier, but she felt they did not extensively research election security issues. She further advised after a voter cast its vote on the XL it translated and read a bar code.

Ms. Fox stated the bar codes would be counted for the vote tally not a personally marked ballot and they would have to trust the voter's selection was exactly what the bar code indicated. She further stated programming errors, malfunctions and hacking could change what the voter selected and no one would ever know.

Ms. Fox advised even when a bar code reader was available the bar codes were decoded to six digit numbers that only had meaning to the voting machine, which was a serious flaw for recounts.

Ms. Fox stated the Blue Ribbon Commission on Pennsylvania’s Election Security did not recommend systems with bar codes or QR codes as they were not human readable. She further stated according to Professor Andy Appel of Princeton University after a vote was verified through the glass and cast on an ES&S XL the ballot travelled passed a print head that marked the ballot again before it was tabulated.
Ms. Fox advised either through programming errors, malfunctions or hacking the ES&S was capable of printing additional marks on the ballot after verification and before tabulation. She further advised this was a serious flaw that could change election results and affect the auditability of the ballot.

Ms. Fox stated she believed the next Presidential election would have an unprecedented number of voters resulting in long lines and a hand-marked ballot system was the most secure with human verifiable ballots, easy tabulation for absentee ballots through a scanner and gave the ability for more voters to vote at the same time reducing wait times during key hours. She further stated hand-marked ballots increased voter confidence, more reliably captured the voter’s intent, were resilient in case of technical problems and power outages, took up less storage space, cost less when first purchased and was the preferred choice of election security experts.

Ms. Sandy O’Brien, 705 Paxinosa Avenue, Easton, PA – advised at the workshop that was held, Professor Lipresde indicated that a voting machine with a bar code was not going to be safe enough. She further advised when these machines were moved they had a calibration problem that was unknown until they were put in use.

Ms. O’Brien stated in 2016, she had a lot of people contact her following the election to inform her they made a choice and after they pressed the button to confirm their choice their vote was changed. She further stated some of them knew enough to ask to have the machine reset, but a lot of people did not.

Ms. O’Brien advised with ES&S if a mistake was made, a voter could only revote three times. She further advised research showed that people did not look at the paper to find out if it was exactly what they wanted.

Ms. O’Brien stated the trend was toward paper ballots and may be mandated in a short time so the County would then have to spend another $3 million. She further stated paper ballots were the way to go to save democracy.

Mr. Lorenzo Marinelli, 3520 Pilber Road, Palmer, PA – advised he had worked collecting and tabulating data for 20 years. He further advised XL had all the beauty of electronic voting, but there could be a fake, wrong, misprinted or unreadable paper ballot because that ballot was the outbreak
after the machine had interpreted everything, noting they did not call it a paper ballot they called it a summary because it did not contain all the information.

Mr. Marinelli stated in his world of data collection, they focused on touch screens because user interface was extremely important and one thing they would never do was try to lead anyone, but these machines would allow them to add things that might be bias. He further stated in the touch screen world people made mistakes and usually did not verify anything.

Mr. Marinelli advised this machine was telling people to do things the opposite way that was intuitive and then relied on a bar code that could not be humanly interpreted as the actual vote. He further advised he studied the machine this morning and found a lot of errors.

Mr. Marinelli stated when a person filled out a paper ballot their vote was assured so he saw no reason why the County was going with this machine.

Ms. Janis Hobbs-Pellechio, 1010 Benlark, Doylestown, PA advised she was a resident of Doylestown, but was the President of an election integrity group in Bucks County that studied all the latest opinions about the voting systems and shared it with officials and citizens.

Ms. Hobbs-Pellechio stated it appeared to her that many of the County Council members had never seen the machines before and that was a concern because they were never able to compare them and do their own research. She further stated she felt there was a rush to pick something that most members did not understand.

Ms. Hobbs-Pellechio advised as an election integrity individual who really wanted every voter to vote on a secure machine so elections could be properly audited and totally accurate. She further advised they had severe concerns about the ES&S.

In answer to Mr. Dietz’s question as to what machine they would recommend, Ms. Hobbs-Pellechio stated the Clear Ballot system because their ballots did not have bar codes and they had an amazing auditing program and their scanners were top of the line.

Ms. Vargo Heffner disconnected at this time.
In response to Mr. McGee's question as to how involved was her group in the State's process of certification, Ms. Hobbs-Pellechio advised they attended the certification meetings. She further advised they went to Harrisburg last year to educate the legislators about these issues and to talk to them about updating the Election Code.

Ms. Tara Stephenson, 132 Parsons Street, Easton, PA stated she had been heavily involved in every election for the past 11 years and expected her elected officials to work at least as hard as she did or harder. She further stated after hearing from two experts she did not understand how the County could go with a touch screen machine as opposed to a paper ballot.

Ms. Stephenson advised she wanted to see due diligence for her tax dollars and great belief in democracy. She further advised she did not want a decision made tonight because there were too many unanswered questions.

Mr. Justin Woodring, 2242 Ferry Street, Easton, PA stated the machines currently being used for voting were kind of like a black box where someone pushed a button and a printout was produced at the end of the night. He further stated the County had the opportunity to replace that black box with something more transparent, but the XL was not transparent because of the bar codes and it may become obsolete if HR 1 passed.

Mr. Kevin Skoglund, Citizens for Better Elections - advised he was a cybersecurity consultant and had a deep interest in voting machines. He further advised he was on the Election Assistance Commission Advisory Work Group setting the security standards for the next generation of voting machines.

Mr. Skoglund strongly urged County Council to vote no on this contract. He presented a document that answered questions from the Personnel and Finance Committee meeting that was held on April 17, 2019 (see Attachment #1).

Mr. Skoglund stated the machines he and the experts recommended were hand-marked paper ballots, the machines he did not recommend were touch screens and the machines that should be avoided were the XL. He further stated with this machine they were locked into ballots with bar codes on them that looked one way, but the absentee and emergency paper ballots looked different.
Mr. Skoglund advised if HR 1 and/or other legislation passed that required paper ballots, they were going to look like the absentee and emergency paper ballots. He further advised this was the only voting system that could not scan the absentee or emergency paper ballots.

Mr. Skoglund provided a map of the Counties and what they selected (see Attachment #2); noting the majority in green already had paper ballots or selected systems with paper ballots and the ones in red picked touch screens with a separate scanner, which was the ES&S system that was not presented.

Mr. Skoglund stated with XL the absentee or emergency paper ballots were going to have to be precinct-counted at the end of the night by hand, but the other Counties were going to run them through a scanner. He further stated there was discussion about buying a $50,000 central scanner to do absentee or emergency paper ballots, but it would not be needed for risk-limit audits. He noted if no excuse absentee voting passed in Harrisburg, the number of absentee ballots was going to explode.

Mr. Skoglund advised this machine could only make bar codes so if a machine failed they would need emergency paper ballots, but there would be no way to scan them. He further advised this machine had the "opportunity to mark flaw", noting when a ballot was inserted into a machine it scrolled backwards and once the selections were made on the touch screen, it printed them and scrolled forward for review. He noted once it was approved, it scrolled backwards and passed the printer again on its way to scanning bar codes so security experts were concerned there was a potential of adding a bar code, alternating a bar code, invalidating a bar code or having one large black mark.

Mr. Skoglund stated several States were looking into these issues with this machine and it could be decertified as a result. He further stated he felt tonight was not the night to make a decision as more research had to be done.

Penn State Extension Report

Ms. Jen Massaro, Client Relations Manager, advised the one thing they were really combatting right now was the Spotted Lantern Flies, which would be hatching in a few weeks. She further advised they have been doing a lot of outreach and education and planned to hold more public meetings. She noted
recently they partnered with the Conservation District to hold a tree banding workshop for residents.

Ms. Massaro stated beginning May 1, 2019, the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture was going to start enforcing the Spotted Lantern Fly permit for businesses so every business within a quarantine zone had to have a permit to do business and transport goods.

Ms. Massaro advised the training was available on their website. She further advised a business would designate one person to take the training and after passing the test would train other employees on what to look for with regard to the Spotted Lantern Flies. She added they would also receive tags to put on any of their vehicles that transported goods and any vehicle without a tag would be fined.

Ms. Massaro stated they recently held a Pesticide Applicator Short Course to train individuals who were looking to get their pesticide applicator license. She further stated they were planning to do a Pest Identification Workshop and a Landscape Update.

Ms. Massaro advised they were holding another Open-Gate Farm Tour on October 5 and 6, 2019. She further advised the Department of Community and Economic Development would be providing them with a charter bus to take residents and families out to the farms.

Ms. Massaro stated they were continuing their Parasite Resistance Projects with the Equine Program for participating farms in the County. She further stated they were partnering with several veterinarians to do reduce-rate blood testing for tick-borne diseases that they have seen a spike in such as Lyme disease.

Ms. Massaro advised Ms. Kristen Snyder was their new Horticulture Educator who was very knowledgeable on industrial hemp and had experience in growing it, noting they have gotten a lot of questions about it from residents and farmers in the area. She further advised Ms. Snyder was working on an industrial hemp plan for farmers and visiting greenhouses to find out what they needed and wanted to be addressed.

Ms. Vargo Heffner reconnected at this time.
Ms. Massaro stated they had a new 4-H Educator who would be starting May 7, 2019. She then introduced their new Master Gardner/Master Watershed Coordinator Brad Kunsman.

Mr. Kunsman advised the Master Garden/Master Watershed Stewart Program made up one of the largest outreach components of the Ag Extension services in addition to the 4-H Program. He further advised Master Gardner/Master Watershed Stewart volunteers applied a few months before training began and once selected they had to go through 40-hour plus technical training.

Mr. Kunsman stated after going through the training the volunteers were expected to give back 50 hours before they received the official title of Master Gardner/Master Watershed Stewart. He further stated they were annually expected to attend ten hours of continuing education training and give back at least 20 hours.

Mr. Kunsman advised the Master Gardner/Master Watershed Steward Program was founded in Northampton and Lehigh Counties and in 2018 it received a Governor’s Award for environmental excellence. He further advised since its beginning it had expanded into more than 16 Counties and was growing across the State.

County Executive Report

Mr. Lamont McClure, County Executive, stated he read that two Court of Common Pleas Judges in Philadelphia accepted the ES&S contract.

Mr. McClure advised they had tentatively reached an agreement with the Registered Nurses and Social Workers at Gracedale. He further advised eight of the nine bargaining units were now under contract.

Mr. McClure stated the General Purpose Authority and Krieger could not come to a resolution with regard to taking seven bridges out of the P3 Program. He further stated he was deeply concerned that only seven of the 12 bridges that should have been turned over to the County were substantially complete and another one was half completed.

Mr. McClure advised there was another $2.1 million milestone payment due at the end of May and he did not believe that Krieger would have the agreed amount of bridges completed
by that time. He further advised he did not know what the General Purpose Authority would do about that situation, but the Administration would continue to work to keep the process moving forward.

In answer to Ms. Zrinski’s question as to whether there was any recourse, Mr. McClure stated the way the contract was written it could be interpreted that the milestone payment was due even if the milestones were not met.

Mr. McClure advised Teledoc had saved the County $390,812 so far for 2018/2019.

Public Hearing on the Ordinance Amending the 2019 Northampton County Budget

Mr. Heckman stated the following ordinance was introduced by Ms. Vargo Heffner and Mr. McGee at the April 4, 2019 meeting:

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE 2019 NORTHAMPTON COUNTY BUDGET: DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION – ELECTIONS DIVISION; DEPARTMENT OF FISCAL AFFAIRS – BALANCING OF BUDGET

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Effective Date:

In accordance with Northampton County Home Rule Charter 705 (e) this ordinance shall become effective upon the date of enactment.

Mr. Cusick advised the reason the voting machine selection was being presented at this time was because the County had to replace the current system as it was under threat from Governor Tom Wolf to be decertified.

Ms. Zrinski stated this may not be enough money because Governor Wolf was funding this over a five year period and County Council had not yet voted on a machine.

Mr. Heckman advised there could always be another budget amendment if this was not enough funding.

Public Hearing

Mr. Heckman asked if there were any questions or comments from the public.

There were no respondents.

As there were no further questions or comments, Mr. Heckman called for the vote.


The ordinance was adopted by a vote of 9-0.

Introduction of an Ordinance Creating an Open Space, Parks and Recreation Advisory Board

Ms. Zrinski and Mr. Lott introduced the following ordinance:

AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING THE PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE ADVISORY BOARD
WHEREAS, in 2002, the Lehigh Valley Planning Commission created the “Northampton County Parks – 2010 Plan” document, which has been used to guide the implementation of activities for park, recreation and trail activities within Northampton County; and

WHEREAS, on or about November 4, 2004, the Northampton County Council adopted Ordinance #423-2004, entitled, "AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING THE NORTHAMPTON COUNTY 21\(^{st}\) CENTURY OPEN SPACE INITIATIVE, WHICH ORDINANCE, ACCEPTED THE REPORT OF THE NORTHAMPTON COUNTY COUNCIL OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE PREPARED WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF THE LEHIGH VALLEY PLANNING COMMISSION, CREATING THE NORTHAMPTON COUNTY OPEN SPACE ADVISORY BOARD AND ESTABLISHING ITS DUTIES, AND PROVIDING FOR THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE OPEN SPACE INITIATIVE" with the Northampton County 21\(^{st}\) Century Open Space Initiative Guidelines which were also subsequently amended by the enactment of Ordinances #468-2007, #533-2011, #552 of 2012, 559-2012 and 582-2013; and

WHEREAS, on or about January 7, 2016, the Northampton County Council adopted Ordinance #603-2015, entitled, "AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING "THE LIVABLE LANDSCAPES" - AN OPEN SPACE PLAN PROGRAM FOR NORTHAMPTON COUNTY AND FURTHER PROVIDING FOR THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE 21\(^{st}\) CENTURY OPEN SPACE INITIATIVE; and

WHEREAS, under adoption of Ordinance #603-2015 Northampton County Council directed that the Livable Landscapes Plan shall be used when implementing and/or conducting activities under the current 21\(^{st}\) Century Open Space Initiative; and

WHEREAS, Northampton County, under adoption of Ordinance #603-2015, through the appropriate County Departments, Divisions and Authorities shall utilize guidelines and policies detailed in the Livable Landscapes Plan when taking actions associated with parks, recreation, trails and land preservation located in Northampton County; and

WHEREAS, the Open Space Advisory Board will be renamed the Parks, Recreation and Open Space Advisory Board (Board) and shall serve as advisors to the County Council on issues presented to the Board to support implementation of the vision, goals and recommended actions of the currently adopted County Open Space, Park and Recreation Plan(s).

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDEIGNED AND ENACTED by the NORTHAMPTON COUNTY COUNCIL:

1. All "WHEREAS" Clauses are incorporated and adopted into this ordinance.

2. Any prior references to the name "Open Space Advisory Board," in any County Ordinances or Resolution shall now be named, designed and construed to be the “Parks, Recreation and Open Space Advisory Board.”
3. The functions and powers of the Board shall be:

a. Serve in an advisory capacity to the County Council for the implementation of the vision, goals and recommended actions of the currently adopted County Open Space, Park and Recreation Plan(s);

b. Review current open space and parks and recreation programs and facilities in the County to determine additional needs and submit recommendations pertaining to open space, parks and recreation guidelines, policies, budgets, facilities or user fees, if any, to the County Council;

c. Review all open space, parks and recreation-related matters submitted to the Board;

d. Periodically review and, if necessary, suggest updates for the currently adopted County Open Space, Park and Recreation Plan(s);

e. Make recommendations to the Administration and County Council on providing funds for grant programs dedicated to open space, natural areas and parks and recreation initiatives;

f. Within the current County Council’s goals, objectives and budget, perform the above-mentioned duties using the following criteria:

    • Promote environmental protection through acquisition and restoration of natural lands;
    • Promote maximum utilization of parks, recreation facilities and programs;
    • Enhance the quality of the leisure life of all County residents through parks and recreation programs and services;
    • Provide to County residents as wide a variety of recreational opportunities as possible; and,

g. Make recommendations to the County Council on rules and regulations that help protect, maintain and enhance the natural environment;

h. This Board will not supersede actions of other Authorities, Boards and Commissions;
Continue to exercise all the duties, responsibilities and obligations of the formerly named "Open Space Advisory Board" as designated in any County Ordinance and Resolution including but not limited to Ordinances 423-2004 and 603-2015.

Ms. Zrinski made a motion to table this ordinance as the intention was to expand the current Open Space Advisory Board, but the language in this ordinance dissolved the current one and created another.

Mr. Spadoni stated the ordinance could be introduced at this time and discussed before the vote at the next meeting.

The motion died for lack of second.

Mr. Heckman advised the public hearing, debate and possible vote would be held at the May 2, 2019 meeting.

Ms. Vargo Heffner disconnected at this time.

Consideration of Personnel Request Resolutions: Department of Corrections

Mr. McGee introduced the following resolution:

R. 36-2019 IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED by the Northampton County Council that the one full time position of Corrections Reentry Coordinator, pay grade CS26-02B, salary $57,967 be eliminated in the Department of Corrections, effective April 18, 2019.

IT IS HEREBY FURTHER RESOLVED by the Northampton County Council that the one (1) full time position of Corrections Reentry Case Manager, pay grade CS23-01A, salary $47,876, shall be created in the Department of Corrections, effective April 18, 2019.

As there were no questions or comments, Mr. Heckman called for the vote.

The vote: McGee, "yes"; Lott, "yes"; Werner, "yes"; Zrinski, "yes"; Cusick, "yes"; Dietz, "yes"; Ferraro, "yes" and Heckman, "yes".
The resolution was adopted by a vote of 8-0.

Mr. McGee introduced the following resolution:

R. 37-2019  **IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED** by the Northampton County Council that the one (1) full time position of Corrections Maintenance Worker, pay grade RU19-04D, salary $40,410, shall be eliminated in the Department of Corrections, effective April 28, 2019.

**IT IS HEREBY FURTHER RESOLVED** by the Northampton County Council that the one (1) full time position of Corrections Maintenance/Heating Ventilation and Air Conditioning Maintenance Mechanic, pay grade RU22-02B, salary $42,487, shall be created in the Department of Corrections, effective April 18, 2019.

As there were no questions or comments, Mr. Heckman called for the vote.

The vote: McGee, "yes"; Werner, "yes"; Zrinski, "yes"; Cusick, "yes"; Dietz, "yes"; Ferraro, "yes"; Heckman, "yes" and Lott, "yes".

The resolution was adopted by a vote of 8-0.

**Consideration of a Resolution Accepting a Donation from the Friends of Gracedale**

Mr. Werner introduced the following resolution:

R. 38-2019  **WHEREAS,** Northampton County Home Rule Charter Section 202 (10) provides that County Council shall have, among others, the following powers: "to accept on behalf of the County any gifts of real property and to provide for the acceptance by any agency on behalf of the County of other gifts;" and

**WHEREAS,** the Friends of Gracedale Foundation voted to purchase a Shuffle Board table for approximately $1,000 for the Cracker Barrel Room at Gracedale.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Northampton County Council that it does hereby accept the donation of a Shuffle Board table on behalf of Gracedale.
As there were no questions or comments, Mr. Heckman called for the vote.


The resolution was adopted by a vote of 8-0.

Consideration of Gracedale Advisory Board By-Laws Approval Resolution

Mr. Werner introduced the following resolution:

R. 39-2019

A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNTY COUNCIL OF NORTHAMPTON COUNTY ADOPTING THE BY-LAWS OF THE NORTHAMPTON COUNTY NURSING HOME (GRACEDALE) ADVISORY BOARD

WHEREAS, the Northampton County Nursing Home (Gracedale) Advisory Board was created via the enactment, on March 20, 2012, of Northampton County Ordinance No. 546-2012, the ordinance titled, “AN ORDINANCE AMENDING NORTHAMPTON COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE CODE ARTICLE XV AUTHORITIES, BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS, AND PROVIDING FOR THE CREATION OF THE GRACEDALE ADVISORY BOARD”; and

WHEREAS, Ordinance No. 586-2014, the ordinance titled, “AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 546-2012 AND PROVIDING FOR CHANGES IN THE COMPOSITION OF THE GRACEDALE ADVISORY BOARD,” was enacted on July 22, 2014, and it increased the membership of the Gracedale Advisory Board from a minimum of nine to a maximum of fifteen members; and

WHEREAS, Northampton County Charter Section 1004.(b) Rules of Procedure, provides that “Each authority, board, and commission shall have the power to establish its rules of procedure, including methods of requiring regular attendance at meetings; such rules of procedure shall not become effective unless the County Council by resolution approves them.”; and

WHEREAS, the Gracedale Advisory Board has recently approved an amendment to its By-Laws.
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by County Council of Northampton County that the amended By-Laws of the Gracedale Advisory Board are hereby approved this 18th day of April, 2019. A true and correct copy of said Gracedale Advisory Board By-Laws are attached as Exhibit "A". 

As there were no questions or comments, Mr. Heckman called for the vote.

The vote: Werner, "yes"; Zrinski, "yes"; Cusick, "yes"; Dietz, "yes"; Ferraro, "yes"; Heckman, "yes"; Lott, "yes" and McGee, "yes".

The resolution was adopted by a vote of 8-0.

Consideration of Mental Health, Early Intervention and Developmental Programs Advisory Board By-Laws Approval Resolution

Ms. Zrinski introduced the following resolution:

R. 40-2019

A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNTY COUNCIL OF NORTHAMPTON COUNTY ADOPTING THE BY-LAWS OF THE NORTHAMPTON COUNTY MENTAL HEALTH/EARLY INTERVENTION/DEVELOPMENTAL PROGRAMS ADVISORY BOARD

WHEREAS, the Northampton County Mental Health/Early Intervention/Developmental Programs Advisory Board operates under the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare Mental Health and Mental Retardation Act of 1966; and

WHEREAS, Northampton County Charter Section 1004.(b) Rules of Procedure, provides that "Each authority, board, and commission shall have the power to establish its rules of procedure, including methods of requiring regular attendance at meetings; such rules of procedure shall not become effective unless the County Council by resolution approves them."; and

WHEREAS, the Mental Health/Early Intervention/Developmental Programs Advisory Board has recently approved an amendment to its By-Laws.
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by County Council of Northampton County that the amended By-Laws of the Mental Health/Early Intervention/Developmental Programs Advisory Board are hereby approved this 18th day of April 2019. A true and correct copy of said Mental Health/Early Intervention/Developmental Programs Advisory Board By-Laws is attached as Exhibit "A".

As there were no questions or comments, Mr. Heckman called for the vote.

The vote: Zrinski, "yes"; Cusick, "yes"; Dietz, "yes"; Ferraro, "yes"; Heckman, "yes"; Lott, "yes"; McGee, "yes" and Werner, "yes".

The resolution was adopted by a vote of 8-0.

Consideration of the Collura Conservation Easement Resolution

Ms. Zrinski introduced the following resolution:

R. 41-2019 WHEREAS, the County of Northampton implemented the Northampton County Open Space Initiative enacting the Northampton County Open Space Ordinance #423-2004 on November 5, 2004; and

WHEREAS, the Northampton County Open Space Advisory Board has recommended approval of the Collura Conservation Easement Project located in Upper Mount Bethel Township; and

WHEREAS, the Northampton County funding will be used as follows:

Property Owners: Robert and Barbara Collura; George and Marge Collura
Site Location: Valley View Drive, Upper Mount Bethel Township
Parcel Identification: C9-1-41-0131
Site Information: 137.23 acres, wooded, very high conservation identify, State and Regional significance - Martins Creek Watershed, Regional Significance - Lehigh Valley Greenways Conservation Landscape, Pennsylvania Audubon Tier A
**Important Bird Habitat, Blue Mountain (Kittatinny Ridge), Appalachian Trail connection, Big Offset and borders United States Fish and Wildlife Service land**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Appraised Value:</th>
<th>$225,000 (for 127 acres in High Protection Area)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>County Grant Request:</td>
<td>$118,125 (48%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Grants:</td>
<td>$125,125 (52%) Upper Mount Bethel Township</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Description of Project:</td>
<td>Conservation easement of 127 acres of forested canopy in the highest protection area on the Blue Mountain (Kittatinny Ridge). The site is within the buffer of the Appalachian Trail, borders United States Fish and Wildlife Service Lands and will allow public access.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** By the Northampton County Council:

(1) The Northampton County Council hereby approves the Collura Conservation Easement Project. Further, the Northampton County Executive, through the office of the Program Administrator of the Northampton County Livable Landscapes Program, or his designee, is directed to take any and all steps necessary to administer and complete Northampton County's obligations in this project.

(2) The Northampton County Council further directs the Northampton County Executive to appropriate $118,125 of Open Space Initiative - Environmentally Sensitive funds as the Northampton County contribution to the Collura Conservation Easement Project. Should an amount be less than the sum approved by County Council, the remaining balance shall be placed back into the appropriate fund from which it was allocated.

As there were no questions or comments, Mr. Heckman called for the vote.

The vote: Zrinski, "yes"; Cusick, "yes"; Dietz, "yes"; Ferraro, "yes"; Heckman, "yes"; Lott, "yes"; McGee, "yes" and Werner, "yes".
The resolution was adopted by a vote of 8-0.

Ms. Vargo Heffner reconnected at this time.


Point Click Care Technologies

Mr. McGee introduced the following resolution:

R. 42-2019  WHEREAS, Northampton County Administrative Code Article XIII Procurement and Disposition of County Property, Section 13.15 Contracts and Agreements c. (1) requires approval of County Council for "...any contract exceeding $100,000, which was awarded using the Competitive Negotiation, Negotiation After Competitive Sealed Bidding, and Non-Competitive Negotiation source selection methods. For contracts with renewal clauses, the entire potential payout if all renewal clauses are exercised under the terms of the contract must be considered when determining if Council approval is necessary"; and

WHEREAS, on April 3, 2019, the Northampton County Council received a request from the County Executive for County Council to adopt a resolution approving a contract in the estimated amount of $1,708,793.20 with Point Click Care Technologies for Electronic Healthcare Records Software Platform for a term of five (5) years with the option to renew for an additional five (5) year term, in the estimated amount of $1,657,168.20 for an estimated total of $3,365,961.40.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Northampton County Council does hereby concur with the recommendation of the County Executive, as set forth in the attached documentation to approve a contract with Point Click Care technologies for Electronic Healthcare Records Software Platform.

As there were no questions or comments, Mr. Heckman called for the vote.

The vote: McGee, "yes"; Dietz, "yes"; Ferraro, "yes"; Heckman, "yes"; Lott, "yes"; Vargo Heffner, "yes"; Werner, "yes"; Zrinski, "yes" and Cusick, "yes".
The resolution was adopted by a vote of 9-0.

Engle-Hambright & Davies, Inc.

Mr. McGee introduced the following resolution:

R. 43-2019  WHEREAS, Northampton County Administrative Code Article XIII Procurement and Disposition of County Property, Section 13.15 Contracts and Agreements c.(2) requires approval of County Council for "any contract where costs are to be funded with monies outside of the County’s General Fund, such as those funded through bonded indebtedness."

WHEREAS, on April 3, 2019, the Northampton County Council received a request from the County Executive for County Council to adopt a resolution endorsing a contract to be funded with SITC Workers’ Compensation for a term of three years in the amount of $195,000 with the option to extend for two (1) year renewals with a total expenditure of $325,000 if the two (1) year renewals are exercised, for Accident and Illness Prevention Coordinator, Risk Management Services.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Northampton County Council does hereby concur with the recommendation of the County Executive, as set forth in the attached documentation, to approve a contract with Engle-Hambright & Davies, Inc. for Accident and Illness Prevention Coordinator, Risk Management Services.

As there were no questions or comments, Mr. Heckman called for the vote.

The vote: McGee, "yes"; Ferraro, "yes"; Heckman, "yes"; Lott, "yes"; Vargo Heffner, "yes"; Werner, "yes"; Zrinski, "yes"; Cusick, "yes" and Dietz, "yes".

The resolution was adopted by a vote of 9-0.

Election Systems and Software

Mr. McGee introduced the following resolution:
WHEREAS, Northampton County Administrative Code Article XIII Procurement and Disposition of County Property, Section 13.15 Contracts and Agreements c. (1) requires approval of County Council for "...any contract exceeding $100,000, which was awarded using the Competitive Negotiation, Negotiation After Competitive Sealed Bidding, and Non-Competitive Negotiation source selection methods. For contracts with renewal clauses, the entire potential payout if all renewal clauses are exercised under the terms of the contract must be considered when determining if Council approval is necessary"; and

WHEREAS, on April 5, 2019, the Northampton County Council received a request from the County Executive for County Council to adopt a resolution approving a contract, in the estimated amount of $2,879,377 with Election Systems & Software for Express Vote XL Voting Machines, Hardware Maintenance, Software License, Maintenance and Support, Firmware License, Maintenance and Support and Third Party Computer Hardware for the warranty term of one (1) year from equipment delivery.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Northampton County Council does hereby concur with the recommendation of the County Executive, as set forth in the attached documentation to approve a contract with Election Systems & Software for Express Vote XL Voting Machines, Hardware Maintenance, Software License, Maintenance and Support, Firmware License, Maintenance and Support and Third Party Computer Hardware.

Ms. Zrinski stated she had concerns about these machines and more due diligence had to be done because of how critical it was that the County maintain its democracy and voting. She further stated she did a lot of research between yesterday and today regarding undetectable changes in the bar codes and security. She indicated if she had to vote tonight it would be a no vote.

Mr. Dietz advised he felt enough issues were raised that he would be a no vote and suggested the resolution be tabled so more information could be obtained.

Mr. Cusick stated the County had to purchase a new voting system and he used this machine and many others at the County Commissioners Association of Pennsylvania conferences. He agreed with some of the concerns expressed this evening so he would be willing to wait until some feedback could be received on how these machines operated in the State of Delaware School
Board election before making a decision.

In response to Mr. Cusick's question as to whether a one month delay would cause any difficulty for the Election Commission or Administration, Mr. Charles Dertinger, Director of Administration, advised the shipping costs would go up $20,000.

Mr. Dertinger stated this machine was used in an election in Warren County, New Jersey and during the last General Election they had a tie ballot so they went through the extensive audit to make sure what was bar coded and human readable were correct. He further stated the Secretaries of State for Pennsylvania and New Jersey were present at that time and they found it to perform 100% accurate.

In answer to Mr. Heckman's question as to why there would be a $20,000 difference, Mr. Dertinger advised the price negotiated included a $20,000 savings if they took delivery before the end of May.

Mr. Dietz stated that was .7% change in price, but using $20,000 for a rush decision was not prudent.

In response to Ms. Zrinski's question as to whether the company representatives were present, Mr. Dertinger advised arrangements were made for them to be present at the Personnel and Finance Committee yesterday.

Mr. Werner stated he would be agreeable to waiting on the vote because he was concerned about security versus convenience and the failure to demonstrate the machine that Lehigh County was purchasing for the Election Commission on March 6, 2019.

Mr. Dertinger advised the Election Commission made it very clear they wanted to see the XL machine and the Clear Ballot machine. He further advised it was his understanding about a week or so before the meeting one of the members of the Election Commission asked them to bring the other machine, but a mid-west snowstorm prevented them from doing so. As a side note, he indicated Lehigh County was paying more for their machines.

Mr. McClure stated it was the responsibility of the Election Commission to choose a machine not County Council.

When Mr. Werner noted these machines may become obsolete, Mr. Dertinger advised HR1 legislation allowed for ballot marking devices as a means of voting so it did not affect this machine.
With regard to the map that was presented, Mr. Dertinger stated they determined many of the Counties had not done anything with regard to machines so it was a misrepresentation.

In answer to Mr. Werner's question as to how many Counties had the ES&S machines, Mr. Dertinger advised four Counties had the XL. He further advised after Ms. Amy Cozze, Clerical Specialist, Department of Court Services, was hired she checked with ES&S to make sure the County was going to receive what it was told it would receive.

Mr. Dertinger stated they identified all five machines as to what the cost, materials and the County's ten year outlay would be and the Election Commission chose to only look at two of them. He further stated the vast majority of the Judges of Election went to the demonstration in Lehigh County and their response for this machine was overwhelming. He noted this was not a rushed decision as a lot of time had been invested.

Mr. Werner advised he was disappointed that for a $2.9 million contract the company could not get a machine to the meeting. He further advised if this was to be voted on tonight, he would be a no vote.

Ms. Zrinski advised in her research regarding cybersecurity and the ES&S XL machine everything pointed to the fact they could be breached. She further advised Mr. Wenke Lee, Ph.D., Secure, Accessible and Fair Elections Commission, wrote the most critical cybersecurity risk in a voting system was that votes were not counted accurately as a result of cyberattacks; therefore, a voting system must be software independent. Furthermore, in order to support risk limited auditing paper ballots must be easily and clearly readable and manually accountable and the best approach was to require voters to hand mark paper ballots that were scanned and tallied by a cyber-system, but also dropped into a safe box.

Ms. Zrinski stated at the 2019 Georgia Tech Cybersecurity Summit, Mr. Michael Morell, former Acting Director of the Central Intelligence Agency, told the audience that the country's failures to imagine how its adversaries would attack were its biggest and most devastating failures as a nation. Therefore, threat of cyberattacks against voting systems should be taken seriously even though there was not yet proof that past cyberattacks affected any election outcome in the United States.
Mr. Dertinger advised the County’s Information Technology company indicated the machines were not connected to anything so it would be very hard, if not impossible, to hack them. He further advised all of the systems had the same sort of tallying software.

Mr. Dertinger stated what was compelling to the Election Commission and those who voted for this machine was no one would have to decide who someone voted for because it was done on the full face. He further stated it was a State law that someone could only vote three times.

Mr. Dertinger advised with any hand marked devices the ballots were handled after the election, but these ballots would go into a sealed unit. He further advised there was no guarantee that any ballot could not be tampered with.

Mr. Dertinger stated the University of Pittsburgh did an extensive study as to what type of voting system Pennsylvania was going to have and some of the things being brought up occurred before Pennsylvania made its decision. He further stated anything that did not take into account the Blue Ribbon Commission on Pennsylvania’s Election discussions and recommendations did not properly look at the situation as it stood today.

Mr. Dertinger advised ES&S had been in business for 40 years and their reputation for voting systems kept them in business so they would not want to have risk limiting audits that failed.

Mrs. Ferraro stated she was leaning to delaying the vote on this resolution.

In response to Ms. Zrinski’s question as to how the Clear Ballot would cost $1.2 million, Ms. Hunter advised the price was $1.9 million with a $455,000 discount on top of the State providing $345,000 so the total came to $1.2 million.

In answer to Ms. Zrinski’s question as to why the ES&S paper ballot machine was rejected, Ms. Hunter stated they did not reject it. She further stated on February 25, 2019, she requested the machine be brought to the March 6, 2019 meeting, but it was not presented because first they indicated they were only given a two-day notice and then it was because of the snowstorm. She noted the estimate for the ES&S paper ballot system with the small ballot marking device was never provided.
In response to Mr. Dietz's question as to what other comments from Mr. Dertinger did she disagree with, Ms. Hunter advised the ES&S XL met the technical requirements of a ballot marking device, but HR-1, which passed the House, indicated a voter had to have the option to vote by hand.

Mr. Lott stated one of the things he liked about the ES&S XL machine was that it had secured ballots coming back after the election so he wanted to know if Ms. Hunter had any concerns about how paper ballots would be handled.

Ms. Hunter advised Berks, Chester and Lancaster Counties had no problem with paper ballots and they were put into a locked bag.

Mr. Lott stated he saw that as a major problem and he thought this was a much more secure way to handle the ballots.

In answer to Mr. McGee's question as to whether she saw any issue with paper ballots if there was a recount, Ms. Hunter advised they went through a digital scanner.

In response to Mr. Heckman's question as to whether she considered the two machines presented at the March 6, 2019 meeting the two best, Ms. Hunter stated the Judges of Elections showed preference for Clear Ballot and ES&S, but ES&S was similar to what they were most used to. She further stated she asked for the ES&S paper ballot machine to be presented because Lehigh County had chosen it.

Mr. Heckman advised the resolution County Council was voting on was to pay the bill, but the Election Commission voted 3-2 and the Judges of Elections chose to purchase this machine.

In answer to Mr. McGee's question as to when the map was made and where the information came from, Mr. Skoglund stated everything in green were Counties that already had hand marked paper ballots or selected them.

Mr. Cusick advised those Counties that already had hand marked paper ballots were facing decertification.

In response to Mr. Heckman's question as to why the Administration recommended this machine, Ms. Cozze stated she was tasked to research all the systems. She further stated convenience was in no way weighted more heavily than the sanctity of the election and the integrity and security of the
General Election.

Controller Audit Report - Recovery Revolution

Mr. McGee advised Recovery Revolution came before County Council on April 18, 2019 with some accusations that he felt should be looked into. He further advised that Mr. Stephen Barron, Director of Fiscal Affairs, sent a memorandum that had some information relating to Recovery Revolution.

Mr. McGee made a motion to have the Controller's Office conduct an audit on the disbursement, receipt and spending of County funding and also to review the memo of Mr. Barron.

Mr. Lott seconded the motion.

In response to Ms. Vargo Heffner's question as to how far back was the audit going to look at, Mr. Barron stated the contract signed by Recovery Revolution required they kept seven years of documentation.

Mr. Heckman called for the vote on the motion.

The vote: McGee, "yes"; Lott, "yes"; Vargo Heffner, "yes"; Zrinski, "yes"; Cusick, "yes"; Dietz, "yes"; Ferraro, "yes"; Heckman, "yes" and Werner, "yes".

The motion passed by a vote of 9-0.

Mr. Dietz made a motion for the Controller's Office to conduct an audit on the five facilities that received funding from the Drug and Alcohol Division.

Mr. Werner seconded the motion.

Mr. Heckman called for the vote.

The vote: Dietz, "yes"; Werner, "yes"; Vargo Heffner, "yes"; Zrinski, "yes"; Cusick, "yes"; Ferraro, "yes"; Heckman, "yes"; Lott, "yes" and McGee, "yes".

The motion was passed by a vote of 9-0.
election was paramount to everyone so they would not recommend a machine that could be compromised.

Ms. Cozze advised the Clear Ballot paper ballot machine was not the second most popular machine and was not certified at the time it was presented before the Election Commission because the scanner was switching votes. She further advised the ES&S XL system checked all the boxes in a way no other system was able to and it was chosen overwhelming by the poll workers and Judges of Elections.

In answer to Mr. Heckman’s question as to the issue of hacking by a flash drive, Ms. Cozze stated someone would have to spend a lot of time alone with an individual machine as they were not connected to a network. She further stated the Administration had gone to great lengths to secure the warehouse where these machines would be kept and they put into place a chain of custody. She added every single system had a bar code on their ballot.

In response to Mr. Lott’s question as to who certified these machines, Ms. Cozze advised the Election Assistance Commission and then the State. She further advised five machines made it through the process.

Mr. Cusick made a motion to table this resolution until the State of Delaware held their election.

Ms. Zrinski seconded the motion.

Mr. Heckman called for the vote on the motion.

The vote: Cusick, "yes"; Zrinski, "yes"; Lott, "no"; McGee, "no"; Vargo Heffner, "no"; Werner, "yes"; Dietz, "yes"; Ferraro, "yes" and Heckman, "no".

The motion passed by a vote of 5-4.

Mr. McClure stated the Home Rule Charter established the Election Commission as the body that chose the County’s election apparatus. He further stated the Election Commission chose a machine and a budget amendment was adopted so he could execute the contract, but he was not going to do that.

In answer to Mr. McGee’s question as to whether this would affect the Primary Election, Mr. McClure indicated it would not, but it would be more difficult to have everything ready for the
Energy, Environment and Land Use Committee Meeting Report

Ms. Zrinski stated the Energy, Environment and Land Use Committee met earlier in the evening and discussions were held with regard to the Collura property and the changing of the name of the Open Space Advisory Board.

Ms. Zrinski advised the Industrial Hemp Ad Hoc Committee would be holding a meeting at 10:00 a.m., on April 23, 2019 at the farmhouse at Louise Moore Park.

Adjournment

Mr. Cusick made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Mr. Werner seconded the motion.

The motion to adjourn passed unanimously by acclamation.

__________________________
Linda M. Zembo
Clerk to Council
Notes on Personnel and Finance Committee Meeting on April 17, 2019
by Kevin Skoglund, Citizens for Better Elections

Funding
* Federal/HAVA funds: $342K
* PA proposed budget: $366K
* Funds are allocated by percentage of registered voters

Security
* Computers which are not on the internet can still be hacked
* Calibration and "vote flipping" issues are a common voter complaint which create mistrust
* AutoCast is an ExpressVote feature which has been prohibited by the PA Dept. of State
* The ExpressVote XL uses a single paper path which provides an opportunity for it to add, edit, or invalidate barcodes after being cast.

Printing paper ballots for 110% of registered voters
* Law is from 1937, before ballot marking devices or personal printers
* Many PA counties do not print 110% now; advised that a BMD is enough
* Could purchase a ballot-on-demand printer (approx. $5,000)
* Why would two BMDs in a polling place be exempt but one BMD would not?

Barcodes
* PA Blue Ribbon Commission recommended not buying systems with barcodes
* Prof. Lopresti recommended not buying systems with barcodes at Election Committee Meeting on March 6
* Hand-marked paper ballots are not at all "like barcodes"

Central scanner
* This is a significant change from precinct counting absentee ballots
* Precinct counting handles absentee voters who show up on election day
* A central scanner is not necessary for risk-limiting audits
* Recounts and audits should never recount the barcodes

Weight
* AVC Advantage is 265 lbs, ExpressVote XL is 296 lbs (31 lbs heavier)

Pending Legislation
* US H.R.1 would require making hand-marked paper ballots available to any voter.
* PA S.B. 411 would permit no-excuse absentee voting.
* PA S.B. 414 would reduce absentee voting requirements.
* PA S.B. 415 would create a permanent absentee voting list.
* PA S.B. 418 would change paper ballot printing from "registered +10%" to "turnout +10%"
* PA S.B. 1111 would change paper ballot printing from "registered +10%" to "turnout +10%"
* PA H.B. 765 would mandate hand-marked paper ballots with BMDs for accessibility.
* PA H.B. 1059 would permit voting by mail on paper ballots.