

DAN MEUSER  
9TH DISTRICT, PENNSYLVANIA  
350 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515  
(202) 225-6511  
121 PROGRESS AVE.  
SUITE 110, LOSCH PLAZA  
POTTSVILLE, PA 17901  
(570) 871-6370



Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

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AND SUPPLY CHAINS

March 27, 2024

Secretary Al Schmidt  
Secretary of the Commonwealth  
401 North Street, Rm 302  
Harrisburg PA 17120

Dear Secretary Schmidt:

I am writing on behalf of my constituents in Pennsylvania's 9th Congressional District, as well as all voters in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. We are deeply committed to restoring confidence in our elections. While we recognize that our state election laws delegate significant authority to county governments and boards of elections, there remain concerns about statewide election integrity issues.

Governor Josh Shapiro appears to share this concern, given he recently launched a task force charged with ensuring safe, secure elections in Pennsylvania. Further, Governor Shapiro was quoted stating "...we are working to continue defending Pennsylvanians' fundamental freedoms and ensure we have a free, fair, safe, secure election this November." He went on to cite his work as Attorney General in ensuring "every legal vote was counted." I couldn't agree more with these sentiments.

I was also happy to see that Governor Shapiro acknowledged the prosecution of voter fraud in his release – too many seem too willing to dismiss concerns relative to fraud without a second thought. The mere fact that, as Attorney General, Josh Shapiro prosecuted this type of illegality should drive home the point that it exists and that it must be rooted out wherever it occurs.

A concern we hear about frequently relates to voter identification requirements in the Commonwealth. Pennsylvania is one of only a few states, specifically one in sixteen, that does not require an ID for voting, which raises concerns among many Pennsylvanians about the integrity of our elections.

According to a recent report by *The Associated Press*, this concern is nonpartisan. A survey found that only 44% of adults are confident that votes in the 2024 elections will be counted accurately. This presents an ideal opportunity for your office to help rebuild trust and restore confidence in elections. There is no higher priority than ensuring that the 2024 election will be conducted fairly, according to the law and that results will be accurately reported. With this in mind, we ask you, as

the Secretary of the Commonwealth, to respond to some of the questions my office has received in recent weeks.

1. With the unprecedented number of illegal immigrants currently residing in PA, there is great concern about the possibility of ineligible non-citizens voting in upcoming elections. **How can my constituents and all voters in PA be confident that non-citizens will not be added to the voter rolls with automatic voter registration? How can we be certain that non-citizens will not be permitted to vote?**
2. The issues in Northampton and Cumberland County during the 2023 municipal election admittedly should have been identified during logic and accuracy testing. There are many counties that delegate the L&A testing to a vendor, and some do testing that is insufficient to identify all errors before the election. Your office recently released an updated directive on Logic and Accuracy testing, **but do you intend to verify that counties are doing proper pre- and post-election L&A testing?**
3. There is a lot of concern about the decision not to require signature matches on Mail and Absentee ballots. Signature matches are required for in-person voters. **If signature verification is not required for mail-in ballots, what criteria are used to qualify a ballot? To disqualify a ballot?**
4. In cases of determining whether to qualify or disqualify a ballot due to inaccuracies or omissions, what is the curing procedure, and will voters be contacted and informed?
5. What qualifications must an individual meet to be recognized as an official poll watcher? Has your office made available training and educational materials for those interested in being an informed and prepared poll watcher? If not, where can a poll watcher gain the needed tutorials?
6. To what areas within a polling station does a poll watcher have access?
7. Regarding drop boxes, can you clarify the authority of the County's board of elections and does your office recommend securing drop boxes and monitoring them with surveillance?
8. Can you clarify what is permitted and what is illegal regarding ballot collection in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania?
9. With respect to the latest Guidance Concerning Civilian Absentee and Mail-in Ballot Procedures (Version 3.0, released April 3, 2023), in Section 4.1 where it states "Third-person delivery of absentee or mail-in ballots is not permitted, and any ballots delivered by someone other than the voter are required to be set aside. The only exceptions are voters with a disability who have designated in writing an agent deliver their ballot for

them and emergency absentee voters who have authorized in writing a representative to deliver their ballot.” Do you interpret “set aside” to mean “not count” a ballot?

10. In a county where drop boxes are deployed, how do you recommend section 4.1 to be enforced, particularly as it relates to the following circumstances:

- a. In the case of a drop box being deployed where the box is unattended.
- b. In the case of a drop box being deployed where the box does not have active surveillance.
- c. In the case of a drop box being deployed where the box has video surveillance, but it is not monitored or reviewed.

We believe there is a significant misunderstanding related to ballot collection. Please specify how many ballots an individual may collect on behalf of another eligible voter who is unable to reach the polling station or a mailbox on their own. Additionally, describe the penalties for violating Pennsylvania's laws against illegal ballot collection.

Secretary, I also ask that you consider holding a virtual meeting, inviting all county commissioners and/or the county board of elections for a presentation on such questions as these as well as engage in a Q&A. Such a meeting can be done regionally so as to minimize the number of commissioners, which of course will be up to you.

Lastly, I would appreciate a meeting or a call to discuss the Governor’s Election Threats Taskforce. This taskforce does require the involvement and cooperation of the federal Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency. Thank you for your attention to these matters and I look forward to your response.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Dan Meuser", with a stylized, cursive script.

Congressman Dan Meuser