

Bill Aims to Strike Balance in Protecting Water Quality, Saving Taxpayer Dollars

By Rep, Joe Emrick

BANGOR - Citing the unnecessary financial burden being placed on many of the state's municipalities as a result of outdated water quality data, the House approved legislation this week that would require the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to conduct water quality testing within communities subject to the federal Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems (MS4) program.

Created nearly 20 years ago, MS4 targets water resources in watersheds that do not go through a treatment system and have higher than acceptable pollutant levels. However, DEP has failed to update its data which is placing a significant financial burden on some communities that may, in fact, have cleaner water than what the data reflects.

House Bill 2331 would require DEP to either update its own data or allow municipalities to submit their own data generated by other state agencies. The new data could result in communities receiving a waiver from MS4 guidelines or changes to its pollutant reduction plan.

The bill now goes to the Senate for consideration.

Election Integrity Bills Earn Committee Approval

By Rep, Joe Emrick

BANGOR - Continuing its work to improve the election process in Pennsylvania, the House State Government Committee approved three election-related bills this week that aim to better secure ballots, properly maintain voter registration lists and ensure equality for all candidates in General Elections.

House Bill 34 would establish guidelines for the transportation of ballots to ensure election ballots are not misplaced, tampered with, over/under counted or delayed in shipping. It would require ballots to be transported in sealed containers with numbered plastic tags and a Bill of Lading, essentially a manifest and receipt, with each shipment.

House Bill 143 would require the departments of Health and State to work together to streamline the process of removing deceased voters from the rolls. Specifically, it would mandate a monthly report of the names of deceased individuals to be removed from the voter database.

House Bill 2484 would extend the requirements for filing a statement of financial interests to all candidates, including write-in candidates who advanced in primary elections or who appear on the ballot in a General Election.

All the bills now go to the full House for consideration.

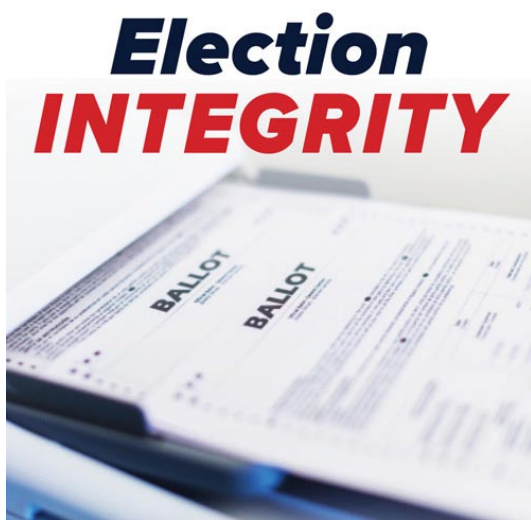
PennDOT Phases in Newly Designed Driver Licenses, ID Cards

By Rep, Joe Emrick

BANGOR - The Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT) announced this week it is updating the design and enhancing security features of its driver licenses and identification cards.

All driver license and photo centers will transition to the new products by mid-November. The new products will be phased in over the next four-year renewal cycle, so license and ID card holders can continue using their existing cards until they are up for renewal. The new cards look different and have additional enhanced security features that improve fraud prevention and protect from counterfeiting and alteration.

Both standard and REAL ID compliant products will use the new design and security features. REAL ID is optional in Pennsylvania; however, beginning May 3, 2023, Pennsylvanians will need a REAL ID-compliant driver's license, photo ID card, or another form of federally acceptable identification (such as a valid passport or military ID) to board a domestic commercial flight or enter a federal building or military installation that requires ID.



BOARD OF SUPERVISOR VACANCY

With deep regret, the Board of Supervisors accepted the resignation of Randy Heard at the September 14, 2022 Board meeting. We want to thank Randy for his service to Plainfield Township.

The resignation created a vacancy on the Board of Supervisors. The position will be filled as per the regulations in Section 407 of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Second Class Township Code.

While not required, it is a recommended practice to make it known that the position is open and to encourage applicants through classified ads, legal notices, or newspaper articles. Any interviews of the candidates or discussion of the qualifications of the applicants must take place in a public meeting.

In order for the person appointed to continue to fill the vacant term which expires on January 1, 2026 they will need to run in the next 2023 municipal election cycle.

Letters of interest along with information of any prior municipal experience will be accepted until 2:00 pm on September 26, 2022.

The letters must be mailed or dropped off to the Township office. The address is as follows:

BOARD VACANCY
Plainfield Twp Board of Supervisors
6292 Sullivan Trail
Nazareth, PA 18064

The Board will schedule a publicly advertised meeting in order to discuss the position with applicants.

Plainfield Township Board of Supervisors
Glenn Borger, Chairman
Stephen Hurni, Vice Chairman
Jane Mellert Supervisor
Donald Moore, Supervisor



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Contact Adrienne at afors1@wm.com with questions
910 W. Pennsylvania Avenue, Pen Argyl PA