

March 26, 2021

Allegheny County Board of Elections
County Office Building
542 Forbes Avenue, Room 604
Pittsburgh PA 15219

Re: Public Election Board Meeting

We write to you on behalf of the undersigned nonpartisan organizations representing diverse communities across Allegheny County to urge the board to hold a public meeting within the next two weeks and NOT wait until May 4th.

The 2020 general election saw the implementation of several new administrative changes that led to an impressive turnout of 77% countywide. We appreciate the efforts taken by the Board of Elections and Division of Elections last fall to provide an enhanced voter experience for so many by increasing accessibility to the ballot. We believe this is an opportunity for Allegheny County to continue meeting voters where they are. Voters embraced the new methods to cast their ballots provided in the 2020 general election, breaking turnout records during a global pandemic. Voters expect to be able to continue using these methods in elections moving forward.

Thus, with the 2021 primary election cycle upon us, we in the voting rights advocacy community are working to re-engage and educate voters on how to plan for this upcoming election. Our ability to provide them with relevant and accurate information is largely dependent on having a clear and concise understanding of your operational plans.

With that in mind, we understand that decisions regarding the planning of elections are made well in advance of two weeks before election day and voters deserve full transparency on those decisions now so they can feel confident in their plans to cast a ballot. As ballots are sent out in the coming days, voters need clear answers on their options to exercise their right to vote. We look forward to hearing from you regarding a public board meeting date and working together to best prepare Allegheny County voters for the upcoming election.

The undersigned,

1Hood Media
All Voting is Local PA
Black Voters Matter
Keystone Votes
League of Women Voters of Greater Pittsburgh
Pennsylvania Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism
Pittsburgh Black Worker Center (PBWC)
Pittsburgh Coalition of Black Trade Unionists (CBTU)
Pride At Work - PA Chapter

Southwestern PA Coalition of Labor Union Women (CLUW)
Take Action Mon Valley (TAMV)
The Black Political Empowerment Project (B-PEP)
West End P.O.W.E.R.
Voter Empowerment Education & Enrichment Movement

Cc: Jennifer Liptak, Chief of Staff Allegheny County Executive
Amie Downs, Communications Director Allegheny County
David Voye, Allegheny County Election Division Manager
Chet Harhut, Allegheny County Election Deputy Division Manager