



Cumberland County Board of Commissioners

Gary Eichelberger, Chairman . Jean Foschi, Vice Chairman . Vincent T. DiFilippo, Secretary

Press Release

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Cumberland County Commissioners Push for Quick Decision in PA Election Uncertainty

Carlisle, PA – As Pennsylvania’s primary draws near, decisions on crucial election items remain unknown. Although a decision has been made regarding the congressional maps to be used in the commonwealth, there is still a great deal of uncertainty surrounding the future of the state’s legislative maps.

“We need a decision, and we need it now,” said County Commissioner Jean Foschi. “Our county election bureau needs time to prepare for the election, they need to perform their duties with clear and concise deadlines.”

As the appeal period on the legislative maps closed March 7, the County Commissioners Association of Pennsylvania (CCAP) filed an amicus brief with the Supreme Court to request the Court expedite its decision and offer counties a reasonable amount of time to complete the tasks associated with the May Primary, should it consider adjusting the election calendar with respect to the General Assembly’s seats.

“Additional primaries will confuse voters, be more costly and will stretch already strained resources at the county and state level,” said County Commissioner Vince DiFilippo. “We need time to be able to prepare for an election so we can serve our residents in a timely, and secure manner.”

Conducting two primary elections would strain election staff, who must conduct various post-election activities such as: computation and canvassing of election returns; examination of provisional ballots; conducting recounts or recanvasses as required; and, certifying the results of the election to the Secretary of the Commonwealth, while also preparing for the general election.

Cumberland County cannot complete crucial election tasks such as preparing ballots for absentee, mail-in, military and overseas voters or programming voting machines until a decision is handed down since it is currently unknown which candidates are running in each district.

“We are committed as always to ensuring a free, fair, accessible, and accurate primary election. But to do that, we need answers,” said Bethany Salzarulo, director of elections.

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