THE PENNSYLVANIA REPORT

April 28, 2022

Written By:
Matt Braynard, Executive Director
Ian Camacho, Research Director
The LAA Research Group

LOOK AHEAD AMERICA
THE VOTER INTEGRITY PROJECT

Table of Contents

The Background and Official Claims

After the 2020 General Election, Pennsylvania remained an outlier of the swing states as it took over 10 days to count its ballots and declare a winner. The original plan by law would have had all civilian ballots received by November 3, 2020, with canvassing beginning at 8 p.m. that night. Only uniformed and overseas civilian absentee (UOCAVA) ballots were supposed to be received between November 4 – 10, 2020 due to Act 77 of 2019 and Act 12 of 2020.[1] These acts gave the County Boards of Elections between the Friday before the 2020 General Election (October 30, 2020) to seven days after the General Election (November 10, 2020), to receive all overseas and military voters' ballots.

Confusion and legal challenges then occurred shortly before Election Day when the Pennsylvania Supreme Court granted a three-day extension that allowed for the receipt of all non-UOCAVA mail-in ballots through November 6. The court also ruled that any ballots without a postmark or with illegible postmarks should "be presumed to have been mailed by Election Day," and therefore legally acceptable, unless there was strong evidence that they were mailed after Election Day. All the while, it kept the November 10 deadline for uniformed military and overseas voters. In sum, the voters of Pennsylvania now had a legal loophole allowing for three extra days to vote by mail as there was no way to determine or discriminate against civilian mail-in ballots sent without postage between November 4 – 6.

On November 13, former Secretary of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Kathy Boockvar reported the number of all ballots received after Election Day:

> The department [of State] also reported that 28,529 military and overseas absentee ballots were cast. November 10 was the deadline for counties to receive uniformed and overseas civilian absentee ballots […] Approximately 10,000 mail ballots that were cast on or before Nov. 3 were received by counties between 8 p.m. November 3 and 5 p.m. Nov. 6. The Pennsylvania Supreme Court ruled in September that counties should count mail ballots received through 5 p.m. Friday, Nov. 6, if they are postmarked by 8 p.m. Election Day. The court also ruled that counties should count those ballots if there is an illegible or missing postmark, unless there is sufficient evidence to demonstrate that the ballot was mailed after Election Day deadline. These ballots are not of a sufficient number to impact the no-recount determination of any of the statewide races.[2]

---

[1] See Appendix for full citations of these laws.
[2] https://www.media.pa.gov/pages/state-details.aspx?newsid=432

She repeated this statement to the United States Supreme Court on November 30, 2020, although she lowered the overall number of mail ballots the state had received to: "fewer than 10,000 ballots were received during those three days [of November 4 – 6, 2020]."[3]

Unfortunately, Secretary Boockvar's public and US Supreme Court statements contradicted the Department of State's own ballot data. These public records show that not only were the number of ballots tallied outside the legal window determinative in the Presidential race, they were also determinative in the state treasurer race.

An Overview of Public Data

The Pennsylvania Department of State releases its mail-in ballot data to the public on the website data.pa.gov (aka OpenDataPA). These show the life cycle of every mail-in and absentee ballot including the application, ballot request, ballot sent, and ballot received dates. The state made repeated updates to the data after the 2020 General Election, with additional changes to the mail-in votes made even after the election was certified; fortunately, third-party sites retained archival records as OpenDataPA does not provide archives. These artifacts allow for a review of the data released over the ensuing weeks after the 2020 General Election.

All relevant files appear under 2020 General Election Mail Ballot Requests. Here the state defines the "Ballot Returned Date" as "The date the county marked the ballot as received after the voter mailed the voted ballot back to the county." Look Ahead America's Research Group focused here as these would have directly affected races due to the number ballots received after Election Day.

The Research Group focused on the November 16 data set as it best reflects most of what was known between November 12 (when the Department of State decided not to proceed with a recount) and November 24 (when Pennsylvania certified the state and federal election results). The group also compared this data set to the earliest data sets of November 3 and the most current data set of February 23, 2021. Presumably, February's would be the most accurate given that the Department of State had over 3 months to reconcile the data since Election Day.

Definitions of Ballot Management Dates

Received – This is the date when the Secretary of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania or the county board of elections can legally accept cast ballots, usually based on type of ballot and contest.

Canvassed - This date marks when a ballot is qualified or disqualified. While being canvassed, the ballots have not yet been separated and anonymized from the mail-in ballot envelopes. This canvassing process tabulates the number of disqualified ballots and the reasons why.

---

[3] https://www.supremecourt.gov/DocketPDF/20/20-542/162063/20201130140620945_RPP%20Opp%20Cert%20v.FINAL.pdf

Counted - The time when the votes on each ballot and each ballot types are recorded.

Tallied - Similar and often overlapping during ballot counts, this is the summarizing of results of the counting and the canvassing and allows the counties to inform the Secretary of the Commonwealth of the local, state, and federal contest outcomes.

Data Used For Review

November 3 OpenDataPA archive, site capture date November 5 (JSON):
https://web.archive.org/web/20201105155209/https://data.pa.gov/views/mcba-yywm.json?accessType=WEBSITE&method=getDefaultView

November 3 OpenDataPA archive, metadata of November 2, site capture date November 6:
https://web.archive.org/web/20201106020016/https://data.pa.gov/Government-Efficiency-Citizen-Engagement/2020-General-Election-Mail-Ballot-Requests-Departm/mcba-yywm

November 3 OpenDataPA archive, metadata of November 6, site capture date November 7:
https://web.archive.org/web/20201107203401/https://data.pa.gov/Government-Efficiency-Citizen-Engagement/2020-General-Election-Mail-Ballot-Requests-Departm/mcba-yywm

November 3 OpenDataPA archive, metadata of November 10, site capture date November 11
https://web.archive.org/web/20201111121855/https://data.pa.gov/Government-Efficiency-Citizen-Engagement/2020-General-Election-Mail-Ballot-Requests-Departm/mcba-yywm

November 3 data set, site capture date November 7:
https://web.archive.org/web/20201107095832/https://data.pa.gov/api/views/mcba-yywm/rows.csv?accessType=DOWNLOAD&bom=true&format=true

November 16 OpenDataPA archive, metadata of November 10, site capture date November 17:
https://web.archive.org/web/20201117023510/https://data.pa.gov/Government-Efficiency-Citizen-Engagement/2020-General-Election-Mail-Ballot-Requests-Departm/mcba-yywm

November 16 data set, site capture date December 4:
https://web.archive.org/web/20201204095146/https://data.pa.gov/api/views/mcba-yywm/rows.csv?accessType=DOWNLOAD

December 16 OpenDataPA archive, metadata of November 10, site capture date December 19:
https://web.archive.org/web/20201219090844/https://data.pa.gov/Government-Efficiency-Citizen-Engagement/2020-General-Election-Mail-Ballot-Requests-Departm/mcba-yywm

December 16, 2020 data set, site capture date December 17:
https://web.archive.org/web/20201217165142/https://data.pa.gov/api/views/mcba-yywm/rows.csv?accessType=DOWNLOAD

February 23, 2021 data set, metadata February 18, 2022, site capture date February 18:
https://data.pa.gov/api/views/mcba-yywm/rows.csv?accessType=DOWNLOAD

February 23, 2021 JSON file:
https://data.pa.gov/views/mcba-yywm.json?accessType=WEBSITE&method=getDefaultView

Data Recreation / Methodology

Importing
All applicable data sets were imported into a Structured Query Language (SQL) database for analysis. One can use any SQL engine to reproduce the results with the instructions below; we used SQL Server Management Studio (SSMS). Below are query syntax details for SSMS.

Getting the relevant counts
1) For mentions of "ballots with a return date" or "ballots returned" (counts mail ballots):
where Ballot_Returned_Date is not null

2) When counting return ballots by party or mentioning counts that are:

Democrats:
where [Ballot_Returned_Date] is not null and [Applicant_Party_Designation] = 'D'

Republicans:
where [Ballot_Returned_Date] is not null and [Applicant_Party_Designation] = 'R'

No party/some other party:
where [Ballot_Returned_Date] is not null and ([Applicant_Party_Designation] NOT IN ('D','R') or [Applicant_Party_Designation] is null)

3) When counting ballots received by specific dates:

For "received by 11/03":
where [Ballot_Returned_Date] is not null and [Ballot_Returned_Date] <= '2020-11-03'

For received on specific dates, count by matching a specific date (example: November 4):
where [Ballot_Returned_Date] is not null and [Ballot_Returned_Date] = '2020-11-04'

For ballots returned 11/11 or later:
where [Ballot_Returned_Date] is not null and [Ballot_Returned_Date] >= '2020-11-11'

Non-SQL Searches

To recreate the following visual outputs of the 2020 General Election Mail-In Ballot Requests, one can do so on OpenDataPA by following the screen captures.[4] First, visit the site: https://data.pa.gov/Government-Efficiency-Citizen-Engagement/2020-General-Election-Mail-Ballot-Requests-Departm/mcba-yywm

---

[4] https://data.pa.gov/d/mcba-yywm/visualization

Department of State Procedure Timeline

November 1, 2020: The Secretary of the Commonwealth releases STATEWIDE RETURN AND RECOUNT DIRECTIVE AND PROCEDURES.[5]
- This document explains how pre-canvassing and canvassing of mail-in ballots should be conducted and what should automatically constitute a recount.

November 3, 2020: Election Day
- 7 a.m. Pre-canvassing of ballots returned before Election Day begins.
- 8 p.m. Canvassing of ballots returned on Election Day begins.

November 6, 2020: Tabulation of Late Mail-In Ballots
- At 5 p.m., canvassing must end for all segregated mail-in ballots received after 8 p.m. on November 3. All ballots must be postmarked on or before November 3, 2020, unless they lack a postmark or are illegible - in which case the ballot is presumed to have been mailed by November 3. There are three days reserved afterward for hearings related to challenged ballot applications done before the October 30, 2020 deadline.[6]

November 10, 2020: Submission of Tabulated Returned ballots
- Each county board of elections submits their tabulation of returned ballots. This tabulation, although signed, is considered unofficial nevertheless.

November 11, 2020: Determination of a Recount
- The Secretary of the Commonwealth considers the unofficial data and determines whether the margin of victory is within 0.5% or less of all counted ballots for a race, which would trigger a recount.
- The Secretary of the Commonwealth must notify candidates if there will be a recount of the results.

November 12, 2020: Recount
- The Secretary of the Commonwealth orders an official recount, if warranted.

November 4 – 6, 2020

Canvassing of the ballots received from November 4 – 6, 2020 began on November 6 with the instruction to tabulate "as soon as possible upon receipt of the ballots and within the period specified by law for the canvass."[7] On November 10, board of election officials had to submit

---

[5] https://www.dos.pa.gov/VotingElections/OtherServicesEvents/VotingElectionStatistics/Documents/2020-11-01-StatewideReturnRecountDirective.pdf
[6] https://www.dos.pa.gov/VotingElections/OtherServicesEvents/Documents/Canvassing-Segregated-Ballot-Guidance.pdf
[7] https://www.dos.pa.gov/VotingElections/OtherServicesEvents/Documents/Canvassing-Segregated-Ballot-Guidance.pdf

the results of their canvassing to Secretary Boockvar.[8] Indeed, at 1:59:57 PM EST, OpenDataPA released a report which showed 97.99% of ballots counted with 52,924 ballots uncounted.[9]

Later, the November 16 data set showed 49,509 ballots returned between November 4 – 6. This number increases to 50,283 in the most recent February 23, 2021 data set. [10] Both sets show her statements of 10,000 ballots (or fewer) received as being off by a factor of approximately 5.

The only charitable reason Secretary Boockvar unknowingly misrepresented the number of received ballots would be if multiple county boards of elections falsified the data they sent her. Otherwise, it becomes apparent that she had, or should have had, knowledge that there were nearly 50,000 ballots received and knowingly committed perjury in her court statement.
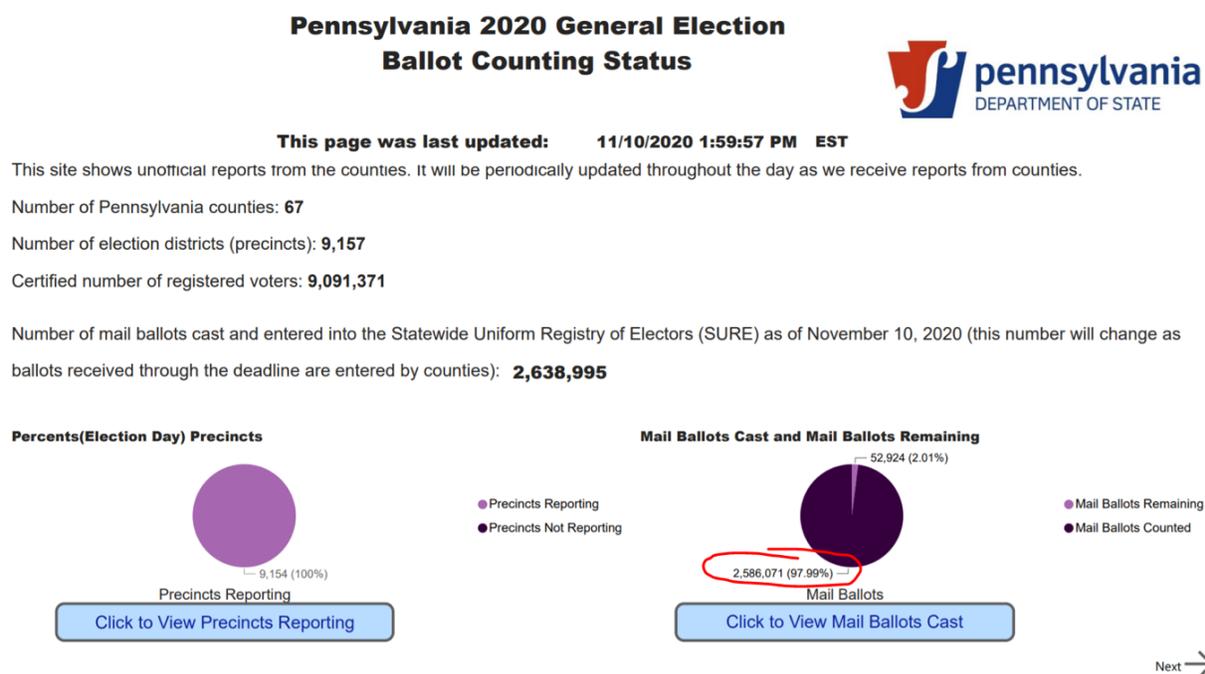
November 7 – 10, 2020

While the November 3 data set naturally shows no ballots having arrived between November 7 – 10 (due to the dates occurring later), the November 16 data set shows 8,663 ballots received at this time. The December 16 data set shows 8,606 ballots returned, and the February 23, 2021 data set shows 8,836 ballots received.[11] Only military and overseas ballots were allowed to be received and counted from November 7 – 10, 2020, but not standard civilian ones.

---

[8] https://www.dos.pa.gov/VotingElections/OtherServicesEvents/Documents/DOS%20Guidance%20Civilian%20Absentee%20and%20Mail-In%20Ballot%20Procedures.pdf
[9] https://www.vote.pa.gov/About-Elections/Documents/ENR_111020_1403.pdf
[10] https://data.pa.gov/Government-Efficiency-Citizen-Engagement/2020-General-Election-Mail-Ballot-Requests-Departm/mcba-yywm
[11] https://data.pa.gov/Government-Efficiency-Citizen-Engagement/2020-General-Election-Mail-Ballot-Requests-Departm/mcba-yywm

If the state indeed received a total of 28,529 military and overseas ballots as Secretary Boockvar claimed on November 13, then 19,936 military/overseas ballots were received by November 6 when using the latest data set. Unfortunately, nothing suggested this was true, as evidenced by the figures below.

Further complicating matters, Pennsylvania's Department of State ignored requests for explanations of the codes used in Mail Application Types, as well as confirmations as to which ones it considers UOCAVA/military and overseas ballots. For example, the meanings of OLMAILNV, OLREGNV, and BV for ballot types appear on no websites nor data set explanations. The following data set descriptions only explain some of the available ballot types:

> Alt - This is an alternative ballot application where voters who are 65 years of age and the polling place may not be fully accessible. C - This is an absentee ballot application issued during the emergency absentee period. CIV - This is a civilian absentee ballot application that was submitted via paper. CRI - This is an absentee ballot application for an overseas civilian voter in a remote/isolated location. CVO - This is an absentee ballot application for an overseas civilian voter. F - This is an absentee application for an individual who qualifies to vote for federal offices in federal election years. OLMAILV - This is a mail ballot application that was submitted online. M - This is an absentee ballot application for a military voter. MAILIN - This is a mail-in ballot application. MRI - This is an absentee ballot application for a military voter in a remote/isolated location. OLREGV - This is a civilian absentee ballot application that was submitted online. PER - This is an absentee ballot application where a voter has requested permanent status. PMI - This is a mail ballot application where the voter has requested permanent status. REG - This is an absentee ballot application that was submitted via paper.

Eventually we discovered that "V" indicates "every bedridden or hospitalized veteran outside the county of his residence who is not registered and to whom an absentee ballot is being sent."[12] It appears that codes CIV, CRI, CVO, M, MRI, and V seem to qualify, but possibly the state included OLMAILNV, OLREGNV, and BV. Likewise, it seems as if OLMAILV, MAILIN, OLREGV, REG do not qualify as UOCAVA ballots, however, we do not know if the state included any of the three unknown types as non-UOCAVA items. In any case, items returned and counted between November 7 – 10 should only have allowed for military and overseas voters.

---

[12] https://www.legis.state.pa.us/WU01/LI/LI/US/HTM/1937/0/0320..HTM

February 23, 2021 data set

Mail_Application_Type	Returned Nov 7–10
C	47
CIV	39
CRI	1
CVO	432
F	582
M	429
MAILIN	3520
OLMAILNV	17
OLMAILV	2080
OLREGNV	50
OLREGV	1411
PMI	1
REG	227

December 16, 2020 data set

Mail_Application_Type	Returned Nov 7–10
C	46
CIV	38
CRI	1
CVO	411
F	555
M	415
MAILIN	3470
OLMAILNV	17
OLMAILV	2010
OLREGNV	50
OLREGV	1369
PMI	1
REG	223

November 16, 2020 data set

Mail_Application_Type	Returned Nov 7–10
C	46
CIV	38
CRI	1
CVO	412
F	560
M	415
MAILIN	3470
OLMAILNV	18
OLMAILV	2035
OLREGNV	49
OLREGV	1397
PMI	1
REG	221

November 11, 2020 Onward

Any ballots received November 11 and later should have been officially rejected, regardless of type. While the earliest November 3 data sets show no ballots received after November 11 (for the simple reason that the date had not happened yet), the November 16 data set shows 6,854 ballots received from November 11 – 16. The December 16 data set shows 11,054 ballots received from November 11 onward, while the February 23 data set shows that the state received 13,116 ballots from November 11 onward.

The most recent and official data from the U.S. Elections Project, with data provided by Pennsylvania Secretary of State's office, shows 7,411 rejected ballots as of November 20.[13] Only identification and signature issues were rejection reasons, however, not late receipt dates.

According to the August 2021 U.S. Election Assistance Commission's 2020 Election Administration and Voting Survey (EAVS), Pennsylvania only rejected 2,412 ballots due to late receipt.[14] [15] (Pennsylvania rejected 34,171 ballots in total, of which these late ballots were a subset.)[16] Their definition of "late receipt" does not distinguish whether the state rejected all ballots received after November 10, or only civilian ballots received after November 6, which would have been illegal to accept unless they were military and overseas ballots.

Therefore, Pennsylvania illegally counted anywhere from 4,442 to 13,105 ballots past the allowable deadlines according to the November 16 data set.

6,854 [November 16 data set of 11/11-16 ballots received] – 2,412 [EAVS late ballot rejections] = 4,442 illegally accepted ballots.

---

[13] https://electproject.github.io/Early-Vote-2020G/PA.html under "Mail Ballots Rejected"; dated 11/20/2020.
[14] https://www.eac.gov/sites/default/files/Research/2020EAVS.pdf (see code C4b).
[15] https://www.eac.gov/sites/default/files/EAVS 2020/2020_EAVS_for_Public_Release_nolabel_V2.csv (see column C4b - rejected due to missed deadline - rows 3517 to 3583 – all Pennsylvania counties).
[16] https://www.eac.gov/sites/default/files/document_library/files/2020_EAVS_Report_Final_508c.pdf

8,663 [November 16 data set of 11/7-10 ballots received] + 6,854 [November 16 data of 11/11-16 ballots received] – 2,412 [EAVS late ballot rejections] = 13,105 illegally accepted ballots.

If using the February 23 data set, then these numbers skyrocket to between 10,704 to 19,540 ballots illegally counted.

13,116 [February 23 data set of 11/11 onward ballots received] – 2,412 [EAVS late ballot rejections] = 10,704 illegally accepted ballots.

8,836 [February 23 data set of 11/7-10 ballots received] + 13,116 [February data set of 11/11 onward ballots received] – 2,412 [EAVS late ballot rejections] = 19,540 illegally accepted ballots.

Fluctuating Return Dates

In data sets for November 16, December 16, and February 23, date breakouts occur with each new data set finding more ballots ostensibly received with receipt dates. In the November 3 data set, only 2,553,094 ballots had a return date. In the November 16 data set, the number of ballots with return dates that did not previously have them increased by 75,505 ballots to 2,628,599 ballots. In the December 16 data set, the number of ballots with return dates that did not previously have them inched up another 1,558 ballots to a total of 2,630,157 ballots. Finally, the February 23, 2021 data set showed another 17,899 ballots with return dates that did not previously have them, bringing the total to 2,648,056 dated (or backdated) ballots. In sum, 94,962 ballots without return dates in the November 3 data set showed with dates of receipt by the most recent February 23 data set.

From the November 3 data set to the February 23 data set, more patterns became apparent:

Gain of 22,727 ballots purportedly received by November 3 (exceeds recount requirements)
2,575,821 – 2,553,094 = 22,727

Gain of 73,010 ballots purportedly received by November 6 (exceeds Treasurer victory margin)
2,626,104 – 2,553,094 = 73,010

Gain of 81,846 ballots purportedly received by November 10 (exceeds President victory margin)
2,634,940 – 2,553,094 = 81,846

Gain of 94,962 ballots purportedly received with any return date (exceeds both victory margins)
2,648,056 – 2,553,094 = 94,962

These unexplained date changes alone exceed the margins of victory in both the US Presidential race as well as the Pennsylvania State Treasurer's race. These 75,505 ballots suddenly having dates in the November 16 data set account for 93.73% of the United States Presidential race's margin of victory (80,555), and 143.69% of the State Treasurer race's margin of victory (52,546).

Disappearing Ballots

Despite the increasing numbers of return dates converted from previously unknown dates and no dates, 11,828 fewer ballots appeared in the November 16 data set when compared to the November 3 data set. These voters had submitted a mail-in ballot application, been approved, and supposedly received a ballot. Of those 11,828, only 5,206 had return dates.

When comparing the November 3 data set with the December 16 data set, the number of ballots that disappeared since the November 3 data set climbs to 18,154, with 9,022 marked as returned. The data does not reveal whether these ballots were deleted or if they had integral data altered post-election. A deeper investigation would unveil the answer.

The ballots that disappeared between the November 16 data set and the December 16 data set accounted for 6.46% to 11.2% of the US Presidential margin of victory and 9.91% to 17.17% of the State Treasurer's margin of victory.

Ballots Added After the Deadline

1,809 new ballots appear in the November 16 data set with a unique "Date of Birth," "Application Approve Date," "Application Returned Date," and voting districts not found in the November 3 data set. Of those 1,809 new ballots, 1,432 were returned. In the December 16 data set, 4,420 new ballots appear since November 3, of which 3,516 have return dates.

Pennsylvania's mail-in application deadline was October 27, yet new ballots were filled out and submitted daily. Even emergency absentee ballots should not have been counted after November 10. Additionally, after the election, counties allowed voters to fill out new ballots. For example, Berks County showed submissions as late as November 16. Without transparency regarding the process these ballots underwent, then one cannot determine whether these were illegally cast and counted. Furthermore, these changed after the cutoff, which signifies that several items were still being counted and added. If illegally added past the deadline, then the ones returned would account for 2.73% of the State Treasurer margin of victory and 1.78% of the United States Presidential margin of victory.

Switching Republican Registered Voters

Although the number of return ballots for the Democrat Party registered voters, third-party registered voters, and no-party registered voters kept increasing, the number of return ballots from registered Republican voters began decreasing. The data set from November 3 shows 600,455 returned mail-in ballots for Republicans. The November 16 data set shows the highest total for Republicans at 623,352 or a gain of 22,897. The December 16 data set, however, shows the Republicans losing 370 ballots, down to 622,982. The current dataset of February 23, 2021 shows another drop by 4,807, bringing the total removed Republican registered ballots

down 5,177 to 618,175. This would affect 6.43% of the US President's margin of victory and 9.85% of the State Treasurer's margin of victory.

While plausible that somehow five thousand ballots previously available in the dataset of December 16 were administrative errors affecting Republican voters, far less plausible is that other voter party groups continued to gain. In the time frame that Republicans lost 5,177 ballots that had previously been marked as received, Democrats gained 16,973 ballots previously not been marked as received as of November 16, and ballots with an applicant party designation of none or other parties gained an additional 7,661 returned ballots. The total change of 29,811 ballots in the records account for 37% of the US President's margin of victory, and 56.73% of the State Treasurer's margin of victory. That it primarily targets one voter group seems to suggest either a systemic problem in voter registrations, or manipulation of voter registrations, such as 100+ nonprofit and outside groups with write access to the Statewide Uniform Registry of Electors (SURE) system. Making the ballot images public would provide the ability to inspect these and determine if they were adjudicated due to errors or something else.

The information from the November 5, 2020 JSON capture matches the current February 23, 2021 data set. It not only confirms that the February 23 data set has 94,962 more returned ballots than the older sets, but also that the current data set has 18,995 fewer ballot *requests* on file than on November 5, despite its showing 94,962 more returned ballots.

The November 5 link also shows the total ballots requested by party (although not by party and whether the ballot was returned). For the ballot requests in the November 5 record and not in the February 23 data set, the missing requests disproportionately affect Republican ballot requests at a ratio of over 2.6 to 1. The difference in requests by party shows 6,169 fewer Democrat ballot requests in the February 23 data set compared to the November 5 one, and 16,240 fewer Republican ballot requests than the February 23 data set. In a state where mail-in ballot requests came from Democrat voters by over 2 to 1, the rate of removed requests inversely and disproportionately affecting Republican voters seems to be another anomaly. There may be a reasonable explanation, however, none has been given thus far.

Anomalies in Records and Dates

While the following are anomalies that may or may not directly have affected the outcome of the election, they nevertheless should be investigated due to the high frequency of errors.

Missing "Mailed Ballot Dates"

The November 16 data set shows 10,261 returned ballots with no "Mailed Ballot Date." Without a "Mailed Ballot Date" then no record exists that these ballots were delivered to the intended voter, let alone mailed out. Again, this could be a clerical and administrative error, but at minimum it presents a chain-of-custody issue and a record keeping issue as this is a significant number of ballots missing the data. If they were not sent out then there remains no

proof that these mail-in ballots were legally delivered to the voter without any other data regarding the ballot's mailing date. If these ballots without a "Mailed Ballot Date" were not segregated from regular ballots, then that would have affected the State Treasurer's margin of victory by 19.53% and the United States Presidential margin of victory by 12.74%.

Impossible (and Altered) "Mailed Ballot Dates"

The November 3 data set had 23,305 ballots with a "Mailed Ballot Date" sent after the "Ballot Returned Date." The November 16 data set, however, showed that 23,120 of these 23,305 ballots had their "Mailed Ballot Date" altered to a date on or before their "Returned Ballot Date," leaving only 185 ballots with an impossible "Mailed Ballot Date." The official procedure and justification for altering "Mailed Ballot Date" on ballots already tabulated as returned has not yet surfaced, nor has any explanation appeared as to why over 23,000 ballots had their "Mailed Ballot Date" backdated. In any case, these account for 28.93% of the US Presidential margin of victory and 44.35% of the State Treasurer's victory margin, prior to "correction."

With impossible origin dates one cannot determine the chain of custody, if these ballots went to the proper voters, or even if these were correctly segregated from regular ballots received. It is possible that these were received on time and is merely an administrative error, but given that these were not merely transposed with the receipt date but rather only the "Mailed Ballot Date" changed after the first two data sets and just before certification of the election results does appear rather suspect and provides a lack of certainty about the legality of these ballots.

Impossible Ballot Application Dates

Mail-in ballots require that the voter request to vote by mail, yet Pennsylvania mailed 4,221 ballots to voters before they had returned their applications, according to the November 16 data set (this appears under "Application Approved Date"). Administrative errors might explain them, but the state possibly sent mail-in ballots before the voters returned any applications.

There would have been no way to determine and segregate these potentially illegally unrequested (and presumably backdated) ballots from lawfully requested ballots. If illegally sent, then these affected 5.24% of the US President's margin of victory and 8.03% of the State Treasurer's margin of victory. Investigation can decipher whether this was an error or intended.

Recap of Key Numbers

MARGIN OF VICTORY
80,555 United States President
52,546 Pennsylvania State Treasurer

RECOUNT THRESHOLD
34,576 United States President
33,809 Pennsylvania State Treasurer

DISTANCE TO RECOUNT THRESHOLD
45,979 United States President
18,737 Pennsylvania State Treasurer

BALLOTS RECEIVED NOVEMBER 4-6
50,283 (February 23 data set)
49,509 (November 16 data set)
~10,000 (November 13, Boockvar's Official Statement)
<10,000 (November 30, Boockvar's Written Legal Response to US Supreme Court)

BALLOTS RECEIVED NOVEMBER 7-10
8,663 (November 16 data set)
8,606 (December 16 data set)
8,836 (February 23 data set)

BALLOTS RECEIVED AFTER NOVEMBER 11 ONWARD
6,854 (November 16 data set, for November 11 – 16)
11,054 (December 23 data set, for November 11 onward)
13,116 (February 23 data set, for November 11 onward)

REJECTED MAIL-IN BALLOTS
7,411 (Pennsylvania's official November 20 report, not due to lateness)
2,412 (EAC EAVS report based on late receipt)
34,171 (EAC EAVS total)

CHANGED FROM HAVING NO RECEIPT DATE TO HAVING A RECEIPT DATE
75,505 (November 16 data set, since the November 3 data set)
77,063 (December 16 data set, since the November 3 data set)
94,962 (February 23 data set, since the November 3 data set)

DISAPPEARING BALLOTS
11,828 / 5,206 with return dates (November 16 data set, previously in November 3 data set)
18,154 / 9,022 with return dates (December 16 data set, previously in November 3 data set)

NEW BALLOTS NOT IN PRIOR SETS, MARKED RETURNED
1,809 / 1,432 with return dates (November 16 data set, since November 3)
4,420 / 3,516 with return dates (December 16 data set, since November 3)

NET CHANGE (DISAPPEARED BALLOTS PLUS NEW BALLOTS)
10,019 removed / 3,774 with return dates (November 16 data set, since November 3)
13,734 removed / 5,506 with return dates (December 16 data set, since November 3)

REPUBLICAN VOTER APPLICATIONS SWITCHED

22,897 (November 16 data set, gained since November 3)

22,527 (December 16 data set, gained since November 3)

17,720 (February 23 data set, gained since November 3)

5,177 (Returned ballots in November 16 data set, no longer available in February 23 data set)

BALLOTS WITHOUT "BALLOT MAIL DATE"

9,005 (November 3 data set)

10,261 (November 16 data set)

10,415 (December 16 data set)

11,072 (February 23 data set)

"BALLOT MAIL DATE" AFTER "BALLOT RETURN DATE"

23,305 (November 3 data set)

185 (November 16 data set)

"APPLICATION APPROVED DATE" AFTER "BALLOT MAIL DATE"

3,967 (November 3 data set)

4,146 (November 16 data set)

4,153 (December 16 data set)

4,151 (February 23 data set)

Summary

The November 16 data set shows 125,033 ballots affected by identifiable issues by the November 12 deadline for a recount. One can reach this number based on the 75,505 ballots changed from having no receipt date to having a receipt date, the 39,509 ballots not mentioned by Boockvar (49,509 received in this time frame minus the 10,000 she claimed were received), the 10,019 net ballots removed (or 3,774 with return dates) when taking disappeared ballots plus new ballots not in prior sets. Even if removing the 34,171 rejected ballots according to the official EAVS statement, that still leaves 90,862 ballots in question. This number does not include 14,592 ballots with anomalies such as the 10,261 ballots without a "ballot mail date," the 185 ballots with a "ballot mail date" after the "ballot return date," and 4,146 ballots with an "application approved date" after the "ballot mail date."

The minimum number of ballots to trigger a recount in the United States Presidential race was 34,576 (0.5% of all ballots cast for the office). The margin of victory in 2020 was 80,555 ballots, meaning the threshold to get to 34,576 was 45,979 ballots. The nearly 50,000 undisclosed ballots received between November 4 – 6 alone would reach this number, if not the over 75,000 potentially backdated ballots. The effect becomes even more pronounced in the State Treasurer's race. In any event, the number of potentially illegally cast, received, canvassed, and counted ballots exceeds both the recount requirement and the margin of victory.

Takeaways

Look Ahead America research group's goal of the investigation was to understand the reasoning for the numerous ballot date changes and to determine if any races were significantly affected. The group found that not only did the number of affected ballots exceed the margin of victory in the United States Presidential General Election of 2020, *but it also exceeded and likely affected the Pennsylvania State Treasurer race, in which the Republican purportedly won over the Democrat.*

The results of the Treasurer's race were significantly closer – a margin of 52,546 with a recount threshold of 33,809 and distance to recount threshold of 18,737 – than that of the US President – a margin of 80,555 with a recount threshold of 34,576 and distance to recount threshold of 45,979.[17] The winners of these races are unknowable due to many unexplained indicators of changed received dates and ballots that were presumably accepted past legal deadlines. By law, Pennsylvania must have an automatic recount if the difference between the top two candidates is within 0.5% (0.005) of all the ballots cast for the office. One should have been instigated as a review of the data from November 16 shows over 20,000 problematic ballots that would constitute an immediate recount for the State Treasurer's election and over 40,000 for the United States Presidential election.[18]

Former Secretary Boockvar has no excuse unless she can show that the county board of elections or county clerks lied to her over communications about the numbers. If indeed Boockvar only relayed the information that the board of elections sent her way, then the issue goes much deeper to a county and local level, which warrants further investigation. Fortunately, citizens of Pennsylvania and other states can complete Freedom Of Information Act requests for their emails between November 2 through November 16, as these items are not privileged. This will determine which parties were telling the truth or not.

Repealing Act 77 and Act 12 would also prevent the justification for receiving civilian ballots after Election Day. All ballots with illegible postmarks or ballots received without postmarks should be rejected; seeing as how the laws permit ballots whether illegible or not postmarked, but not ones with a late postmark, then the obvious incentive to follow the rules and submit it in the mail on time with proper postage all but vanishes as there's no chain of custody followed. Canvassing must begin after Election Day and not continue indefinitely. Deadlines for receipt and canvassing should remain uniform regardless of ballot type to avoid future confusion.

While an appeals court in the Pennsylvania Commonwealth Court struck down Act 77 of 2019, which would have made a number of the justifications used in 2020's General Election illegal, the case currently remains in effect as the Pennsylvania Supreme Court deliberates a ruling on

---

[17] https://www.electionreturns.pa.gov/General/SummaryResults?ElectionID=83&ElectionType=G&IsActive=0 a Recount threshold equal to the number of ballots cast for the office * 0.005

[18] https://wjactv.com/news/election-results/boockvar-estimated-10000-ballots-received-in-days-after-election

appeal.[19] Although removal of Act 77 from 2019 would significantly improve the situation, Boockvar also mentioned Act 12 of 2020 in her justification. This means that some of these tendrils still remain in the system. Pennsylvanians must contact their state legislators to demand that they also repeal this law so that it cannot be used again in future elections.

Additionally, there are several problems with the OpenDataPA data sets. For example, the meanings of OLMAILNV, OLREGNV, and BV for ballot types do not appear on any website or data set explanation. Why "V," which indicates "every bedridden or hospitalized veteran outside the county of his residence who is not registered and to whom an absentee ballot is being sent"[20] was not included in the data key also remains unknown. Additionally, these do not explain which ones the state has considered UOCAVA ballots (although likely these are CIV, CRI, CVO, M, MRI, and V based on their descriptions). The research group did not sort and filter these types out of our above analysis as we did not want to incorrectly include or exclude a category, nor undercount or overcount and misrepresent the numbers. If the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania provides explanations for these three ballot type categories, and explains which ones qualify as UOCAVA ballot types, then we will adjust our numbers accordingly.

Finally, these reports do not even include whether these voters were illegally registered at Post Office Boxes. Our recent report on Pennsylvania found 1,359 voters illegally registered at P.O Boxes and thus illegally cast ballots due to these invalid registrations. The state must investigate them and remove what appear to be entirely invalid registrations to protect our elections.[21]

Acknowledgements

Thanks to @Svace, without whom this project would not have been possible or brought to our attention. @Tolkien's Apprentice, and @CherylT for the database research. @Tolkien's Apprentice and @CherylT provided substantive grammatical and typographical edits, as did Missy who verified all URLs as working and cleaned up the drafts. The Pennsylvania state volunteer coordinator John Cobb and his volunteers were helpful in providing information on the Pennsylvania SURE system as well as various legal documents.

How to Support Look Ahead America

If you can volunteer 10 hours a week in your state and are willing to speak with your state representatives, then please sign up at https://lookaheadamerica.org/lead. You may also sign up to volunteer at https://www.lookaheadamerica.org/volunteer.

Or you may make a tax-deductible contribution at https://www.lookaheadamerica.org/donate.

You can also join our Discord community server at https://discord.gg/lookaheadamerica.

---

[19] https://www.pacourts.us/Storage/media/pdfs/20220301/192803-14map2022-ordergrantingemergencyapplicationtoreinstateautomaticsupersedeas.pdf
[20] https://www.legis.state.pa.us/WU01/LI/LI/US/HTM/1937/0/0320..HTM
[21] https://lookaheadamerica.org/azpaboxes/

Clarification Letter to the PA Secretary of Commonwealth

We contacted the current Secretary of the Commonwealth to understand these questions about the data. Our email from January 20, 2022 appears below as of yet unanswered.

Dear Secretary Chapman,

I am writing to you about a question that we have as we are trying to understand the publicly available dataset that changed five times between November 3, 2020 to the last update February 23, 2021. Here are the archive links:

November 3rd Dataset:
https://web.archive.org/web/20201106020016/https://data.pa.gov/Government-Efficiency-Citizen-Engagement/2020-General-Election-Mail-Ballot-Requests-Departm/mcba-yywm

November 6th Data:
https://web.archive.org/web/20201107203401/https://data.pa.gov/Government-Efficiency-Citizen-Engagement/2020-General-Election-Mail-Ballot-Requests-Departm/mcba-yywm

November 10th Data (Note that it states the last data update occurred on November 3rd): https://web.archive.org/web/20201111121855/https://data.pa.gov/Government-Efficiency-Citizen-Engagement/2020-General-Election-Mail-Ballot-Requests-Departm/mcba-yywm

November 16th Data:
https://web.archive.org/web/20201117023510/https://data.pa.gov/Government-Efficiency-Citizen-Engagement/2020-General-Election-Mail-Ballot-Requests-Departm/mcba-yywm

December 16th Data:
https://web.archive.org/web/20201219090844/https://data.pa.gov/Government-Efficiency-Citizen-Engagement/2020-General-Election-Mail-Ballot-Requests-Departm/mcba-yywm

We have 5 questions:

(1) Why were there no announcements of these dataset changes made?

(2) What digital process would retroactively change these dates?

(3) Why were these receipt dates changed, especially if the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania stated that if ballots were mailed by 11/3/2020 or ballots were marked as voted by 11/3/2020 they would be allowable to be counted through 11/6/2020 (or through 11/10/2020 if military and overseas voters)?

(4) Why would any ballot records be deleted instead of simply rejected? Over 13,000 ballots were removed between November 10 and December 16.

(5) If the data is transparent, then why is the process not transparent?

I understand that you were not the Secretary of State at the time, however, helping us to understand the answers to these questions would help us to make sense of the variations in data. Thank you for your assistance!

Kind Regards,
Ian Camacho
Director of Research
Look Ahead America

Act 77 of 2019

Two acts were signed into law by Democratic Party Governor Tom Wolf of Pennsylvania before the General Election of 2020 that caused a number of security issues: Act 77 of 2019[22] and Act 12 of 2020.[23] Act 77 of 2019 was later found to be unconstitutional on January 28, 2022 by the Commonwealth Court of Pennsylvania, though it currently is under appeal. [24] [25] No formal attempts to overturn Act 12 of 2020 have been made as of this writing.

```
    (g)  (1)  (i)  An absentee ballot cast by any absentee
elector as defined in section 1301(a), (b), (c), (d), (e), (f),
(g) and (h) [which is received in the office of the county board
of elections after five o'clock P.M. on the Friday immediately
preceding the election and no later than five o'clock P.M. on
the seventh day following an election] shall be canvassed in
accordance with this subsection if [the absentee ballot is
postmarked no later than the day immediately preceding the
election.] the ballot is cast, submitted and received
in accordance with the provisions of 25 Pa.C.S. Ch. 35 (relating
to uniform military and overseas voters).
    (ii)  An absentee ballot cast by any absentee elector as
defined in section 1301(i), (j), (k), (l), (m) and (n), an
absentee ballot under section 1302(a.3) or a mail-in ballot cast
```

[22] https://www.legis.state.pa.us/cfdocs/legis/li/uconsCheck.cfm?yr=2019&sessInd=0&act=77
[23] https://www.legis.state.pa.us/cfdocs/legis/li/uconsCheck.cfm?yr=2020&sessInd=0&act=12
[24] https://apnews.com/article/pennsylvania-voting-donald-trump-tom-wolf-31b4e7d0b16a996c63079c8aa3c3b121
[25] https://ballotsecuritynow.org/

by a mail-in elector shall be canvassed in accordance with this subsection if the absentee ballot or mail-in ballot is received in the office of the county board of elections no later than eight o'clock P.M. on the day of the primary or election.

(2) The county board of elections shall meet [on the eighth day following the election to canvass] no earlier than the close of polls on the day of the election and no later than the third day following the election to begin canvassing the absentee ballots and mail-in ballots received under this subsection and subsection (h)(2). The canvass shall continue through the eighth day following the election. One authorized representative of each candidate in an election and one representative from each political party shall be permitted to remain in the room in which the absentee ballots and mail-in ballots are canvassed. Representatives shall be permitted to challenge any absentee elector or mail-in elector in accordance with the provisions of paragraph (3).

Items cited in section 1301[26] explained:

(a) Any qualified elector who is or who may be in the military service of the United States regardless of whether at the time of voting he is present in the election district of his residence or is within or without this Commonwealth and regardless of whether he is registered or enrolled; or

(b) Any qualified elector who is a spouse or dependent residing with or accompanying a person in the military service of the United States if at the time of voting such spouse or dependent is absent from the municipality of his residence: Provided, however, That the said elector has been registered or enrolled according to law or is entitled, under provisions of the Permanent Registration Law as now or hereinafter enacted by the General Assembly, to absentee registration prior to or concurrently with the time of voting; or

(c) Any qualified elector who is or who may be in the service of the Merchant Marine of the United States if at the time of voting he is absent from the municipality of his residence: Provided, however, That the said elector has been registered or enrolled according to law or is entitled, under provisions of the Permanent Registration Law as now or hereinafter enacted by the General Assembly, to absentee registration prior to or concurrently with the time of voting; or

---

[26] https://www.legis.state.pa.us/cfdocs/legis/LI/uconsCheck.cfm?txtType=HTM&yr=1937&sessInd=0&smthLwInd=0&act=320&chpt=13

(d)   Any qualified elector who is a spouse or dependent residing with or accompanying a person who is in the service of the Merchant Marine of the United States if at the time of voting such spouse or dependent is absent from the municipality of his residence: Provided, however, That the said elector has been registered or enrolled according to law or is entitled, under provisions of the Permanent Registration Law as now or hereinafter enacted by the General Assembly, to absentee registration prior to or concurrently with the time of voting; or

(e)   Any qualified elector who is or who may be in a religious or welfare group officially attached to and serving with the armed forces if at the time of voting he is absent from the municipality of his residence: Provided, however, That the said elector has been registered or enrolled according to law or is entitled, under provisions of the Permanent Registration Law as now or hereinafter enacted by the General Assembly, to absentee registration prior to or concurrently with the time of voting; or

(f)   Any qualified elector who is a spouse or dependent residing with or accompanying a person in a religious or welfare group officially attached to and serving with the armed forces if at the time of voting such spouse or dependent is absent from the municipality of his residence: Provided, however, That the said elector has been registered or enrolled according to law or is entitled, under provisions of the Permanent Registration Law as now or hereinafter enacted by the General Assembly, to absentee registration prior to or concurrently with the time of voting; or

(g)   Any qualified elector who expects to be or is outside the territorial limits of the several States of the United States and the District of Columbia because his duties, occupation or business require him to be elsewhere during the entire period the polls are open for voting on the day of any primary or election or who is or who may be a civilian employee of the United States outside the territorial limits of the several States of the United States and the District of Columbia, whether or not such elector is subject to civil-service laws and the Classification Act of 1949 and whether or not paid from funds appropriated by the Congress, if at the time of voting he is absent from the municipality of his residence: Provided, however, That said elector has been registered or enrolled according to law or is entitled, under provisions of the Permanent Registration Law as now or hereinafter enacted by the General Assembly, to absentee registration prior to or concurrently with the time of voting; or

(h) Any qualified elector who is a spouse or dependent
residing with or accompanying a person who expects to be or is
outside the territorial limits of the several States of the
United States and the District of Columbia because his duties,
occupation or business require him to be elsewhere during the
entire period the polls are open for voting on the day of any
primary or election or who is a spouse or dependent residing
with or accompanying a person who is a civilian employee of the
United States outside the territorial limits of the several
States of the United States and the District of Columbia,
whether or not such person is subject to civil-service laws and
the Classification Act of 1949 and whether or not paid from
funds appropriated by the Congress, if at the time of voting
such spouse or dependent is absent from the municipality of his
residence: Provided, however, That the said elector has been
registered or enrolled according to law or is entitled, under
provisions of the Permanent Registration Law as now or
hereinafter enacted by the General Assembly, to absentee
registration prior to or concurrently with the time of voting;
or
(i) Any qualified war veteran elector who is bedridden or
hospitalized due to illness or physical disability if he is
absent from the municipality of his residence and unable to
attend his polling place because of such illness or physical
disability regardless of whether he is registered and enrolled;
or
(j) Any qualified registered and enrolled elector who
expects to be or is absent from the municipality of his
residence because his duties, occupation or business require him
to be elsewhere during the entire period the polls are open for
voting on the day of any primary or election; or
(k) Any qualified registered and enrolled elector who
because of illness or physical disability is unable to attend
his polling place or operate a voting machine and secure
assistance by distinct and audible statement as required in
section 1218 of this act;
(l) Any qualified registered and enrolled elector who is a
spouse or dependent accompanying a person employed in the
service of this Commonwealth or in the service of the Federal
Government within the territorial limits of the several States
of the United States and the District of Columbia in the event
the duties, profession or occupation of such person require him
to be absent from the municipality of his residence; or
(m) Any qualified elector who is a county employe who cannot
vote due to duties on election day relating to the conduct of
the election; or

(n) Any qualified elector who will not attend a polling place because of the observance of a religious holiday:
   Provided, however, That the words "qualified absentee elector" shall in nowise be construed to include persons confined in a penal institution or a mental institution nor shall it in anywise be construed to include a person not otherwise qualified as a qualified elector in accordance with the definition set forth in section 102(t) of this act.

Section 1302(a.3)

(1) The following categories of electors may apply for an absentee ballot under this subsection, if otherwise qualified:
   (i) An elector whose physical disability or illness prevented the elector from applying for an absentee ballot before five o'clock P.M. on the first Tuesday prior to the day of the primary or election.
   (ii) An elector who, because of the elector's business, duties or occupation, was unable to apply for an absentee ballot before five o'clock P.M. on the first Tuesday prior to the day of the primary or election.
   (iii) An elector who becomes so physically disabled or ill after five o'clock P.M. on the first Tuesday prior to the day of the primary or election that the elector is unable to appear at the polling place on the day of the primary or election.
   (iv) An elector who, because of the conduct of the elector's business, duties or occupation, will necessarily be absent from the elector's municipality of residence on the day of the primary or election, which fact was not and could not reasonably be known to the elector on or before five o'clock P.M. on the first Tuesday prior to the day of the primary or election.
   (2) An elector described in paragraph (1) may submit an application for an absentee ballot at any time up until the time of the closing of the polls on the day of the primary or election. The application shall include a declaration describing the circumstances that prevented the elector from applying for an absentee ballot before five o'clock P.M. on the first Tuesday prior to the day of the primary or election or that prevent the elector from appearing at the polling place on the day of the primary or election, and the elector's qualifications under paragraph (1). The declaration shall be made subject to the provisions of 18 Pa.C.S. § 4904 (relating to unsworn falsification to authorities).
   (3) If the county board of elections determines that the elector meets the requirements of this section, the board shall issue an absentee ballot to the elector.
   (4) If the elector is unable to appear at the office of the county board of elections to receive the ballot, the board shall

give the elector's absentee ballot to an authorized
representative of the elector who is designated in writing by
the elector. The authorized representative shall deliver the
absentee ballot to the elector and return the completed absentee
ballot, sealed in the official absentee ballot envelopes, to the
office of the county board of elections, which shall retain the
ballot, unopened, until the canvassing of all absentee ballots.
    (5) Multiple people qualified under this subsection may
designate the same person, and a single person may serve as the
authorized representative for multiple qualified electors.
    (6) If the elector is unable to appear at the office of the
county board of elections or unable to obtain assistance from an
authorized representative, the county board may provide an
authorized representative or ask the judge of the court of
common pleas in the county in which the elector is qualified to
vote to direct a deputy sheriff of the county to deliver the
absentee ballot to the elector if the elector is at a physical
location within the county and return the completed absentee
ballot, sealed in the official absentee ballot envelopes, to the
county board of elections. If there is no authorized
representative and a deputy sheriff is unavailable to deliver an
absentee ballot under this section, the judge may direct a
constable to make such delivery in accordance with the
provisions of this section.
    (7) In the case of an elector who requires assistance in
marking the elector's ballot, the elector shall designate in
writing the person who will assist in marking the ballot. Such
person shall be otherwise eligible to provide assistance to
electors eligible for assistance, and such person shall declare
in writing that assistance was rendered. Any person other than
the designee who shall render assistance in marking a ballot or
any person rendering assistance who shall fail to execute a
declaration shall be guilty of a violation of this act.
    (8) No absentee ballot under this subsection shall be
counted which is received in the office of the county board of
elections later than the deadline for its receipt as provided in
section 1308(g).

1308(g) is not defined in the bill but appears in Act 12 of 2020

Act 12 of 2020

    Section 1308. Canvassing of Official Absentee Ballots and
Mail-in Ballots.--* * *
    (g) (1) (i) An absentee ballot cast by any absentee
elector as defined in section 1301(a), (b), (c), (d), (e), (f),
(g) and (h) shall be canvassed in accordance with this

subsection if the ballot is cast, submitted and received in accordance with the provisions of 25 Pa.C.S. Ch. 35 (relating to uniform military and overseas voters).

(ii) An absentee ballot cast by any absentee elector as defined in section 1301(i), (j), (k), (l), (m) and (n), an absentee ballot under section 1302(a.3) or a mail-in ballot cast by a mail-in elector shall be canvassed in accordance with this subsection if the absentee ballot or mail-in ballot is received in the office of the county board of elections no later than eight o'clock P.M. on the day of the primary or election.

(1.1) The county board of elections shall meet no earlier than seven o'clock A.M. on election day to pre-canvass all ballots received prior to the meeting. A county board of elections shall provide at least forty-eight hours' notice of a pre-canvass meeting by publicly posting a notice of a pre-canvass meeting on its publicly accessible Internet website. One authorized representative of each candidate in an election and one representative from each political party shall be permitted to remain in the room in which the absentee ballots and mail-in ballots are pre-canvassed. No person observing, attending or participating in a pre-canvass meeting may disclose the results of any portion of any pre-canvass meeting prior to the close of the polls.

(2) The county board of elections shall meet no earlier than the close of polls on the day of the election and no later than the third day following the election to begin canvassing [the] absentee ballots and mail-in ballots [received under this subsection and subsection (h)(2).]not included in the pre-canvass meeting. The meeting under this paragraph shall continue until all absentee ballots and mail-in ballots received prior to the close of the polls have been canvassed. The county board of elections shall not record or publish any votes reflected on the ballots prior to the close of the polls. The canvass process shall continue through the eighth day following the election[.] for valid military-overseas ballots timely received under 25 Pa.C.S. § 3511 (relating to receipt of voted ballot). A county board of elections shall provide at least forty-eight hours' notice of a canvass meeting by publicly posting a notice on its publicly accessible Internet website. One authorized representative of each candidate in an election and one representative from each political party shall be permitted to remain in the room in which the absentee ballots and mail-in ballots are canvassed. [Representatives shall be permitted to challenge any absentee elector or mail-in elector in accordance with the provisions of paragraph (3).]

(3) When the county board meets to pre-canvass or canvass absentee ballots and mail-in ballots under

[paragraph] paragraphs (1), (1.1) and (2), the board shall examine the declaration on the envelope of each ballot not set aside under subsection (d) and shall compare the information thereon with that contained in the "Registered Absentee and Mail-in Voters File," the absentee voters' list and/or the "Military Veterans and Emergency Civilians Absentee Voters File," whichever is applicable. If the county board has verified the proof of identification as required under this act and is satisfied that the declaration is sufficient and the information contained in the "Registered Absentee and Mail-in Voters File," the absentee voters' list and/or the "Military Veterans and Emergency Civilians Absentee Voters File" verifies his right to vote, the county board shall [announce the name of the elector and shall give any candidate representative or party representative present an opportunity to challenge any absentee elector or mail-in elector upon the ground or grounds: (i) that the absentee elector or mail-in elector is not a qualified elector; or (iii) that the absentee elector was able to appear personally at the polling place on the day of the primary or election during the period the polls were open in the case his ballot was obtained for the reason that he was unable to appear personally at the polling place because of illness or physical disability. Upon challenge of any absentee elector, as set forth herein, the board shall mark "challenged" on the envelope together with the reasons therefor, and the same shall be set aside unopened pending final determination of the challenge according to the procedure described in paragraph (5).] provide a list of the names of electors whose absentee ballots or mail-in ballots are to be pre-canvassed or canvassed.

(4) All absentee ballots [and mail-in ballots not challenged for any of the reasons provided in] which have not been challenged under section 1302.2(c) and all mail-in ballots which have not been challenged under section 1302.2-D(a)(2) and that have been verified under paragraph (3) shall be counted and included with the returns of the applicable election district as follows:

(i) The county board shall open the envelope of every unchallenged absentee elector and mail-in elector in such manner as not to destroy the declaration executed thereon.

(ii) If any of the envelopes on which are printed, stamped or endorsed the words "Official [Absentee] Election Ballot" [or "Official Mail-in Ballot"] contain any [extraneous marks or identifying symbols,] text, mark or symbol which reveals the identity of the elector, the elector's political affiliation or the elector's candidate preference, the envelopes and the ballots contained therein shall be set aside and declared void.

(iii) The county board shall then break the seals of such envelopes, remove the ballots and [record the votes.] count, compute and tally the votes.
   (iv) Following the close of the polls, the county board shall record and publish the votes reflected on the ballots.
   (5) [With respect to the challenged ballots, they] Ballots received whose applications have been challenged and ballots which have been challenged shall be placed unopened in a secure, safe and sealed container in the custody of the county board until it shall fix a time and place for a formal hearing of all such challenges, and notice shall be given where possible to all absentee electors and mail-in electors thus challenged and to every individual who made a challenge. The time for the hearing shall not be later than [five (5)] seven (7) days after the [date of the challenge] deadline for all challenges to be filed. On the day fixed for said hearing, the county board shall proceed without delay to hear said challenges, and, in hearing the testimony, the county board shall not be bound by the Pennsylvania Rules of Evidence. The testimony presented shall be stenographically recorded and made part of the record of the hearing.
   (6) The decision of the county board in upholding or dismissing any challenge may be reviewed by the court of common pleas of the county upon a petition filed by any person aggrieved by the decision of the county board. The appeal shall be taken, within two (2) days after the decision was made, whether the decision was reduced to writing or not, to the court of common pleas setting forth the objections to the county board's decision and praying for an order reversing the decision.
   (7) Pending the final determination of all appeals, the county board shall suspend any action in canvassing and computing all challenged ballots received under this subsection irrespective of whether or not appeal was taken from the county board's decision. Upon completion of the computation of the returns of the county, the votes cast upon the challenged official absentee ballots that have been finally determined to be valid shall be added to the other votes cast within the county.

   Section 1302.2. Approval of Application for Absentee Ballot.--
      * * *
   (c) The county board of elections, upon receipt of any application of a qualified elector required to be registered under the provisions of preceding section 1301, shall determine the qualifications of such applicant by verifying the proof of

identification and comparing the information set forth on such
application with the information contained on the applicant's
permanent registration card. If the board is satisfied that the
applicant is qualified to receive an official absentee ballot,
the application shall be marked "approved." Such approval
decision shall be final and binding, except that challenges may
be made only on the ground that the applicant [did not possess
the qualifications of an absentee] was not a qualified elector.
Such challenges must be made to the county board of elections
prior to [the applicable deadline for the absentee ballots to be
received, as provided in section 1308(g). When so approved, the
registration commission shall cause an absentee voter's
temporary registration card to be inserted in the district
register on top of and along with the permanent registration
card. The absentee voter's temporary registration card shall be
in the color and form prescribed in subsection (e) of this
section:
    Provided, however, That the duties of the county boards of
elections and the registration commissions with respect to the
insertion of the absentee voter's temporary registration card of
any elector from the district register as set forth in section
1302.2 shall include only such applications and emergency
applications as are received on or before the first Tuesday
prior to the primary or election. In all cases where
applications are received after the first Tuesday prior to the
primary or election and before eight o'clock P.M. on the day of
the primary or election, the county board of elections shall
determine the qualifications of such applicant by verifying the
proof of identification and comparing the information set forth
on such application with the information contained on the
applicant's duplicate registration card on file in the General
Register (also referred to as the Master File) in the office of
the Registration Commission and shall cause the name and
residence (and at primaries, the party enrollment) to be
inserted in the Military, Veterans and Emergency Civilian
Absentee Voters File as provided in section 1302.3, subsection
(b).] five o'clock p.m. on the Friday prior to the election:
Provided, however, That a challenge to an application for an
absentee ballot shall not be permitted on the grounds that the
elector used an application for an absentee ballot instead of an
application for a mail-in ballot or on the grounds that the
elector used an application for a mail-in ballot instead of an
application for an absentee ballot.

Section 1302.2-D. Approval of application for mail-in ballot.
    (a) Approval process.--The county board of elections, upon
receipt of any application of a qualified elector under section

1301-D, shall determine the qualifications of the applicant by verifying the proof of identification and comparing the information provided on the application with the information contained on the applicant's permanent registration card. The following shall apply:

   * * *

   (2) The approval decision shall be final and binding, except that challenges may be made only on the grounds that the applicant [did not possess the qualifications of a mail-in] was not a qualified elector.