
In Re: Extension of Hours of Operation for
Polling Places Precincts in 275 West
Goshen S-1 and 285 West Goshen S-3

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IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS
CHESTER COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA
ELECTION LAW
No. 2024-09900-EL

2024 NOV -5 PM 8:00
OFFICE OF THE
PROTHONOTARY
CHESTER CO., PA
FILED

PETITION TO EXTEND POLLING PLACE HOURS

Pursuant to Section 2604 of the Pennsylvania Election Code, 25 P.S. §2601 *et seq.*,
Petitioners, the Board of Elections of the County of Chester (“the Board”), by and through their
counsel, the Solicitor of the County of Chester, hereby respectfully petition this Court to allow
the polling locations of Precinct 275 West Goshen S-1 located at West Chester 7th Day Adventist
Church, 826 S. High Street, West Chester and Precinct 285 West Goshen S-3 located at Glen
Acres Elementary School, 1150 Delancy Pl., West Chester to remain open two additional hours
in order to allow the qualified registered electors of Precincts 280 West Goshen S-2 and 286
West Goshen S-4 located at the Government Services Center, 601 Westtown Rd., West Chester
PA 19382 to cast provisional ballots and that provisional ballots be counted as if the provisional
ballots were cast in their home precinct. In support thereof, the Board avers the following:

1. Petitioners are the Board of Elections of the County of Chester (“Board”), comprised
of the County Commissioners of Chester County.
2. It is the Board’s statutory duty to conduct primaries and elections in Chester County.
25 P.S. § 2641(a).

3. Pursuant to the Election Code, this court has broad powers to secure a free, fair, and correct election, and grants courts of common pleas the authority to address situations which arise on the day of a primary or general election. 25 P.S. §3046. *See In re General Election-1985*, 109 Pa.Cmwlth. 604, 531 A.2d 836 (1987) (in light of a flood occurring on election day, the court of common pleas had the authority to suspend voting in certain districts until the emergency was over); *Pennsylvania Democratic Party v. Boockvar*, 238 A.3d 345, 370, 362 N.17 (Pa. 2020) *Donald J. Trump for President, Inc. v. Boockvar*, 493 F.Supp.3d 331, 355 (W. D. Pa. 2020) (the Constitution confers on states the authority to regulate conduct of elections, including powers to determine conditions under which the right of suffrage may be exercised, including the authority to make decisions on election day matters such as drop boxes and operation hours of polling place locations.)
4. More specifically, on Election Day, this court “shall act as a committing magistrate for any violation of the election laws; shall settle summarily controversies that may arise with respect to the conduct of the election; shall issue process, if necessary, to enforce and secure compliance with the election laws; and shall decide such other matters pertaining to the election as may be necessary to carry out the intent of this act.” 25 P.S. §3046.
5. A General Election is being held today, November 5, 2024.
6. Precincts 275 West Goshen S-1, 285 West Goshen S-3, 280 West Goshen S-2, and 286 West Goshen S-4 are all election districts in Chester County. 25 P.S. 2602(g).
7. Today at approximately 7:11 PM, a bomb threat was received for the Government Services Center located at 601 Westtown Rd., West Chester PA 19382. Notice of this threat is attached as hereto as Exhibit A and incorporated by reference,

8. The Government Services Center houses Precincts 280 West Goshen S-2 and 286 West Goshen S-4.
9. The Government Services Center, including Precincts 280 West Goshen S-2 and 286 West Goshen S-4, were evacuated due to the bomb threat prior to the close of polls, and the polling places were thus closed early.
10. The polling places for Precincts 280 West Goshen S-2 and 286 West Goshen S-4 cannot reopen at the Government Services Center until law enforcement clears the building.
11. WHEREFORE, Petitioners respectfully request that this Honorable Court issue an Order authorizing the polling locations of Precinct 275 West Goshen S-1 located at West Chester 7th Day Adventist Church, 826 S. High Street, West Chester and Precinct 285 West Goshen S-3 located at Glen Acres Elementary School, 1150 Delancy Pl., West Chester to remain open two additional hours in order to allow the qualified registered electors of Precincts 280 West Goshen S-2 and 286 West Goshen S-4 located at the Government Services Center, 601 Westtown Rd., West Chester PA 19382 to cast provisional ballots and that those provisional ballots be counted as if the provisional ballots were cast in their home precinct.

Respectfully Submitted,

COUNTY OF CHESTER

Date: November 5, 2024

By: /s/ Colleen Frens
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West Chester, PA 19380
610-344-6195
cfrens@chesco.org

EXHIBIT A

Mattox-Baldini, Faith V.

From: Alert@Chesco.org <noreply@everbridge.net>
Sent: Tuesday, November 5, 2024 7:11 PM
To: Mattox-Baldini, Faith V.
Subject: [EXTERNAL] - County Property Notification - Polling/Ballot Location Incidents - GSC

EXTERNAL: Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

This is a message from Chester County Emergency Services

[Please click here to acknowledge receipt of this message](#)

Bomb Threat at the GSC. Caller reporting an email was received at 1850hrs saying it will self detonate if a large pd presence shows up and that many will be injured.

Do Not reply directly to this email. It is being sent from an un-monitored account.

	:	IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS
In Re: Extension of Hours of Operation for	:	
Polling Places Precincts in 275 West	:	CHESTER COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA
Goshen S-1 and 285 West Goshen 5-3	:	
	:	ELECTION LAW
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	:	No. _____
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ORDER

AND NOW, this ___ day of _____, 2024, upon consideration of the Petition filed by the Board of Elections of the County of Chester to extend hours of operation for polling location in _____ Township, and any response thereto, it is hereby ORDERED that:

1. The Petition is GRANTED;
2. The Court approves the extension of voting time by two hours for the polling locations of Precinct 275 West Goshen S-1 located at West Chester 7th Day Adventist Church, 826 S. High Street, West Chester and Precinct 285 West Goshen S-3 located at Glen Acres Elementary School, 1150 Delancy Pl., West Chester in order to allow the qualified registered electors of Precincts 280 West Goshen S-2 and 286 West Goshen S-4 located at the Government Services Center, 601 Westtown Rd., West Chester PA 19382 to cast provisional ballots.
3. Such provisional ballots shall be counted as if the provisional ballots were cast in their home precinct.
4. Law enforcement may enter the polling place to enforce terms of this order;

By the Court:
