

Good morning, Chairman Steil, Ranking Member Morelle and members of the House Administrative Committee. I'm Jessica Morgan from Dallas Pennsylvania and speak today as an elected Judge of Elections and as a registered voter in Luzerne County to report to you on the sorry state of the Luzerne County Election Bureau and the chaos that has been occurring for the last three years on Election Day.

On November 8 of 2022 I had extra paper and was able to help a fellow poll worker with very little paper in Dallas Borough 1, less than two blocks away. Since Dallas 1 is my polling station, I told her I would bring her a ream of paper if I could get to the front of the line and vote myself. She agreed. The polling line of approximately 50 people was clearly unhappy and I noticed that several residents were walking away in disgust. Inside the polls workers were in panic mode, telling people to vote on emergency ballots. The bureau had no extra paper.

When I got back to Ward 2, my fellow poll worker from Harvey's Lake was told they ran out of paper by 8 in the morning. Dallas Borough 1 ,2 and Harvey's Lake are heavily populated areas with most voters registered as Republican.

My one contact with the election bureau very early in the day was a red flag to me that the bureau was in a. I called them because all the machines were set to the wrong date and if not corrected, the votes for the day would not count. The person who took my call asked my name and position and then told me that if I was a Judge of Elections, I should know how the machines worked. I had my phone on speaker at the time and the line of people waiting to vote could hear my conversation. Several expressed disgust with the bureau. I asked the person on the line her name and to be transferred to her supervisor and she hung up on me.

Throughout the day I continued to receive calls from my friend Carol Gmitter in Hunlock's Creek asking me what the poll workers should do because they had run out of paper by 9AM. Carol and her husband went in to vote at noon and were told the paper had not arrived. She came back with her husband again to vote later that day to find photocopied ballots were used. Carol's son Sam was concerned because the machines were down, and voters had to vote next to each other with no privacy and with the same number on all. Constable Robert DeMott has told me that he knows as many as four hundred ballots were not originally counted by the bureau because he knows the tally at the poll at the end of the night was 891 votes; the recorded amount was 400 less. After days of pushback, the election board counted the extra 400 ballots

Two days after the election on November 10, 2022, I was asked by Republican Party to oversee the certification of the election. As I sat and watched as ballots in black duffel bags were brought up to this counting room on the third floor by employees of the election bureau on the second floor, I became aware that these ballots had a piece of paper attached to each generated by the bureau and were printed out from the SURE system showing the name of the voter with all information including their party affiliation. I thought this was a breach of privacy and alerted the many attorneys from both parties who were segregated at the back of the room and did not have the vantage point I had seated at the front of the room. One of these attorneys was Jim Fitzgerald who I believe is here today. I asked why there were no chain of custody forms for these votes; I was told by our county solicitor Paula Riddick that chain of custody papers was not necessary. I asked why no one was concerned that these two employees could have thrown ballots away in the trashcans near the elevators and explained that all ballots needed to be counted when leaving the room and then again on arrival in the counting room. I was told a second time that chain of custody was not an issue. So I remarked that I was happy this board

meeting was being recorded and transcribed so I had this verbal exchange recorded for future reference. As my frustration with what was happening during the day progressed, I got out my cell phone and started taking pictures of the ballots with the cover sheet showing the SURE system label. A member of the election board told me to stop taking pictures and to leave the room immediately; I was promptly escorted out by two deputies. Since all board meetings are transcribed and recorded, I checked on the County website only to find the encounter I had with Attorney Roddick was not part of it and there was no recording on the website. I believe one of the major areas of voter suppression has to be the reconciliation of ballots the days after the election. The board of elections has final say over what provisional and emergency ballots are counted and which are thrown out. In the 2022 election I believe hundreds of ballots were never counted and with no chain of custody from one floor to the next, we will never know.

As someone who has worked at the polls on election day for several years in, I was not surprised at the chaos occurring on election day in 2022 because I had experienced it before in November of 2020. Originally employed as a clerk of elections, I was called the night before this critical election and told I was to be the judge since they had no one else. At 5:30 A.M. no one was there. An employee of the roads department of Dallas Township opened the place and helped me set up the machines. By 6:30 when no one arrived at work, I went out to address the crowd of people who had gathered to vote and explained the situation. I asked if anyone in line had experience working at the polls and a woman with experience was recruited along with the township employee and his wife. I later learned that both women were waiting to be called by the election bureau to work but were not contacted by the bureau.

In the days leading up to the election of 2021, I was at the bureau getting my judges bag when I witnessed a woman trying to insert a bag of ballots into the small box at the counter. When I told her that what she was doing was illegal, she screamed at me that she had been doing this all week and no one from the bureau had stopped her. This was on a Friday afternoon. I sent emails to the election board, bureau and county council about my experience. One county council member returned my email along with a member of the board. I visited Representative Aaron Kauffer's office in Luzerne and was told he would get back to me within twenty-four hours; I'm still waiting for that call. I also called State Senator Doug Mastriano's office and was told by his office staff that I needed to call my own state Representative.

Finally, I would like to report about my time spent working in the election bureau beginning in March of when I was hired to input applications for mail in ballots into the SURE system. Many applications were sent in with a date that exceeded the cutoff date, but I was told to ignore that date and put in the final date they were accepted so that as many people as possible were able to receive a mail in ballot. At no time in the eight months I was employed by the bureau was I given my own user name or password. Instead, I was told by to use the name and password on a yellow sticky note on my computer. Every day I came in and logged in using this username and password until I watched a zoom meeting of the board of elections and the Vice President of Operations for Dominion Voting machines. I looked at the place card in front of her that was the same name I had been using every morning to log in. I realized that she could watch all the information I was entering in the SURE system remotely. I was also told by an election bureau employee that in her twenty-six years of working at the bureau, she was unaware the bureau had ever purged the rolls although she told me she knew what the election bureau was doing was illegal.

I believe the election bureau in Luzerne County as well as the election board should be subpoenaed to testify in front of your committee. They need to be held accountable for their mess and to this date, no one has. Running as a partisan operation for years, it thrives on the chaos it continues to manufacture. By getting rid of several key players in this continuing drama, Luzerne County may be able to restore a semblance of integrity in future elections. Luzerne County needs a full forensic audit done by a subject matter expert who has performed audits of elections including 2022 and has extensive knowledge in looking at ballot integrity.