

Chairman Steil, ranking member Morelle and distinguished members of this committee, thank you for having me here today. My name is James Walsh, and I am grateful to have this opportunity to share testimony with you from some of the concerned registered voters of Luzerne County, Pennsylvania.

Within the Pennsylvania State Constitution Chapter 7, sub section 4 it states the following:

All elections by the citizens shall be by ballot or by such other method as may be prescribed by law: Provided, that secrecy in voting be preserved.

Chapter 7, sub section 6 states:

All laws regulating the holding of elections by the citizens, or for the registration of electors, shall be uniform throughout the State.

The 2022 general election in Luzerne County was conducted in violation of chapter 7, sub sections 4 and 6 of the Pennsylvania State Constitution. The violations that took place were a direct result from the lack of paper in Luzerne County in order to print ballots at the polling stations, which in turn resulted in voter suppression countywide. I have obtained affidavits from 30 registered voters within the county representing 7 out of 186 precincts, that I would like to submit today as part of the record. Affidavits are both from election day poll workers and registered voters.

For myself, the beginning of the chaos throughout Luzerne County began when I showed up at my polling location in Ross Twp. Our judge of elections explained that she was sent 500 sheets of paper for 1,100 plus voters, she also stated that the Election Bureau didn't fill the printers prior to them being delivered. The bureau did not send her electrical cords or power strips to power up the machines. The bureau only sent her one scanner and one red privacy bag, where in years past, she would receive 3-4. They did send 6 voting machines however 1 of the 6 machines had to be re-booted 3 times before it would operate. She also stated that they only sent her 1 paper poll book and that in years past, they would have 2 poll books separated by last name A-L and M-Z. The combination of these issues created extensive voting lines and up to a 35-minute wait for people to vote.

When I left my polling location, I didn't know that some of the same issues were happening countywide. I turned on our local radio station and I started to hear reports from across the county that polls didn't have enough paper for voters to cast their ballots. Other poll workers in the affidavits that I submitted to you today reported that when they ran out of paper, they tried calling the election bureau and they couldn't get through. There are also reports of voters leaving the polling locations without voting at all, and no idea if they came back to place their vote once the polling place received paper.

Within the affidavits from the voters, you will find that voters were using photocopies. Some reports from the election bureau stated that there was a special "paper" that needed to be used in the scanners,

so regular paper that you might have lying around your house wouldn't be acceptable to use, so this is where the lack of uniformity ensued. Voters used photocopied ballots with no way to track if their ballot was counted. When using the photocopied ballots, they were told to sit at tables to fill them out without any privacy screens. Voters were told at different locations to handle their finished ballots differently by placing them into a box, drop them in the back of the printer, place them in a metal can, or a container. One polling place told people to print their ballot and place it in the back of a broken scanner box. At another location, the ballot box was so full that the poll workers were unlocking it to shove the ballots down in order to fit more ballots. An individual voted on the computer and printed the ballot and was instructed to place them in a drop box instead of scanning them. Another affidavit states that they voted on the computer and printed the ballot but they were told to put it into a drop box instead of scanning it in. Yet, at another polling place voters were told to print their ballots and hand them directly to the poll worker. Voters reported in the affidavits that they saw people were leaving the long lines and they didn't know if they ever came back to vote.

As you can clearly see from these affidavits submitted today as record, this election was **not** secret **or** uniform. The delays at the polling locations due to the lack of paper created long lines which in turn suppressed the voters. In closing, I gave you a sample from 7 out of the 186 voting precincts. Our Election Bureau Manager, Beth McBride reported to the media that the paper shortage took place at a total of 48 polling precincts throughout the county. While investigating this, I found all 48 polling precincts that ran out of paper traditionally vote at a minimum 2-1 republican.