



STATE OF DELAWARE
OFFICE OF THE STATE ELECTION COMMISSIONER

ELAINE MANLOVE, STATE ELECTION COMMISSIONER

July 21, 2014

Mayor Bill Krause
Board of Elections
357 Bay Avenue
Slaughter Beach, DE 19963

Dear Mayor and Members of the Board of Elections:

At the July 16 meeting to gather information following complaints received on the July 5 Slaughter Beach Election, I indicated that I would get back to you with recommendations on improving the election process.

In addition to the numerous complaints which caused me to schedule the meeting, many other issues were brought to my attention during the meeting. While I do not believe state or federal laws were broken, property owners were denied their right to vote due to poor election processes. Therefore, I would like to offer the following suggestions to both the Mayor and the current Board of Elections:

- The Board of Elections should appoint Election Officers. They should not be the same people. The Elections Officers report to the Board of Elections and are the people who check in voters and operate the voting machines.
- Determine a better way to identify qualified voters. The tax records used in the last election were not complete and I believe it to be a burden to expect citizens to bring their deed. If you require documentation to vote, you have to let voters know in advance what that documentation is. The municipality should either implement a voter registration system or use records that identify all owners of every property.
- Extend voting hours and/or offer absentee voting. Two hours is a very limited timeframe in which to conduct the election. Since non-resident property owners are allowed to vote, it would make sense to allow them to vote by absentee ballot.
- The four month residency requirement is unusually long. Most municipalities as well as the State of Delaware require only 30 days.

My office would be happy to work with you regarding Board Member and Election Officer training. I know that it was not the intent of Slaughter Beach to deny qualified voters the right to vote, but that is exactly what happened because barriers such as an incomplete list and inconsistently applied identification were used.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Elaine Manlove".

Elaine Manlove
State Election Commissioner

Cc: Ann Woolfolk, Deputy Attorney General
Kenneth McDowell, Director, Dept. of Elections for Sussex County
Jean Turner, Deputy Director, Dept. of Elections for Sussex County