

For Release Thursday, 5/5/2022

County of Berks – Press Release

Electronic pollbooks to debut at all Berks County polling locations for the May 17 primary

Reading, PA— 5/5/2022 — The Berks County Office of Election Services will be introducing electronic pollbooks at all polling locations for the General Primary Election on Tuesday, May 17. The ES&S ExpressPoll devices are an easy-to-use alternative to the traditional paper pollbooks that will allow for an efficient and accurate check-in process at the polls. To help prepare voters for Election Day, the County has published a video demonstrating what the check-in process will be like for voters. The video is available in both [English](#) and [Spanish](#).

The overall experience for voters will be very similar to before, they will just be asked to sign a screen instead of a paper pollbook. When voters arrive, they will provide their name to the poll worker, who can search for them by last name, first name or date of birth. Voters may also provide their driver's license to the poll worker to scan the barcode on the back to immediately access their information. The poll worker will then review the voter's information and turn the pollbook screen around for the voter to sign with either their finger or a provided stylus. The poll worker will then review the signature with the signature on record for the voter.

The electronic pollbooks allow poll workers to quickly identify a voter's status. A message will display if the voter needs to verify their identification, is at the wrong polling location, was issued a mail-in ballot or needs any further assistance. The electronic pollbook also provides instructions to the poll worker of how to remedy the situation or to continue with a provisional ballot.

The electronic pollbooks for each polling location will be loaded with the full list of registered voters for that precinct, so there will no longer be separate lines for voters based on the first letter of their last name. All voters can check-in at either available pollbook at their polling location, helping to

further reduce lines and wait times. In addition to allowing for an efficient check-in process on Election Day for voters and poll workers, the electronic pollbooks also help to streamline post-election processes for the Office of Election Services staff during the official canvass.

The electronic pollbooks are part of a secure system that is not connected to the Internet in any way. An electronic pollbook is on display at the Office of Election Services for demonstrations.

Questions can be directed to the Office of Election Services at 610-478-6490 or

elections@countyofberks.com. More information can also be found at

www.countyofberks.com/elections.

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