

For Release Monday 4/26/2021

County of Berks / COVID-19 Leadership Team Press Alert

Commissioners' Public Update program will focus on preparation for municipal primary election

Reading, PA— 4/26/2021 — The Berks County Commissioners will host a Media and Public Update program on **Wednesday, April 28, 2021 at 3:30 PM** on Microsoft Teams Live Event. Click [here](#) to find the link to this meeting. This Press Event will also be streamed Live to the Berks County [Facebook](#) page, [YouTube](#) channel and BCTV. This week's program will serve as a preview for the upcoming municipal primary election on May 18. Members of the Berks County Election Services' staff will share what voters should know before heading to the polls or filling out mail-in ballots and why voting in municipal elections is so important. The Elections staff will also review various questions, concerns and recommendations their office has received following the 2020 election cycle and the steps that have been taken to address them.

Welcome – Commissioner Christian Leinbach

Comments – Commissioner Kevin Barnhardt

Comments – Commissioner Michael Rivera

Introduction of the Panel – Commissioner Barnhardt

- **Ronald Rutkowski** – Director of Election Services
- **Donna Blatt** – Chief Registrar
- **Anne Norton** – Elections Project Coordinator
- **Robert Quinter, III** – Elections Project Coordinator
- **Silvia Gutierrez** – HAVA Support Coordinator

The Panel will address the following topics:

- 1. Who can vote during the primary election and for which races?**
- 2. Drop boxes for returning mail-in ballots: Locations and Hours**
- 3. Why is it important to vote in the municipal primary election?**

- 4. Mail-in and Absentee Voting Requests: 2021 applications vs 2020**
- 5. Question and Concerns from the public about elections**
 - a. Legislative: Issues that will be directed the PA Department of State
 - b. County-wide: Issues addressed by the County of Berks Board of Elections
 - c. Local: Items addressed by the Election Services Department
 - d. Other
- 6. Questions and Answers – Facilitated by Commissioner Barnhardt**

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