



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 3, 2020

FAYETTE COUNTY ELECTION REMINDERS

Uniontown, PA – The Fayette County Election Bureau needs voters’ help to prepare for a successful 2020 Presidential General Election.

Election Bureau Director Larry Blosser said his office has been inundated with thousands of calls in recent weeks, impeding employees’ abilities to process the unprecedented number of mail-in ballot applications arriving daily.

“We’re expecting upwards of 20,000 mail-in ballots this election, which is the most the county has ever seen. Our office is processing the applications for those ballots right now, so we are not always able to answer phone calls as they come in,” Blosser said. “Anyone who needs to reach us should please leave a message, rather than calling multiple times, and someone will get back to you as soon as possible.”

Blosser said the increase in phone calls is due to confusion regarding spam mail citizens are receiving from third parties unassociated with the Fayette County Election Bureau.

“There are seven different political groups that are sending political mailers to constituents,” Blosser said. “These are not coming from the county. The only thing this office will mail to you is your official ballot, once you request it.”

In order to ensure a seamless voting process heading into the Nov. 3 election, all Fayette County citizens should remember:

- Third-party political groups unaffiliated with Fayette County are sending multiple ballot applications to voters. These applications are valid and can be used. However, only one mail-in ballot application is needed. Do not complete and send multiple applications received from political mailers.
- The Fayette County Election Bureau was not consulted by these third-party groups and has no control over the mailing list.
- The Fayette County Election Bureau will only mail you your official ballot once your application is processed via mail or online. The county will not send any other election-related correspondence, but the Pennsylvania Department of State may send notices.
- If you voted via mail during the 2020 Primary Election, you may have already requested to receive a permanent mail-in ballot application for the remaining elections in this calendar year. Whether you applied to vote via mail-in ballot online or through a physical application, you would have been given the choice to sign up for the permanent option.
- If you have already applied for a permanent mail-in ballot, you DO NOT need to apply to vote via mail for any future elections. Your information is on file through Jan. 31, 2021, and your ballot will be mailed to you.
- Sending duplicate applications hinders the election bureau’s processing activities. Each voter will only receive one ballot.

- When applying to vote through the Pennsylvania Department of State’s website, you will not receive a notification if you have already opted for a permanent mail-in ballot. Therefore, you may be submitting a duplicate application, which will be declined.
- If you are unsure of if you opted for a permanent mail-in ballot during the Primary Election, you can call the Election Bureau and leave a message. Someone will return your call as soon as possible.
- You may only deliver your own official ballot. You may NOT hand-deliver someone else’s ballot.
- Mail-in ballots will be sent to those who successfully applied for them in early October.
- All ballots must be submitted by 8 p.m. Nov. 3, when the polls close, to be counted.
- Any ballots received by election officials not containing the federally-mandated, internal secrecy envelope will be considered a “naked ballot” and thereby invalidated.
- If you applied for a mail-in ballot but decide to vote in person at the polls this Election Day, you can call the Fayette County Election Bureau to request a cancellation form. Otherwise, you must surrender your mail-in ballot at your polling place in order to be allowed to vote in person.
- You can also cancel your mail-in ballot application and perform a myriad of other election-related actions online at www.fayettecountypa.org/230/electionbureau. All citizens are encouraged to complete as many tasks online as possible, rather than calling or visiting the office.
- All state and federal COVID-19 requirements will be strictly enforced at all Fayette County polling places. Voters will be asked to adhere to those guidelines.

Blosser said the election bureau is also seeking face mask donations as it did prior to the Primary Election, in an effort to help protect poll workers from the ongoing Coronavirus pandemic.

For more information or to reach an election official, call 724-430-1289.

To learn more about Fayette County, visit www.FayetteCountyPA.org.

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