



## **FAYETTE COUNTY OFFICIALS ADDRESSING ‘SHARPIEGATE’ RUMORS**

**Uniontown, PA** - Following Tuesday’s 2020 Presidential Election, social media users began spreading false claims regarding the use of Sharpie writing products on voting ballots.

According to Fayette County Election Bureau officials, those claims are rumors not based on any facts. These rumors led to the widespread use of the hashtag “#Sharpiagate” online.

All votes correctly submitted to the Fayette County Election Bureau via mail-in, absentee or in person at the polls will be counted.

Fayette processed more than 44,000 ballots this week; the majority of which were marked using black Sharpie markers. At each polling place, Sharpie Ultra Fine Felt Tip Marker/Pens were used by voters.

The Sharpies are recommended writing utensils for Fayette County’s specific paper ballots, as chosen by the county’s official election contractor, Dominion Voting Systems. The Fayette County Election Bureau is not affiliated with election offices in other counties or states.

Nationwide, it is recommended that voters use black ink to complete official ballots. However, black, blue and other dark-colored inks can be accepted.

If a ballot initially fails to be read by a voting scanner machine, Dominion Voting Systems has established multiple back-up processing options to ensure every vote received is counted. Using the recommended Sharpie writing utensils will not affect a ballot’s readability.

Only one vote per person will be counted for the Presidential Election. All votes will be counted.

Some voter questions can be answered by visiting [www.votespa.com](http://www.votespa.com).

The Fayette County Election Bureau is located at 22 East Main Street in Uniontown. For more information, call 724-430-1289.

To learn more about Fayette County, visit [www.FayetteCountyPA.org](http://www.FayetteCountyPA.org).

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