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TONY R. MUSSARE, COMMISSIONER
RICHARD MIRABITO, COMMISSIONER

BOARD OF ELECTIONS

LYCOMING COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA
48 WEST THIRD STREET
WILLIAMSPORT PA 17701
TELEPHONE: (570) 327-2267
DIRECTOR OF ELECTIONS AND REGISTRATION
FORREST K. LEHMAN
JOSEPH R. MUSTO, P.C., SOLICITOR
MATTHEW A. MCDERMOTT, CHIEF CLERK

Current Status of Mailed Absentee and Mail-in Ballots

Updated 10-18-2020

The first absentee and mail-in ballots for the November 3 General Election were mailed to Lycoming County voters on Friday, October 2.

As of Friday, October 16, ballots have been mailed to all voters who applied for an absentee or mail-in ballot at any time up to and including Thursday, October 15.

Applications received on or after Friday, October 16 are processed as soon as possible and the ballots are placed into the mail as soon as possible.

Voters are seeing mail delivery timeframes of 5-7 days, with some voters experiencing longer mail delays due to the volume of ballots going into the U.S. mail across the state.

County boards of elections are not responsible for mail delivery delays. Questions/complaints about mail delivery should be directed to the U.S. Postal Service.

Pennsylvania Department of State provides a website where voters can track the status of their ballot at www.pavoterservices.pa.gov/pages/ballotracking.aspx. However, voters should be aware of several issues with the information the state's website provides.

First, a status of "Pending" on the state's website is normal and means that your application has been approved. The status will continue to appear as "Pending" even after a ballot has been mailed. Counties have made the state aware of this issue, but it has not been fixed.

Second, the "Ballot Mailed On" date on the state's website is not always accurate. The date may be off by up to several days. For instance, ballots with a "Ballot Mailed On" date of October 10 may have been mailed at any point during October 5 through 10. Some ballots have also been incorrectly reported as mailed on September 30, before any mailings occurred. Counties have made the state aware of this issue, but it has not been fixed.

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