

Notes from November 20, 2017 SAVE Bucks Votes Meeting at Doylestown Friends Meetinghouse

Attendees: In addition to the core group – Janis Hobbs-Pellechio, Jeff Cogshall, Karen Publick, and Madeline Rawley, we were joined by Lisa Procz, Billy Procz, Amy Lindsey and three new attendees, Zoe Langdon, Neil Hartman and Tom Cockley,

- Introductions and sign in sheet passed.
- When asked how new people heard about meeting, Facebook was cited.
- We discussed having a speaker or other draw advertised to bring in a larger attendance at meetings. Examples cited were our showing of “I Voted?” at the library that brought more than 20 people and the program at BCCC with League of Women Voters “Voting in the Digital Age” that brought about 75 including some students.
- Karen reported that there was a Twitter/email set up problem that needed attention. Jeff will help with that.
- County budget and presentation to the Commissioners was discussed due to the fact that the Preliminary Hearing on the Budget will be held on Wednesday, November 29th at 5PM in the old administration building, Madeline raised the question as to whether we should notify the email lists about the hearing in the hopes of getting many people to the meeting to ask the Commissioners to include the cost of replacing the insecure, inaccurate, and non-verifiable Direct Recording Machine we are using with the voting system that cybersecurity and elections officials testify is the only way to vote now: a voter-marked-paper-ballot based system. Discussion of whether it was the proper place and time to do this ended in no decision. We need a larger group before we can provide a strong presence, building this should be our immediate goal. Attendees should receive link to county budget via Janis?
- In the course of the discussion, a question arose about how well the DRE we use is functioning mechanically. Madeline said she gets Machine Incidents Reports each election and will email BOE head, Deena Dean to send it to her again.
- It was mentioned that \$4 million would be needed to replace the 765 machines (additional machines are rented in presidential election years) in the county. However, fewer optical scanners would be needed and maintenance and ongoing contracts should be less expensive as well. Janis will be providing more specific numbers. Janis also discussed the few certified replacement options currently available due to state restrictions. ESS is currently best /only available.
- Karen suggested meeting separately with each of the commissioners. Zoe recommended that anyone meeting with the commissioners be well prepared with questions and educated irrefutable facts. Zoe suggested that questions to commissioners and other elected officials be framed as “How can you not support reform?” and that we use cost analysis **of current vs new and future costs** to persuade commissioners to see the change more positively. Double check facts, important to SOUND SMART & BE RIGHT!
- John Fetterman, candidate for PA Lieutenant Governor will be in New Hope on November 29th, need details, could be a contact opportunity.
- There are 400K voters in Bucks, what percentage would need to sign our petition to make it successful? Goal 25%?
- Lisa explained the use by groups like Fair Districts of legislative teams, events teams, media/pr teams and outreach teams. Going forward we will need these types of committees.
- Next, progress on the Website being set up by Janis and Jeff was discussed. It was agreed that to get it up has to be the #1 priority to expand our message to the public. Updates on web site construction currently in progress including addition of petition and volunteer sign up to website. Janis and Jeff are

working on adding content and are hoping to get the website live quickly. We could connect it to FB.

- When creating member database including field of “member since” when possible.
- Can we use referendum as a tool and how? (How can referendum votes be verified???) Need also to contact Allegheny.
- Secure our Vote, should we join the coalition? Karen will provide call info. Was agreed by members present to join and share resources.
- Need to get on Verified Voting.org email list.

Outreach to the public became the next topic. New members contributed good suggestions:

- Contact media to spread our message through the media : LTEs to newspapers, and radio stations. Zoe spoke about LTEs,
- Tom spoke about radio talk programs including WDVB in Sergeantsville NJ; 1440 in Lansdale and another in Warminster ? and volunteered to provide information to us.
- Can we get our message into other publications? Law journals? News articles? Reputation is invaluable! Targeting by area and interests useful. Reach out to NPR & RACHEL MADDOW?
- Contact young people through clubs such as Bucks County Young Dems, Young Republicans, classes at BCCC and Del Val. Tom has contacts at Del Val and will report back about opportunities there. Karen spoke about opportunity at BCCC and will contact instructors in the Social Science Poli/Sci department there.
 - Contact groups in Lower and Upper Bucks County to speak and form satellite groups.
 - Contact groups like Chamber of Commerce, Rotary, Buckingham Voices and other groups including Our Revolution, RUD, Indivisible, Move to Amend (Exact title?) to ask to speak. Lisa extended an invitation for someone to attend a meeting of an umbrella group of issue organizations, Bucks Together . Karen agreed to attend the meeting in New Hope.
 - Look for Community Events to attend and distribute trifold, obtain petition to Commissioners signatures.
 - Attend Fridays with Fitzpatrick. (Hint: Get to know the right hand of your legislators).
- Create a larger online presence. Jeff has set up an online petition at Action Network and will send test to others to see if it is set up properly in order to gather more signatures. Karen and Jeff will coordinate in setting up a Twitter account. Website should be up soon.
- Develop legislative committee like Fair Districts has to explore opportunities to influence elected officials at Federal, State and County levels to fund change to Voter-Marked-Paper-Ballot system. Janis agreed to investigate how Virginia was able to switch to VMPB within a few months. She explained complexity and differences between different government levels and states.
- Lisa will invite us to meeting with John Fetterman, Lieutenant Governor candidate.
- Have a program or event that will draw more people to our meetings.
- Reach out to Pa counties who use paper.
- Ads in program drives.
- Contact people who have been in this fight for sometime to share strategy tips.
- Jeff will see about contacting Ben Samuels to film our efforts at Lisa’s suggestion that we chronicle our efforts.
- Lisa offered to provide LTE template/guidance gleaned from FDPA with appropriate permission.
- Another computer specialist, perhaps member, Alicia Sikes might be willing to speak.
- Showing I Voted? again for December or January meeting? Possibly show movie once each quarter?

Finally, it was agreed that we should send a personalized message & thank you card to our benefactor for use of the the meetinghouse. Karen will bring a card to our next meeting.

Meeting ended at 9:30 PM.