

BUTLER COUNTY BALLOT CURING POLICY

I. Introduction

This ballot curing policy for Butler County is established to allow registered voters the opportunity to cure immaterial deficiencies on their absentee or mail-in ballot declaration envelopes.

II. Definitions

As used herein, the following terms shall have the meanings indicated:

Attestation: The form at the Bureau which a Voter can correct information deemed as defective on the Declaration Envelope.

Ballot: An absentee or mail-in ballot which a Voter may use to cast a vote in an election.

Bureau: The Butler County Bureau of Elections.

County: Butler County.

County Board: Butler County Board of Elections.

Deficiency: A defect on the Declaration Envelope recognized by the Department of State as curable by applicable law, i.e. a lack of signature

Declaration Envelope: Pennsylvania law provides that two envelopes shall be mailed to each absentee or mail-in elector; the larger of these envelopes is referred to alternatively as the Declaration Envelope. This envelope contains a declaration which the Voter must sign.

Designated Agent: An individual which the Voter has authorized to transport the Attestation and witness the Voter's signature or mark upon said Attestation. The Designated Agent is only allowed to serve as a Designated Agent for **one** Voter, unless the additional voter(s) live in the same household and similarly require a Designated Agent due to a Disability.

Disability: A disability as defined in the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Party Committee: The Butler County Democratic Committee and the Butler County Republican Committee, as designated by their respective state organizations.

Voter: Any person who shall possess all the qualifications for voting now or hereafter prescribed by the Constitution of this Commonwealth.

III. Cure Procedure

- A. Upon identifying a Deficiency on a Declaration Envelope submitted by a Voter, the Bureau will segregate said Declaration Envelope and place the Voter's name and contact information (including phone number, if one is provided) on a list.
- B. During a Primary Election, the list of Voters who submitted Deficient Declaration Envelopes shall be made available to the Party Committees once a day upon request of the Party Committee.
- C. The Party Committees may contact the Voter who submitted a Declaration Envelope with a Deficiency to advise that there is a Deficiency with their Declaration Envelope and that the Voter is permitted to appear at the Bureau to remedy such Deficiency by means of an Attestation.
- D. During a General Election, in addition to Party Committees, the list of Voters who submitted Declaration Envelopes with Deficiencies will be made available to any duly authorized representative of any recognized political party other than the Party Committees which have a candidate on the Ballot.

It is acknowledged that Voters registered as Independent will not have a duly authorized party representative. The Bureau will publicize through its regular course that any Voter can check the status of their Ballots via the Department of State website and that cure procedures are available.

- E. To effect a cure, a Voter must appear in person at the Bureau before 8:00 P.M. on Election Day and sign an Attestation that includes the Deficiency; which shall be recorded with their Ballot.

In such case as a Voter with a Disability as recognized by the American Disability Act may not be able to appear in person at the Bureau, a Witness Form shall be used to allow a Designated Agent to transport the Attestation to and from the Bureau in order to obtain a signature or mark from the Voter.

- F. The Bureau shall not perform any remedy on behalf of the Voter but will only provide the opportunity for the Voter to remedy the defect.
- G. The Bureau shall not send the Ballot back to the Voter or issue the Voter a new Ballot due to the Deficiency.
- H. This Policy shall not modify any procedures regarding Provisional Ballots with the exception of allowing a Provisional Ballot to be counted for a Voter who cannot come into the Bureau to remedy a Deficiency on the Ballot envelope but is able to go to their polling place on Election Day.

Adopted by the Butler County Board of Elections on 5/2/2023.

Appointed Board of Elections: Michael English (Chairman), Patrick Casey, and Carol McCarthy

Modified by the Butler County Board of Elections on 2/14/24.

Board of Elections: Leslie Osche (Chairman), Kimberly Geyer, and Kevin Boozel