May 17 th , 2022 Primary Cycle	
General Information: Ballot Return and Collection Plan	
1. Management System Development	Documents Requested
Reference: 25 Pa. Unconsolidated Statutes Section 3150.16 Voting by mail-in electors the elector shall send same by mail, postage prepaid, except where franked, or deliver it in person to said county board of election.	-County Board of Elections third-party requests for proposals for the design and implementation of security procedures for the use, transport, storage of ballot drop boxes, and transport of retrieved ballots to the Board of Elections
(Pennsylvania Unconsolidated Statutes (2022 Edition)) Pennsylvania Absentee and Mail-in Ballot Return Guidance 1.1 BALLOT RETURN SITES	-Contracts or purchase orders for the design and implementation of security procedures for the use, transport, storage of ballot drop boxes, and transport of retrieved ballots to the Board of Elections
For each election, county boards of elections should establish a plan and adopt procedures for how voters in their county may return their own voted absentee and mail-in ballots to the county board of	-County Board of Elections initial ballot return and collection plan submitted to the Department of State per 1.1
elections. The initial plan should be submitted to the Department of State on or before 45 days prior to the election.	-BEST request of plan modification (as applicable) per 1.4
1.4 CONFIRMATION OF PLAN READINESS A county's initial absentee and mail-in ballot return plan should be submitted to the Department of State, Bureau of Election Security and Technology ("BEST") no later than 45 days before an election. If the Bureau of Election Security and Technology requests modifications to a plan, the county election office should submit a modified plan within 7 days of the request. If the county board of elections determines that it is in the best interest of their voters to alter their plan or increase/decrease the number of ballot return sites they may submit a supplemental plan to BEST no later than 25 days before the election with notice to the public within 5 days of submission. (Pennsylvanian DOS Election Directives and Guidance (August 19, 2020, Version: 1.0))	-Revised plan in response to BEST request (as applicable) per 1.4

2. Acquisitions	Documents Requested
Reference:	Purchase orders or contracts for the following:
Pennsylvania Absentee and Mail-in Ballot Return Guidance	
2.5 SECURITY County boards of election must ensure the following	-Portable Storage Units (PODs)
when establishing ballot return sites: To prevent physical damage and	D. H. (1. 1. / 2. 11
unauthorized entry, the drop-box at a ballot return site located outdoors should be constructed of durable material able to withstand vandalism,	-Ballot drop box / security cabinets per 2.5
removal, and inclement weather.	-Tamper evident seal per 2.5
removal, and melement weather.	- Tamper evident sear per 2.5
All drop-boxes should be secured by a lock and sealed with a tamper-	-POD locks per 2.5
evident seal.	
	-Secure ballot transfer containers per 3.1
During the hours when the staffed return site is closed or staff is	
unavailable, the drop-box should be placed in a secure area that is	
inaccessible to the public and/or otherwise safeguarded.	
3.1 BALLOT COLLECTION AT BALLOT RETURN SITES The	
designated election officials should retrieve the voted ballots from the	
ballot return site and place the voted ballots in a secure ballot transfer	
container.	
(Pennsylvanian DOS Election Directives and Guidance (August 19,	
2020, Version: 1.0))	
3. Personnel	Documents Requested
Reference:	-List of assigned personnel for every task associated with preparation and
Pennsylvania Absentee and Mail-in Ballot Return Guidance 2.5 SECURITY County boards of election must ensure the following	maintenance of ballot drop boxes for public use to include transport and storage of ballots at voter services central repository per 2.5 and indicate
when establishing ballot return sites: Only personnel authorized by the	if employed by County or third party (if employed by third party, include
county board of elections should have access to the ballots inside of a	copy of employment contract.)
drop-box.	
	-Date and level of background check and drug screening completed to
3.1 BALLOT COLLECTION AT BALLOT RETURN SITES Each	include service provider (if third party include copy of contract.)
designated election official should carry identification or an official	
designation that identifies them as an election official authorized to	-Date security training received
collect voted ballots.	

3. Personnel (Cont.)	Documents Requested
Ballots should be collected from ballot return sites only by personnel	-List of authorized security training providers (if third party include copy
authorized by the county board of elections and at times determined by	of contract.)
the board of elections, at least every 24 hours, excluding Saturdays and	
Sundays.	-Manuals, memos, policies, utilized during security training and topics
	covered (i.e. Firearms, Defense Driving, Security, Safety, Customer
The county board of elections should designate at least two election	Service, Regulatory Compliance.)
officials to collect voted ballots from a ballot return site.	
	-Procedure for issuance and display of identification badge per 3.1
Election officials designated to collect voted ballots by the board of	
elections should sign a declaration declaring that he or she will timely	-Organizational chart for the management of personnel involved with
and securely collect and return voted ballots, will not permit any	ballot drop boxes to include name and contact information of direct
person to tamper with a ballot return site or its contents, and that he or	supervisor
she will faithfully and securely perform his or her duties.	Development schedule/shift information for each of the 12 hellet duen how
(Pennsylvanian DOS Election Directives and Guidance (August 19, 2020, Version: 1.0))	-Personnel schedule/ shift information for each of the 13 ballot drop box locations, transport of ballots, and at central repository per 3.1
2020, Version. 1.0))	locations, transport of barrots, and at central repository per 5.1
	-Election official signed declaration per 3.1
4. Video Surveillance	Documents Requested
Video Surveillance	-All available video surveillance (body camera, fixed source, etc) of the
	13 pod and drop box locations per 2.5
Reference:	
Pennsylvania Absentee and Mail-in Ballot Return Guidance	-Procedure for Board of Election review of video surveillance
2.5 SECURITY County boards of election must ensure the following	
when establishing ballot return sites: When feasible, ballot return sites	-Software used to evaluate and identify repeat visitors to drop boxes
should be monitored by a video security surveillance system, or an	across 13 locations
internal camera that can capture digital images and/or video. A video	
security surveillance system can include existing systems on county,	
city, municipal, or private buildings. Video surveillance should be	
retained by the county election office through 60 days following the	
deadline to certify the election. (Pennsylvanian DOS Election Directives and Guidance (August 19,	
2020, Version: 1.0))	
2020, version. 1.0))	

5 Enforcement	Doguments Paguested
5. Enforcement Reference:	-Manuals, memos, and or policies for reporting internal and external
25 Pa. Unconsolidated Statutes	violations involving ballot return sites
Section 2642 Powers and duties of county boards (i) To investigate	violations involving ballot return sites
• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •	Signage most of at hellet metrum sites man 2.2
election frauds, irregularities and violations of this act, and to report all	-Signage posted at ballot return sites per 2.3
suspicious circumstances to the district attorney.	
(Pennsylvania Unconsolidated Statutes (2022 Edition))	
Pennsylvania Absentee and Mail-in Ballot Return Guidance	
2.3 SIGNAGE In determining the design and functions of ballot return	
sites, county boards of elections should design them in such a way that	
they are official and secure. To this end, the county board of elections	
must ensure each return site is marked with official signage ("Official	
Ballot Return Site" or "Official Ballot Return.") Signage should	
adhere to the following:	
Signage should display language stating that counterfeiting, forging,	
tampering with, or destroying ballots is a second-degree misdemeanor	
pursuant to sections 1816 and 1817 of the Pennsylvania Election Code	
(25 P.S. §§ 3516 and 3517).	
Signage should also provide a statement that third-party return of	
ballots is prohibited unless the person returning the ballot is rendering	
assistance to a disabled voter or an emergency absentee voter. Such	
assistance requires a declaration signed by the voter and the person	
rendering assistance.	
(Pennsylvanian DOS Election Directives and Guidance (August 19,	
2020, Version: 1.0))	
6. Quality Management	Documents Requested
	-Indicate ISO 9000 implementation and status or alternate quality
	management system with auditing function
	-Audit results from Nov 2021 election
	-All reported drop box incidents for the May 2022 primary

	Stages: Ballot Return and Collection Plan		
Stage	21: Preparing Ballot Drop Box for Public Use	Documents Requested	
Step 1	Removal of Ballot Drop Box from Portable Storage Unit (as applicable)	Policy, Procedure, Manuals, and or Memorandum addressing:	
	Reference:	-The use of portable storage units per 2.5	
	Pennsylvania Absentee and Mail-in Ballot Return Guidance 2.5 SECURITY County boards of election must ensure the	-Custody and storage of keys or combination codes per 2.5	
	following when establishing ballot return sites: During the hours when the staffed return site is closed or staff is unavailable, the drop-box should be placed in a secure area that	-If combination lock utilized, method used to create combination code and schedule of code change	
	is inaccessible to the public and/or otherwise safeguarded.	-Video surveillance requirement during process per 2.5	
	Only authorized election officials designated by the county board of elections may access the keys and/or combination of the lock.		
	When feasible, ballot return sites should be monitored by a video security surveillance system, or an internal camera that can capture digital images and/or video. (Pennsylvanian DOS Election Directives and Guidance (August 19, 2020, Version: 1.0))		
Step 2	Placement and Securing Ballot Drop Box	Policy, Procedure, Manuals, and or Memorandum addressing:	
2	Reference: Pennsylvania Absentee and Mail-in Ballot Return Guidance 2.2 SECURE RECEPTACLES ("DROP-BOXES") The receptacle should be securely fastened to a stationary surface, to an immovable object, or placed behind a counter.	-Securing of 80lb box from theft or unlawful movement through internal anchor system per 2.2 and 2.5	
	2.5 SECURITY Drop-boxes should be secured in a manner to prevent their unauthorized removal. Drop-boxes should be securely fastened in a manner as to prevent moving or tampering, such as fastening the drop-box to concrete or an immovable object. (Pennsylvanian DOS Election Directives and Guidance (August 19, 2020, Version: 1.0))		

Stage	1: Preparing Ballot Drop Box for Public Use (Cont.)	Documents Requested
Step	Unlocking Deposit Chute	Policy, Procedure, Manuals, and or Memorandum addressing:
3	Reference: Pennsylvania Absentee and Mail-in Ballot Return Guidance 2.5 SECURITY Only authorized election officials designated by the county board of elections may access the keys and/or combination of the lock. When feasible, ballot return sites should be monitored by a video security surveillance system, or an internal camera that can capture digital images and/or video. (Pennsylvanian DOS Election Directives and Guidance (August	-Inspection and recordation of tamper evident seal serial number and condition -Removal of tamper evident seal and residue -Reporting signs of tampering -Removal of ballot drop box from service due to tampering -Investigative procedure following report of tampering
	19, 2020, Version: 1.0))	Contain and at an area of the containing and a second at the containing at the conta
		-Custody and storage of deposit chute key per 2.5
		-Video surveillance requirement during process per 2.5
Step 4	Inspection of Access Door	Policy, Procedure, Manuals, and or Memorandum addressing:
	Reference: Pennsylvania Absentee and Mail-in Ballot Return Guidance 2.5 SECURITY When feasible, ballot return sites should be	-Inspection and recordation of tamper evident seal serial number and condition
	monitored by a video security surveillance system, or an internal camera that can capture digital images and/or video.	-Reporting signs of tampering
	(Pennsylvanian DOS Election Directives and Guidance (August 19, 2020, Version: 1.0))	-Removal of ballot drop box from service due to tampering
	17, 2020, version. 1.0 <i>jj</i>	-Investigative procedure following report of tampering
		-Video surveillance requirement during process per 2.5

Stage	2: Active Ballot Drop Box	Documents Requested
Step	Employee Monitoring of Ballot Drop Box	Policy, Procedure, Manuals, and or Memorandum addressing:
1	Reference: Pennsylvania Absentee and Mail-in Ballot Return Guidance 2.5 SECURITY When feasible, ballot return sites should be monitored by a video security surveillance system, or an internal camera that can capture digital images and/or video. (Pennsylvanian DOS Election Directives and Guidance (August 19, 2020, Version: 1.0)) Guidance Concerning Civilian Absentee and Mail-In Ballot Procedures 4.1 VOTER MUST RETURN OWN BALLOT A voter must return his or her own completed absentee or mail- in ballot by 8:00 pm on Election Day to the county board of elections or other county-designated drop-off location. Third- person delivery of absentee or mail-in ballots is not permitted, and any ballots delivered by someone other than the voter are required to be set aside. The only exceptions are voters with a disability who have designated in writing an agent to deliver their ballot for them. Agency forms may be found at VotesPA.com. Emergency absentee ballots also may be delivered by a designated agent. (Pennsylvania DOS Election Directives and Guidance (September 28, 2020, Version: 1.0))	-Number of employees required per ballot drop box location -Employee rotation and relief schedule -Verification of one ballot per person / authorized designated agent status per 4.1 -Recordation of individual presenting a ballot for drop off -Live time maintenance of database to prevent unauthorized ballot deposits across 13 locations over multiple days -Video surveillance requirement during process per 2.5
Step	Violations	Policy, Procedure, Manuals, and or Memorandum addressing:
2		-Employee authority and authorized force to intervene in illegal acts
		-Reporting potential violations
		-Removal of ballot drop box from service following potential violation
		-Investigative procedure following potential violation

Stage	3: Close of Ballot Drop Box	Documents Requested
Step	Locking Deposit Chute	Policy, Procedure, Manuals, and or Memorandum addressing:
1	Reference: Pennsylvania Absentee and Mail-in Ballot Return Guidance 2.5 SECURITY Only authorized election officials designated by the county board of elections may access the keys and/or	-Employee retrieval of deposit chute key from storage or custodian per 2.5 -Employee retrieval of tamper evident seal from storage or custodian
	combination of the lock.	-Locking of deposit chute
	When feasible, ballot return sites should be monitored by a	-Application and recordation of tamper evident seal and serial number
	video security surveillance system, or an internal camera that can capture digital images and/or video. (Pennsylvanian DOS Election Directives and Guidance (August 19, 2020, Version: 1.0))	-Video surveillance requirement during process per 2.5
Step	Removal of Ballot Drop Box and Return to Portable Storage	Policy, Procedure, Manuals, and or Memorandum addressing:
2	Unit	Democrat of factor are and storage of draw have in a secure area 2.5
	Reference:	-Removal of fasteners and storage of drop-box in a secure area per 2.5
	Pennsylvania Absentee and Mail-in Ballot Return Guidance 2.5 SECURITY County boards of election must ensure the following when establishing ballot return sites: During the hours when the staffed return site is closed or staff is unavailable, the drop-box should be placed in a secure area that is inaccessible to the public and/or otherwise safeguarded.	-Video surveillance requirement during process per 2.5
	Drop-boxes should be secured in a manner to prevent their unauthorized removal. Drop-boxes should be securely fastened in a manner as to prevent moving or tampering, such as fastening the drop-box to concrete or an immovable object.	
	When feasible, ballot return sites should be monitored by a video security surveillance system, or an internal camera that can capture digital images and/or video. (Pennsylvanian DOS Election Directives and Guidance (August 19, 2020, Version: 1.0))	

Stage	4: Collection of Ballots from Drop Box	Documents Requested
Step	Unlocking Access Door	Policy, Procedure, Manuals, and or Memorandum addressing:
1	Reference: Pennsylvania Absentee and Mail-in Ballot Return Guidance 2.5 SECURITY County boards of election must ensure the following when establishing ballot return sites: Only personnel authorized by the county board of elections should have access to the ballots inside of a drop-box. All drop-boxes should be secured by a lock and sealed with a tamper-evident seal. Only authorized election officials designated by the county board of elections may access the keys and/or combination of the lock. When feasible, ballot return sites should be monitored by a video security surveillance system, or an internal camera that	-Inspection and recordation of tamper evident seal number and condition -Reporting signs of tampering -Removal of ballot drop box from service due to tampering -Removal of tamper evident seal and residue -Employee retrieval of access door key from storage or custodian per 2.5 -Video surveillance requirement during process per 2.5
	can capture digital images and/or video. (Pennsylvanian DOS Election Directives and Guidance (August	
	19, 2020, Version: 1.0))	
Step	Removal of Ballots	Policy, Procedure, Manuals, and or Memorandum addressing:
2	Reference: Pennsylvania Absentee and Mail-in Ballot Return Guidance	-Schedule of designated election officials to collect ballots per 3.1
	2.5 SECURITY When feasible, ballot return sites should be monitored by a video security surveillance system, or an internal	-Counting of ballots contained in collection bin
	camera that can capture digital images and/or video.	-Depositing ballots into secure ballot transfer container per 3.1
	3 BALLOT COLLECTION AND CHAIN OF CUSTODY PROCEDURES The county board of elections should develop	-Measures utilized to secure the ballot transfer container
	ballot collection and chain of custody procedures for ballots returned to a county election office or a ballot return site. These	-Video surveillance requirement during process per 2.5
	procedures may not be inconsistent with Pennsylvania law or Department of State directives.	-Completion of Ballot Return Site Collection Forms per 3.1
		-Copy of completed Ballot Return Site Collection Forms for all collections performed per 3.1

Stage	4: Collection of Ballots from Drop Box (Cont.)	Documents Requested
Step	Removal of Ballots	
2 cont	Reference:	
	3.1 BALLOT COLLECTION AT BALLOT RETURN SITES Ballots should be collected from ballot return sites only by personnel authorized by the county board of elections and at times determined by the board of elections, at least every 24 hours, excluding Saturdays and Sundays.	
	The county board of elections should designate at least two election officials to collect voted ballots from a ballot return site.	
	The designated election officials should retrieve the voted ballots from the ballot return site and place the voted ballots in a secure ballot transfer container.	
	The designated election officials should note on Ballot Return Site Collection Forms the site and unique identification number of the ballot return site and the date and time of retrieval. (Pennsylvanian DOS Election Directives and Guidance (August 19, 2020, Version: 1.0))	
Step	Locking of Access Door	Policy, Procedure, Manuals, and or Memorandum addressing:
3	Reference: Pennsylvania Absentee and Mail-in Ballot Return Guidance 2.5 SECURITY All drop-boxes should be secured by a lock and sealed with a tamper-evident seal. When feasible, ballot return sites should be monitored by a video security surveillance system, or an internal camera that can capture digital images and/or video. (Pennsylvanian DOS Election Directives and Guidance (August 19, 2020, Version: 1.0))	-Employee retrieval of tamper evident seal from storage or custodian -Locking of access door -Application and recordation of tamper evident seal serial number per 2.5 -Video surveillance requirement during process per 2.5

Stage	5: Securing Portable Storage Unit	Documents Requested
Step	Locking Portable Storage Unit	Policy, Procedure, Manuals, and or Memorandum addressing:
1		
	Reference:	-Employee retrieval of lock key or combination code from storage or
	Pennsylvania Absentee and Mail-in Ballot Return Guidance	custodian per 2.5
	2.5 SECURITY County boards of election must ensure the	
	following when establishing ballot return sites: During the hours when the staffed return site is closed or staff is	-Equipping portable storage unit with an alarm
	unavailable, the drop-box should be placed in a secure area that	-Video surveillance requirement during locking process per 2.5
	is inaccessible to the public and/or otherwise safeguarded.	video survemance requirement during locking process per 2.5
	is indecession to the public did of otherwise suregulated.	-Video surveillance requirement of portable storage unit per 2.5
	Only authorized election officials designated by the county	
	board of elections may access the keys and/or combination of	
	the lock.	
	When feasible, ballot return sites should be monitored by a	
	video security surveillance system, or an internal camera that	
	can capture digital images and/or video. (Pennsylvanian DOS Election Directives and Guidance (August	
	19, 2020, Version: 1.0))	
	19, 2020, v cision. 1.0))	

Stage	6: Transport of Retrieved Ballots to the Board of Elections	Documents Requested
Step	Transport of Ballots from Portable Storage Unit to Vehicle	Policy, Procedure, Manuals, and or Memorandum addressing:
1		
		-Parking
		-Video surveillance requirement during process
Step	Transport of Ballots in Vehicle	Policy, Procedure, Manuals, and or Memorandum addressing:
2		
	Reference:	-Authorized vehicle for transport
	Pennsylvania Absentee and Mail-in Ballot Return Guidance	
	3.2 TRANSPORT AND RECEIPT OF RETRIEVED	-Authorized routes per 3.2
	BALLOTS TO THE BOARD OF ELECTIONS	
	Ballots collected from any ballot return site should be	-Procedure if involved in motor vehicle accident
	immediately transported to the county board of elections.	
	(Pennsylvanian DOS Election Directives and Guidance (August	-Video surveillance requirement during process
	19, 2020, Version: 1.0))	
Step	Transport of Ballots from Vehicle to Central Repository	Policy, Procedure, Manuals, and or Memorandum addressing:
3		
		-Parking
		-Video surveillance requirement during process

Stage	7: Receipt of Retrieved Ballots by the Board of Elections	Documents Requested
Step 1	Intake of Ballots	Policy, Procedure, Manuals, and or Memorandum addressing:
	Reference: 25 Pa. Unconsolidated Statutes	Procedure to date ballot received by county board per Section 3150.15
	Section 3150.17 Public records. (5) The date on which the elector's completed mail-in ballot is received by the county	-Completion of Ballot Return Site Collection Forms per 3.2
	board. (Pennsylvania Unconsolidated Statutes (2022 Edition))	-Verification of seal number per 3.2
	Pennsylvania Absentee and Mail-in Ballot Return Guidance	-Inspection of secure ballot transfer container and recordation of tamper evident seal number and condition
	3.2 TRANSPORT AND RECEIPT OF RETRIEVED BALLOTS TO THE BOARD OF ELECTIONS	-Reporting signs of tampering per 3.2
	Upon arrival at the office of the county board of elections, the county board of elections, or their designee(s), should note the time of arrival on the same form [Ballot Return Site Collection	-Addressing signs of tampering
	Form] as described above.	-Maintenance of Ballot Return Site Collection forms to ensure the form is traceable to its respective secure ballot container per 3.2
	The seal number should be verified by a county election official or a designated representative.	-Recordation of number of ballots received per 3.2
	The county board of elections, or their designee(s), should inspect the drop-box or secure ballot transfer container for evidence of tampering and should receive the retrieved ballots by signing the retrieval form and including the date and time of receipt. In the event tampering is evident, that fact must be noted on the retrieval form.	-Video surveillance requirement during process
	The completed collection form should be maintained in a manner prescribed by the board of elections to ensure that the form is traceable to its respective secure ballot container.	
	The county elections official at the county election office or central count location should note the number of ballots delivered on the retrieval form. (Pennsylvanian DOS Election Directives and Guidance (August 19, 2020, Version: 1.0))	

Stage 7: Receipt of Retrieved Ballots by the Board of Elections (Cont.)		Documents Requested
Step 2	Storage of Ballots	Policy, Procedure, Manuals, and or Memorandum addressing:
	Reference: Guidance Concerning Civilian Absentee and Mail-In Ballot	-Storage of ballots per 4.2
	Procedures 4.2 COLLECTION OF MAIL-IN AND ABSENTEE	-Protection of ballots from fire and water damage
	BALLOTS County boards of election are required to keep absentee and mail-in ballots in a sealed or locked container(s) until the time of pre-canvassing.	-Video surveillance requirement during storage
	(Pennsylvania DOS Election Directives and Guidance (September 28, 2020, Version: 1.0))	