

**DAVID M. MALONEY, SR.**  
MEMBER  
130<sup>TH</sup> LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT

HARRISBURG OFFICE:  
P.O. Box 202130  
Harrisburg, PA 17120-2130  
Phone: (717) 260-6161  
Fax: (717) 782-2883

**CHAIRMAN**  
Game and Fisheries Committee



**House of Representatives**  
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
Harrisburg

WEBSITE:  
[www.RepMaloney.com](http://www.RepMaloney.com)

DISTRICT OFFICES:  
46 East Philadelphia Avenue  
Boyertown, PA 19512  
Phone: (610) 369-3010  
Fax: (610) 369-3011

346 Main Street  
Oley, PA 19547  
Phone: (610) 493-2097  
Fax: (610) 493-2098

December 3, 2024

Berks County Board of Elections  
Hon. Michael Rivera, Chair  
Hon. Christian Leinbach, Vice Chair  
Hon. Dante Santoni, Jr.  
633 Court Street, 1st Floor  
Reading, Pennsylvania, 19601

Dear Mr. Rivera, Mr. Leinbach, and Mr. Santoni:

Our Commonwealth's governmental structure endows our 67 counties with significant responsibility for conducting the elections by which Pennsylvanians select the members of the government charged with protecting their natural rights. As such, as a citizen and as a Representative in Pennsylvania's General Assembly, I am grateful for the efforts of those at the county level who work to ensure that elections are operated in an efficient, fair, secure, and transparent manner.

In this spirit, I write to bring to your attention issues encountered by voters during the November 5, 2024 General Election. Furthermore, I request your consideration of solutions to address these issues, which relate specifically to three precincts: Colebrookdale Township 1 at Liberty Fire Company in New Berlinville, Richmond Township at the Richmond Township Building, and Maiden creek Township 3 at Keystone Villa Assisted Living in Blandon.

Regarding Colebrookdale Township 1, voters have informed me that they experienced hours-long wait times throughout the day, sometimes up to four hours. My understanding is that the last voters in line at 8:00pm cast their ballots around 11:15pm. I visited the polling place during the day on November 5 and witnessed first-hand the extensive line length as I spoke with voters, thanked them for their participation, and encouraged them to remain in line and have their voice heard at the ballot box. Following Election Day, I heard from other prospective voters who never cast a ballot; after arriving at the polling place they then left when they realized they simply did not have the hours or physical stamina that would have been needed to wait in line.

Berks County's published election statistics<sup>1</sup> are corroborative of these observations and experiences. Colebrookdale 1 had a turnout rate of 75.39% and a net loss of total voters of 114, or 6.49%, from 2020<sup>2</sup>. Colebrookdale 2 and the other adjacent Berks County precincts (Bechtelsville, Boyertown 1 & 2, Earl 2, Pike, and Washington 1 & 2) had an average turnout of 83.63% and gained an average of 5.76% total voters from 2020. No neighboring precinct saw a decrease of total voters, and none with the exception of Boyertown 1 saw a turnout rate below 80% (79.73%).

In 2024, 114 fewer Colebrookdale 1 residents cast a ballot than in 2020, while the number of voting residents in every neighboring precinct increased across the same span. Moreover, if the average turnout rate of neighboring precincts/municipalities had occurred in Colebrookdale 1 in 2024, 1,821 ballots would have been cast, or 179 more residents successfully voting than occurred in actuality (1,642).

Berks County's statistics strongly support what I have heard from constituents: that the wait times at Colebrookdale 1 were prohibitively long and prevented residents from casting the votes they are entitled to.

Similarly, at Maiden creek Township 3, I understand that wait times were lengthy. I spent time there during the day speaking with voters, and when I departed at 7:30pm there remained approximately 100 people still in line waiting to vote. With a turnout rate of 79.05%, Maiden creek 3 was one of only three precincts in the 130<sup>th</sup> Legislative District to see turnout below 80% (the others being Colebrookdale 1 and Boyertown 1). Even more significantly, with a net loss of 49 voters or 3.06% from 2020, Maiden creek 3 was the only precinct in my district other than Colebrookdale 1 to lose more than 10 voters and see turnout drop by more than a percentage point.

As in Colebrookdale 1, voter turnout statistics in Maiden creek 3 are a strong indicator of reduced turnout due to extended wait times. If the average turnout rate in the adjacent precincts, Maiden creek 1, 2 & 4 and Richmond, (82.26%) had occurred in Maiden creek 3, 1,614 ballots would have been cast, or 63 more residents successfully voting than occurred in actuality (1,551).

To a lesser extent but still significant impact, I also personally observed and heard from residents about long wait times at Richmond Township's single precinct. With 2,371 registered voters, by voting population Richmond is substantially larger than any other precinct in my district, is the third largest precinct in the county, and is the largest whole-municipality precinct in the county.

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<sup>1</sup> 2024 General Election statistics throughout are drawn from or calculated from "Summary Results Report 2024 General Election November 5, 2024" published on the Berks County website at <https://www.berkspa.gov/getmedia/2322551f-29ee-4894-92c1-b9b3c573bdfc/OFFICIAL-Precinct-Summary-Report-11-22-2024.pdf> and date/time stamped 11/22/2024 12:46PM. 2020 General Election statistics throughout are drawn from or calculated from "Precinct Report 2020 General Election November 3, 2024" published on the Berks County website at <https://www.berkspa.gov/getmedia/f75c0abe-9357-4e29-b9af-35474f83db0a/Precinct-Report.pdf> and date/time stamped 11/25/2020 02:46PM.

<sup>2</sup> Total voter counts are used throughout because Berks County's published 2020 General Election precinct statistics do not break out Election Day and mail subtotals. As such, a comparison of 2024 and 2020 Election Day (polling place) statistics is not possible. However, it is reasonable to assume that voter and prospective voter interest in voting on Election Day was at least as high in 2024 as in 2020 based on the two following factors: statewide mail votes in 2024 were fewer than in 2020, and the unusual circumstances presented by COVID-19 and governmental responses at all levels in 2020 were not present to the same degree in 2024.

Geographically, the township's territory contains 23.7 square miles making Richmond the third-largest whole-municipality precinct in the county by area.

While the total number of voters in Richmond increased from 2020 to 2024, the rate of turnout in 2024 (80.14% of registered voters) was below the 82.50% average of adjacent precincts (Fleetwood 1 & 2, Greenwich 1, Lyons, Maiden creek 1, 2 & 3, Maxatawny 2 & 3, Perry, Rockland 2, and Ruscombmanor 1 & 2). If the average turnout rate of neighboring precincts had occurred in Richmond, 1,958 ballots would have been cast, or 58 more residents successfully voting than occurred in actuality (1,900).

All three of these cases are of serious concern, as long lines and wait times to vote by all indication resulted in fewer voters being able to cast a ballot. As such, I believe the Board of Elections' attention is warranted to identify a solution, whether petitioning the court to add or modify precincts, enhancing poll staffing and/or training and support, etc.

I thank you for your attention to this matter and look forward to reduced wait times and improved access to polling places in Colebrookdale, Maiden creek, and Richmond Townships going forward.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David M. Maloney, Sr." The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'D' and a long, sweeping underline.

Rep. David M. Maloney, Sr.  
Pennsylvania House of Representatives  
130<sup>th</sup> Legislative District

CC: Colebrookdale Township Board of Commissioners  
Maiden creek Township Board of Supervisors  
Richmond Township Board of Supervisors  
Hon. Al Schmidt, Secretary of the Commonwealth