

Darlene Booker-Jones, Chair Person & Tyrone Booker, Co-Chair Person
Local 696, 2023 Election Committee
3001 Walnut St, Philadelphia, PA 19104

Cc: AFSCME International

Monday, April 3, 2023

Dear Chair Person Booker-Jones & Co-Chair Person Booker,

My name is Evelyn Flint. I am a member in good standing of Local 696, and am writing to file an official protest regarding the Local 696 Election held on March 30, 2023, in accordance with Appendix D, Section 4 of the AFSCME International Constitution.

The method of ballot delivery stipulated in the Local 696 Election Rules flyer is not consistent with current Pennsylvania state mail-in balloting procedure, and in the absence of any previously established Local 696 precedent regarding mail-in voting for Local 696 elections, an established precedent such as state precedent should have been followed instead.

Instead, the Election Committee not only set the ballot return deadline based on an untraceable 'received by' date instead of a verifiable 'postmarked by' date, but it also told the American Arbitration Association to refuse to accept any otherwise valid ballot that were delivered by hand. Both the lack of a "postmarked by" ballot return deadline, and the lack of a any in-person ballot return drop box option are out of line with Pennsylvania state precedent.

According to Robert's Rules of Order, Section 46:3, "In the absence of a rule establishing the method of voting, the rule that is established by custom, if any, is followed, unless the assembly, by adoption of an incidental motion or incidental main motion, agrees to do otherwise."

Since the Local 696 Constitution has no specified method of voting, and since there is no establish Local 696 precedent of method of voting (due to the fact that our last election wasn't a vote by mail one), the Local 696 mail-in ballot Election of 2023 should have been held in accordance with state voting precedent, which should have included a "postmarked by" ballot return deadline and an in-person drop box option just like our state elections include.

I am therefore filing this protest within the required ten day period and exercising my right to be heard in front of the Election Committee concerning this matter, per Appendix D, Section 4, Sub-section B of the AFSCME International Constitution.

Fair and free elections are the cornerstone of all democratic institutions, and we must diligently work to preserve the integrity of our union. Our membership is our greatest strength, and their voices must be heard. Thank you.

In Solidarity,

Evelyn Flint

Candidate, Local 696 Executive Board & Steward/Delegate, Rabble Rouser Slate

Attachments:

Local 696 Election Rules flyer