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## BOARD OF ELECTIONS

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3 January 2017

### Important Dates for May 16, 2017 Municipal Primary

Please communicate the following important dates to individuals who intend to run for public office in your municipality or school district in 2017.

- Thursday, February 9** First day on which petitions and associated filing documents will be available at the Office of Voter Services, located on the first floor of Third Street Plaza, 33 West Third Street, Williamsport.
- Tuesday, February 14** First day on which petitions can be circulated and signatures obtained.
- Tuesday, March 7** Last day on which petitions can be circulated and signatures obtained. Petitions and other required documents must be filed in the Office of Voter Services before 5:00pm. No exceptions – this is a statutory deadline.
- Tuesday, May 16** Election Day.

**Candidates for public office are strongly advised to file petitions to place their names onto the primary ballot instead of soliciting write-in votes.** Write-in votes impose a considerable administrative burden after an election that delays the overall process of certifying and notifying winning candidates. We must mail notification letters to write-in winners at taxpayer expense, and then we must wait days to hear back from the winners. Write-in campaigns are also subject to common mistakes by the candidates that can result in write-in votes not being counted.

**If an unanticipated vacant office arises before September 7, 2017, contact the office of Voter Services immediately.** For unanticipated vacancies that arise before 9/7/2017, the PA Election Code requires that the unexpired term of office must be placed onto either the May primary ballot or the November election ballot, depending on the exact timing of the vacancy; furthermore, municipal and school district appointments to fill vacancies that occur before 9/7/2017 are only valid until 12/31/2017.

Sincerely,

Lycoming County Board of Elections