

**IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS OF BUCKS COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA
CIVIL DIVISION**

IN RE: EXTENSION OF TIME FOR : No. 2020-02322-37
ABSENTEE AND MAIL-IN BALLOTS :
TO BE RECEIVED BY MAIL AND :
COUNTED IN THE 2020 PRIMARY :
ELECTION :

ORDER

AND NOW, this 2nd day of JUNE, 2020, upon consideration of the Emergency Petition of the Bucks County Board of Elections for an Extension of Time for the Voted Absentee and Mail-in Ballots of the Qualified Registered Electors of Bucks County to be Counted for the 2020 Primary Election, the positions of those candidates appearing in support and opposition thereto, and the evidence developed at an evidentiary hearing on this matter, this Court finds as follows:

1. Section 1206 of the Election Code Act of June 3, 1937, P.L. 1333, as amended, 25 P.S. § 3046 expressly states that the Court of Common Pleas of each County or Judge thereof, shall on Election Day decide matters pertaining to the election as may be necessary to carry out the intent of this Act. The purpose of the election laws of this Commonwealth is to ensure fair elections including an equal opportunity for all eligible electors to participate in the election process. Thus, the language of 25 P.S. § 3046 implicitly grants this Court authority to provide relief when there is a natural disaster or emergency such as that which presently confronts the voters of Bucks County. To permit an election to be conducted whereby faultless members of the electorate could be deprived of their opportunity to participate because of circumstances beyond their control would be inconsistent with the election laws of this Commonwealth, including those providing such members with the option to cast their votes by mail. Therefore, in order to enforce these laws and protect the rights of Bucks County voters, it is hereby ORDERED and DECREED, that the Emergency Petition of the Bucks County Board of Elections is GRANTED and the Bucks County Board of Elections shall accept all absentee and mail-in ballots

postmarked on or before June 1, 2020 and delivered by the United States Post Office to the Bucks County Board of Elections any time before June 9, 2020, at 5:00 p.m.

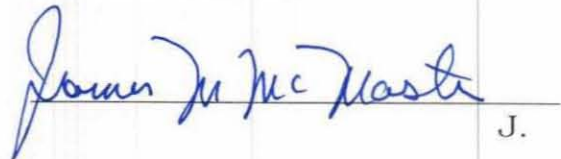
2. It is further ORDERED as follows:

a. Excepting overseas and military ballots which are not impacted by this Order, all civilian absentee and mail-in ballots postmarked on or before June 1, 2020 and delivered by the United States Post Office to the Bucks County Board of Elections between June 2, 2020 at 8:00 p.m. and June 9, 2020 at 5:00 p.m. (the "emergency extension ballots") shall be segregated from all other absentee and mail-in ballots received on or before 8:00 PM on June 2, 2020.

b. The Bucks County Board of Elections shall create and maintain a record that documents the receipt date of the emergency extension ballots.

c. The Bucks County Board of Elections shall accept the emergency extension ballots for tabulation during the official tabulations, except in instances in which a voter has properly cast a provisional ballot, in which case the emergency extension ballot shall not be tabulated.

BY THE COURT:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "James M. McMaster", is written over a horizontal line. To the right of the line, the letter "J." is printed.

JAMES M. McMASTER, JUDGE

**N.B. It is your responsibility
to notify all interested parties
of the above action.**