

Understanding the Lehigh County Election Board Ballot Question

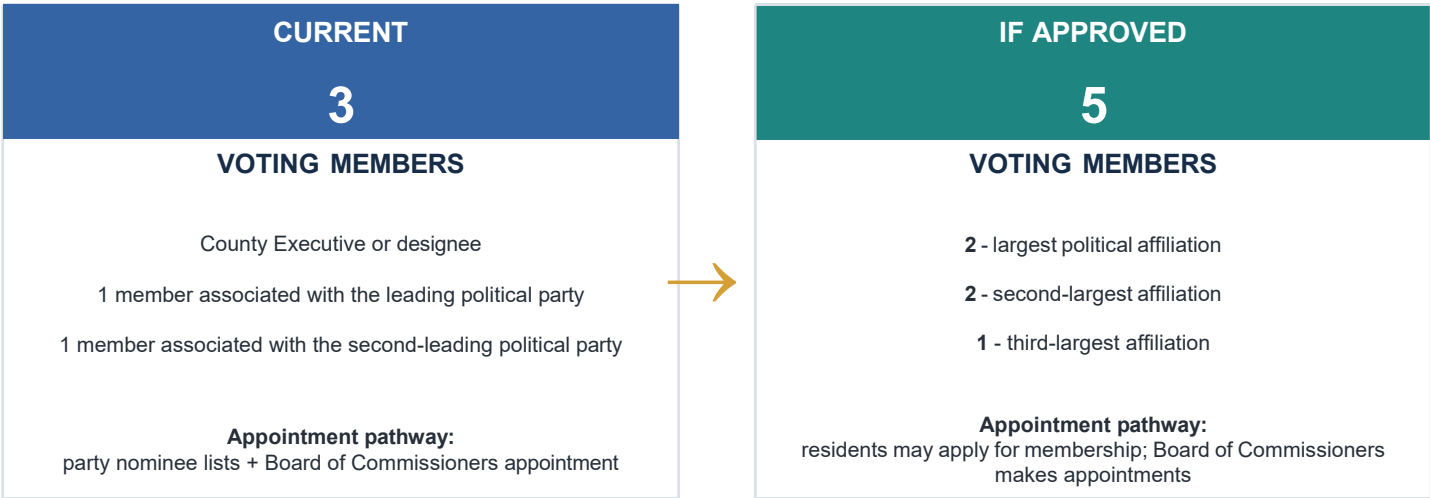
A nonpartisan voter-education guide to what would change - and what would stay the same.

BALLOT QUESTION

“Shall the Lehigh County Home Rule Charter be amended to expand the membership of the Election and Registration Commission from 3 voting members to 5 voting members, consisting of 2 members from each of the two largest political affiliations in the County, and 1 member from the third-largest political affiliation (inclusive of non-affiliated/independent), and to revise the appointment process to provide residents the opportunity to apply for the Commission?”

What is the Election & Registration Commission?

Lehigh County's Election & Registration Commission performs the county board-of-elections responsibilities assigned by Pennsylvania law. Those duties include important parts of election administration such as polling-place oversight, election procedures, canvassing returns, and the county's role in certifying results. **The ballot question changes the Commission's governance - not Pennsylvania's voting laws.**



YES Amend the charter: expand the Commission to 5 voting members, represent the 3 largest affiliations using a 2-2-1 allocation, and open an application pathway for residents.	NO Do not amend the charter through this question; the existing 3-member structure and current appointment provisions remain.
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What would NOT change?

✓ Who is eligible to vote	✓ Pennsylvania voter-registration requirements
✓ Primary-election rules	✓ Mail-in and absentee voting laws
✓ Voting-system requirements	✓ Election dates and polling hours
✓ Federal voting-rights protections	

Why is this a ballot question?

Lehigh County voters adopted a Home Rule Charter in 1975. The Charter establishes the structure of the Election & Registration Commission, so changing that structure requires a charter amendment approved by county voters. Pennsylvania law continues to govern the Commission's election-administration duties. The proposed change would prevent any one political affiliation from holding a majority of the five voting seats, remove current elected officials from voting membership on the Commission, and open the application process to county residents who are not nominated by a political party

THE BOTTOM LINE: This question is about **who serves on Lehigh County's Election & Registration Commission and how members are selected**. It does not rewrite state or federal voting rules.