

Pennsylvania Elections

## A Trump win? Pa. court says Commonwealth Secretary Boockvar lacked authority to extend ballot deadline

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Pennsylvania election officials cannot count mail-in ballots that were not verified by Nov. 9, regardless of an instruction given to them by Commonwealth Secretary Kathy Boockvar, a Commonwealth Court judge ruled Thursday.

The decision by President Judge Mary Hannah Leavitt voids a Nov. 1 directive Boockvar issued to election officials in all 67 counties. In that directive Boockvar said those officials had until Nov. 12 to verify the identities of the voters who cast mail-in ballots.

Matt Miller. (Nov. 12, 2020). A Trump win? Pa. court says Commonwealth Secretary Boockvar lacked authority to extend ballot deadline. Penn Live.

In a petition filed with the court last week, President Donald Trump's campaign challenged Boockvar's directive, insisting that election laws barred the counting of any ballots which had not received identification verification by Nov. 9.

Leavitt agreed.

She found that Boockvar "lacked statutory authority" to extend a deadline that is set in the state Election Code.

Ballots not verified by Nov. 9 have been segregated and not counted under a temporary [injunction Leavitt's court issued last week](#).

Her decision could be appealed to the state Supreme Court.

The fight over the ballot receipt deadline is among a series of battles being waged as the Trump campaign challenges the outcome of the presidential race. Although ballots are still being counted in Pennsylvania, the unofficial tally shows Democrat Joe Biden won the presidential contest in the Keystone State.

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