

ELECTION OFFICE

Stephanie Taylor
Director

Kimberley H. Slusar
Deputy Director



ELECTION BOARD

Allison W. McCord, President
Joseph N. Price, Vice President
Julia A. Bopst, Secretary
Medford J. Campbell III, Member
Michael A. Dykes, Member

Brian K. Young, Esq., Board Counsel

AGENDA

**Harford County Board of Elections
133 Industry Lane, Forest Hill, MD 21050
June 23, 2021
5:00 p.m.**

- 1) Call to Order; Declaration of Quorum
- 2) Welcome Members and Guests
- 3) Approval of Minutes
 - o May 26, 2021 Regular Session
 - o May 26, 2021 Closed Session
- 4) Request Additions or Changes to the Agenda
- 5) Election Office Report
- 6) Board Attorney's Report
- 7) Old Business
- 8) New Business
- 9) Confirmation of Next Meeting
- 10) Members Time
- 11) Closed Session*
- 12) Adjournment

NEXT MEETING: July 28, 2021 at 5:00 p.m.

*Closed Meeting: Part of the meeting may be closed in accordance with Maryland's Open Meetings Act procedures.

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**HARFORD COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS
MINUTES
May 26, 2021**

PRESENT:

Board:	Staff:
Allison W. McCord, President	Stephanie Taylor, Director
Joseph N. Price, Vice President	Sarah Mohan
Julia A. Bopst, Secretary	
Medford J. Campbell III, Democratic Member	
Michael A. Dykes, Democratic Member	
Brian K. Young, Esq., Board Counsel	

QUORUM:

Ms. McCord called the meeting to order at 5:04 p.m. and determined there was a quorum with at least one member of the minority party being present.

WELCOME GUESTS:

Kimberley Slusar and Maggie Mundle from the staff called into the meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Ms. Bopst motioned to approve the April 28th regular session minutes and Mr. Dykes seconded. The minutes were approved unanimously.

The closed session minutes were tabled for the closed session of this meeting.

ADDITIONS OR CHANGES TO THE AGENDA:

There were no additions or changes to the agenda.

ELECTION OFFICE REPORT:

Ms. Taylor gave the Administrative update. Discussion was as follows:

Mr. Campbell asked Ms. Taylor if she had been contacted by Councilman Andre Johnson. She stated that she had not and Mr. Campbell stated that he had talked with Mr. Johnson concerning the budget. Mr Campbell stated that Mr. Johnson would be in touch with Ms. Taylor shortly. Ms. Taylor added that Councilman Wagner had stopped by and mentioned that the council would

back the budget for the office and it was just a matter of getting approval from County Executive Barry Glassman.

Ms. Taylor mentioned that she and Ms. Slusar had a meeting with a Cynthia Thomas from the Office of the State Prosecutor about double voters. She mentioned that criminal intent is very hard to prove and documentation is required. Our office retains documents for five years, but this is not a statewide procedure.

Ms. Taylor gave the Staff update. Discussion was as follows:

Ms. Taylor added that Ms. Graham's position would be re-classed to a starting position. She also stated that she is trying to get funding for two new PINs and presented the office organizational chart to the members of the Board.

Ms. Taylor gave the Election Operations update.

Ms. Taylor added that there is a major concern about finding enough polling places with redistricting. She stated that the office is leaning towards combining precincts for the 2022 cycle and finding new locations for 2024.

Ms. Bopst asked if this would lead to more ballot styles. Ms. Taylor commented that so far we believe we will have 258 ballot styles but we really don't know what it will look like until redistricting happens.

Ms. Mohan gave the Election Judge update.

Ms. Taylor gave the Voter Registration update.

Ms. Taylor gave the Candidate Filing update.

At the time of the meeting there were 10 local filings at the office which is a correction from the EOR.

Ms. Taylor gave the Redistricting update. Discussion was as follows:

Ms. Taylor stated that Marshall Garrett and Ms. Slusar are in the process of updating the street files. Ms. Slusar added that she had contacted the County about their GIS system so they can compare their files to the records in MDVoters.

Ms. Taylor added that she attended a meeting with the Redistricting Committee and learned a lot about the process. The committee mentioned wanting to make the process easy on the election office. Ms. Taylor mentioned that the timeline currently in place for redistricting is concerning for the office and the committee. She also added that there is concern with where the lines cross in the homes of voters and how that determines their precinct. She clarified that the districts would be decided based on where the front door to the home is located. She also added that the committee did not know what "ghost precincts" are and would need to send a list of the ghost precincts to the committee.

Mr. Campbell asked how the office planned to notify voters. Ms. Taylor stated that all voters whose districts would change will be receiving new voter notification cards (VNC) indicating the changes. She also stated that the office would most likely have to use a mailing house to cover the

amount of VNC's that would need to go out. Mr. Dykes asked if Ms. Taylor had budgeted for this situation to which she responded that she has. Ms. Mohan added that there would be a social media campaign as well as updates on an FAQ page on the website.

Ms. Bopst asked if the office was all in-person for the weekly meetings to which Ms. Taylor responded that entire office is back in the office full-time unless they request off.

Ms. Taylor met with the CEO of Harford Community College about concerns with requiring a new polling location. She informed him that she is not looking to use the school for 2022 but would most likely need for 2024. They were very excited and are open to discuss that future partnership.

Ms. Taylor gave the Legislative update.

Ms. Mohan gave the Outreach update. Discussion was as follows:

Mr. Campbell asked if the VRV training was virtual to which Ms. Mohan responded that it is.

BOARD ATTORNEY'S REPORT:

Mr. Young stated that Ms. Remmey tendered her resignation effective August 4, 2020. Ms. Taylor asked if the matter was finished to which Mr. Young stated that he is just waiting on paperwork. Ms. Taylor asked if a settlement would be coming out of the office budget and Mr. Young stated that he would have more information about that in the next week.

Mr. Young stated that there has not been any word yet from the Court of Special Appeals in the matter regarding Ms. Livingston.

OLD BUSINESS:

There was none to report.

NEW BUSINESS:

Ms. McCord commented that Mr. Dykes has mentioned adding a photo of the Board Members to the Election Judge Manual. This, she stated, would allow the election judges to have an image of them as they tour the polling places so they are not surprised by their arrival.

CONFIRMATION OF NEXT MEETING:

The next meeting will be held on June 23, 2021 at 5 p.m. Ms. Taylor commented that the August meeting is scheduled during the MAEO Conference and wanted the Board to be aware of that scheduling conflict.

Mr. Dykes motioned to cancel the August meeting unless there was a need for a special meeting. Mr. Price seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

MEMBERS TIME:

Ms. Bopst attended a fundraiser for Tony Giangordano on May 5th for \$200, Harford County's Lincoln/Reagan Dinner on May 6th for \$150 and attended a Friends for Mike Griffith event on

May 12th. Ms. Bopst also donated and will be attending a Citizens for Bob Cassilly event on June 9th for \$500.

Ms. McCord purchased tickets for Harford County's Lincoln/Reagan Dinner on May 6th for \$150, a ticket for the Change Annapolis Event on May 10th for \$100 and a ticket for a fundraiser for Delegate Mike Griffith on May 11th for \$100. Ms. McCord also attended the Republican Alliance meeting on May 24th.

CLOSED SESSION:

Mr. Price motioned for a closed session under statutory authority #1. Mr. Campbell seconded the motion it passed with a unanimous vote. The closed session began at 5:36 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mr. Dykes made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Mr. Price seconded. The meeting adjourned at 6:34 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Allison W. McCord, President

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HARFORD COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS
ELECTION OFFICE REPORT
June 23, 2021

Administration:

- The FY22 budget was approved by the County Council with zero amendments.
- We are working on closing out our FY21 budget.
- Kim and Justin are attending Incident Response meetings presented by the State Board. The participants collaborate about potential scenarios we may face throughout the election cycle and come up with solutions. Eventually these will be put together in one document to be shared with the Election community.
- We have started a modified work schedule for the summer months. The staff works nine hours a day for nine days and has every other Friday off. They were given the choice to work one of two shifts, 7:30am to 5:00pm or 8:00am to 5:30pm. They are on a rotating schedule so every other Friday half of the staff is in attendance while the other half has the day off.

Staff Updates:

- The reclass paperwork for Vanessa's position was submitted June 2nd and was approved. The job was posted and closed on June 18th. We are waiting on the candidate list from the State Board Human Resource department. We are hoping to hold interviews on June 25th.
- Maggie Mundle returned to work on June 21st.
- All State employees have been required to attend sexual harassment training presented by the State Board of Elections. All have attended the training except Kim and myself. Our class is schedule for June 30th.

Election Operations:

- We met with Harford Community College, and they were very excited to have us use their facility as our 5th Early Voting site in 2024.
- Created charts compiled from 2020 voter turnout data to visualize areas of high turnout.
- Using voter turnout data to determine ballot allocations for upcoming election.
- Justin, Rich, Sarah, Loralyn, Kim and Stephanie attended ADA refresher by SBE:
 - Making list of facilities that require a renewed ADA survey due to site construction, renovations, any changes, etc.
 - Will be scheduling visits to various polling places in the coming weeks.
- When we purchased our highspeed mail sorter/time stamper we were told by the vendor that we could put paper documents (for example absentee applications) through it for time stamping but every time we do the machine jams. So we are looking to use a heavier weighted paper to use for the absentee applications that we are required to send to all active registered voters next year.

Election Judges:

- An availability email was sent to all our veteran judges – we are waiting to hear back from them if they will be returning or not. We have heard from almost 500 judges already with very few declining to return.
- The staff assisted the department with dismantling and building the new totem poles, these hold all of our required polling place signage, as well as the old supply tubs with our new ones.
- The pack room is undergoing an organization overhaul with new, clear tubs for ease of access and visibility of items.
- Loralyn and Sarah continue to clean up the Election Judge Main Information Sheet in preparation of the 2022 Election.
- Orientation dates have been scheduled for August.
- Daily judge work continues - emailing potential new judges, importing judge data and changes, phone calls and emails.

Voter Registration:

May Statistics

- Performed List Maintenance
 - Social Security verifications – 25 records
 - Inactivated Voters - 633 records
 - Cancelled for Criminal Convictions – 6 records
- Volume from Electronic Voter Registration Applications (EVRAs) – 5967 images
 - Voter Registration Applications – 5958
 - Absentee Applications – 9
- DHMH list received through the Maryland Department of Health for the month of April – 149 records.
- Address Change Postcards – 1319 generated
- Cancelled for Non-citizenship – 2 records from jury notices.

Current Month

- Daily volume from mail is moderate but EVRAs have picked up.
- Receiving information from Harford County Jury Commissioner weekly.
- Received and processed ERIC In-State Dupe and Deceased reports – 2 records.

Candidate Filing:

- To date we have sixteen offices filed.

Redistricting:

- We received centerline street data from the county to compare to our MDVOTERS street files.
 - Because of how the information is presented and used in the county files, Marshall is condensing it to a usable format to compare to our street files. Basically, the county has a new line in the spreadsheet every time a street crosses another street, and the way our database works, we need to see the full address range for the street.
- We will be ordering a new Street File book in July to help with reference points.

- Marshall, Kim, and Amy attended a five-week virtual seminar on Geo-Enabled redistricting and learned how we can better integrate mapping (in addition to spreadsheets) to more accurately implement redistricting.

Legislation Update:

- MAEO combined Legislative/State Regulation Review Committees have formed various sub-committees. Absentee/Mail-In Ballot sub-committee formed to research, brainstorm, and draft proposed future legislation/regulations for the 2022 election cycle. Topics discussed include "canvass" definition (differentiating tabulation from results), date canvass can begin, livestream requirements, voter reaction, and public interaction with the process. Meets once a month via teleconference.

Outreach:

- Sarah is looking for events that we can attend this summer.

Upcoming Events:

- Staff meetings continue weekly on Wednesday afternoons.
- June 22nd – State Board Meeting, 2pm
- June 29th – EV & Election Judge MAEO meeting, 2:00 pm Sarah and Loralyn
- June 30th - GEO Enable Elections webinar, 2:00 pm
- June 30th – Sexual Harassment training, 2:00 pm Kim and Stephanie
- July 7th – Legislative Absentee Workgroup meeting, 11:00 am Rich
- July 13th – MAEO meeting, 10:00