

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
April 28, 2021
5:00 p.m.

- 1) Call to Order; Declaration of Quorum
- 2) Welcome Members and Guests
- 3) Approval of Minutes
 - o March 24, 2021 Regular 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: May 26, 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
ELECTION OFFICE REPORT
April 28, 2021**

Administration:

- MAEO conference will be an in-person, as long as the COVID numbers are stable, on August 23 – 27, 2021 in Ocean City at the Clarion Hotel. Reservations have been made for the employees and Board members.
- The new lobby has been installed with the exception of a few punch list items.
- The landlord will be painting the inner office and steam cleaning the rugs at no expense to the office.
- Tel-Net updated the security on 11 different doors throughout the building
- The high-speed opener/stamper/sorter machine was installed. We can time stamp 50 ballot envelopes in 8 seconds vs 120 seconds manually. This will be a huge time saver.
- Kim and I will meet with the County Council tomorrow at 2:30 for budget approval.
- Kim and I will meet with Cynthia Thomas from the Office of the State Prosecutor about two double voters we had in the 2020 Presidential Primary Election on May 18, 2020

Staff Updates:

- There are no updates to report.

Election Operations:

- Post Election Maintenance was completed.
- State inventory audit was completed.
- Computer update audits with SBE were completed.
- DS200 Ballot Scanning Units have been tested and set for the Havre de Grace municipal election.

Election Judges:

- Havre de Grace Election Judge Training is Monday, April 26, 2021 at 10 am at our office.
- Sarah and Loralyn are working on packing for the Havre de Grace Election.
- On April 20th we held our final Lessons Learned Focus Group session. We learned invaluable information and received ideas for improving everything from training to end of night procedures for our judges. We will be meeting as an office to share these ideas and see how all departments can collaborate to make the needed improvements.
- Loralyn, Sarah, Maggie, Stephanie and Kim have been working on continuing to organize all aspects of the judge department online (Smartsheets and the shared drive).
- Daily judge work continues: emailing potential new judges, importing judge data and changes, phone calls and emails.

Voter Registration:

Since 3/24

- Performed List Maintenance
 - Social Security verifications – 10
 - Inactivated Voters – 209
 - Cancel Pending Criminal Convictions Voters – 1 record
- Volume from electronic voter registration applications (EVRAs) – 4694
 - 4667 - Voter Registration Applications
 - 27 – Vote by Mail
- Voter Records Merged – 26
 - Merge has not worked since the beginning of 2021, so this is the full YTD.
- DHMH list received through Maryland Department of Health for the month of March – 154 records.
- Address Changes – 1,028 postcards generated.
- Cancelled for non-citizenship (March) – 0 records.
- ERIC
 - Cross State – 471
 - In State Update – 231
 - NCOA – 2606
 - In State Duplicate - 9

Candidate Filing:

- To date we have seven candidates filed.

Redistricting

- Marshall Garrett is working on the MDVOTERS street files to get them ready to compare to the County GIS street listing.
- Stephanie Taylor gave Charlie Kearney, the lawyer overseeing the redistricting committee for the County 12/31/2021 as the drop-dead date for us to receive the redistricting information from them.

Legislation Update:

- HB 156 (Effective June 1, 2021) – Student and Military Voter Empowerment Act – Colleges to collaborate with LBE on placement of early voting centers or precinct polling place on campus upon request; requires LBE to contact and obtain input from large residential institutional communities (CCRCs – Continuing Care Retirement Communities) when establishing precinct boundaries and designating polling places.
- HB 206 (Effective October 1, 2021) – Early Voting Centers – Hours of Operation – Early voting hours 7 am to 8 pm for all elections.
- HB 222 (Effective June 1, 2021) – Correctional Facilities – Voter Registration and Voting – SBE shall adopt regulations for LBE to disseminate information on voter registration and eligibility at least 30 days before the voter registration deadline for each election; LBE to facilitate voter registration and absentee ballot process in cooperation with correctional facility.
- HB 738 (Effective October 1, 2021) – Certificates of Candidacy and Ballot Questions -- Revisions – Allows for an individual to receive without charge a copy of the complete text

of all constitutional amendments and questions from LBE in person, by mail, or electronically.

- HB 745 – (Effective October 1, 2021) -- Early Voting Centers – Counties with 200,000 – 299,999 registered voters shall have 5 early voting centers; 5 factors LBE to consider when determining location of EV centers.
- SB 683 – (Effective June 1, 2021) -- Voting – Permanent Absentee Ballot List, Ballot Drop Boxes, and Reports – Ballot Drop Boxes for election related materials; 5 factors LBE to consider for location (State Election Administrator location approval); LBE to remove materials from drop boxes at least once per day; Permanent Absentee Ballot list procedures established; at least 60 days prior to 2022 and 2024 primary election, LBE shall send absentee ballot applications to all registered voters not on permanent absentee list.

Outreach:

- No events have been scheduled.

Upcoming Events:

- April 29th – County Council Budget Work Session
- May 4th – Havre de Grace Municipal Election
- May 6th – MAEO Meeting
- May 18th – Meeting with Office of the State Prosecutor
- May 20th – Director’s Meeting
- May 26th – Board Meeting

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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 Giangiordano 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,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Allison W. McCord." The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the text "Respectfully submitted,".

Allison W. McCord, President