

MINUTES

October 3, 2023

MEETING OF THE ALLEGANY COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS 701 Kelly Road, Room 230, Cumberland, Maryland

ATTENDEES: John Stakem, President
Richard DeVore, Member
Lisa Lyons, Member
Debbie Johnson, Member
Cecilia Pittman, Member
Diane Loibel, Election Administrator
Wendy Maddux, Deputy Director

ABSENT: Armand Pannone

PUBLIC: None

DECLARATION OF QUORUM PRESENT

Mr. Stakem called the meeting to order at 9:00 A.M., and stated that there was a quorum present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Stakem called for alterations, corrections, and/or approval of the minutes. Ms. Lyons made a motion to approve the September board minutes. Ms. Johnson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

ATTORNEY'S REPORT

None

CORRESPONDENCE

Mrs. Loibel reported that she had received a phone call from Frostburg State University requesting the board to consider moving the polling place from the Frostburg Community Center to Frostburg State University. Mr. Stakem made a motion to table this discussion until after the 2024 elections citing the 2024 Polling Place Plan requirement which is due by November 17, 2023. Mrs. Pittman seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Mr. Stakem requested that the office support Frostburg State University by being on campus once a week for 4 weeks to accept mail-in ballot applications. The office will work with Frostburg State University to decide which weeks we will be on campus accepting the mail-in applications.

ADDITIONS

None

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

National Voter Registration Day

The office partnered with Frostburg State University to hold a registration drive for National Voter Registration Day on Tuesday, September 19, 2023 at the clock tower. Ms. Johnson and Mr. Stakem volunteered to provide support for this event. FSU provided computers for the students to complete their applications electronically during the event.

SBE Biennial

The State Board of Elections will be holding the biennial preelection meeting on Thursday, October 19, 2023 at the Doubletree Hotel Annapolis beginning at 8:00 A.M. Hotel accommodations for October 18th have been made for all board members, board attorney, and staff. Confirmations have been sent to all members along with a draft copy of the agenda. Separate breakout sessions will be held for board attorneys and board members. Attendance for this meeting is mandatory.

Election Judge Recruitment

Election judge recruitment is ongoing. As of September 30th, 131 Democratic Judges, 160 Republican Judges and 13 Unaffiliated Judges have responded to the 2024 Election Judge Inquiry that we sent out in July. Last week, Mrs. Loibel spoke to WCBC radio regarding the need for election judges in conjunction with an interview for National Voter Registration Day. Mrs. Loibel reports that the office received 2 election judge applications from the State's website, 8 applications from Vet the Vote, and 0 applications from Power the Polls. Meet and Greet sessions are in the planning stages for next month and we are hoping the local newspaper will run an article about the Meet and Greet dates. Election judge information will appear on the message board in the lobby of the Allegany County Office Complex beginning later this month.

Election Judge Manual

All of the chapters with the exception of Chapter 10 have been made available for customization. Mrs. Loibel intends to begin work next week on the customizations. The statement that is read to all voters at the ballot issue table has changed. The new statement reads "Would you prefer to mark your ballot using the ballot marking device, or by hand using a pen?" All signage will need to be changed to accommodate the new language.

Polling Place Plan

Work continues on the Polling Place Plan. Mrs. Loibel will present the plan at the next regularly scheduled board meeting for approval.

Computer Upgrades

All of the computers and monitors that run MDVOTERS have been replaced. We also received two new scanners. A new printer was purchased during our last

budget cycle. All new equipment comes with a warranty/maintenance plan. Computers are upgraded every five years.

Computer Systems and Software Security Updates

Mrs. Loibel reports that office staff has successfully applied the Microsoft Security updates for the month of September on SBE workstations. We have also updated other third-party software applications to their latest versions on all workstations.

Registration Statistics

Statistics as of September 30, 2023 were as follows: Total Active Registration 43,900, 11,463 Democrat, 22,870 Republican, 248 Libertarian, 8,754 Unaffiliated, and 565 Others.

Incident Response Scenario #3

There will be a work session following today's meeting to discuss Incident Response Scenario #3. All members and staff are encouraged to participate.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

None

Board Members Report:

None

Disclosure of Campaign Contributions:

None

Next Meeting:

The next regular meeting will be held on November 7, 2023 at 9:00 A.M.

Adjournment:

Mr. DeVore made a motion for adjournment. Mrs. Pittman seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Mr. Stakem adjourned the meeting at 10:05 A.M.