

MINUTES

September 3, 2024

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

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

ABSENT: None

PUBLIC: None

DECLARATION OF QUORUM PRESENT

Mr. Stakem called the meeting to order at 9:03 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. Johnson made a motion to approve the August board minutes. Ms. Lyons seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

ATTORNEY'S REPORT

None

CORRESPONDENCE

None

ADDITIONS

None

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Attorney Meetings for the General Election

Mrs. Loibel reminded the board attorney of the attorney meetings for the General Election.

- Tuesday, September 10, 2024 at 9:00am
- Tuesday, October 15, 2024 at 9:00am
- Tuesday, October 29, 2024 at 9:00am

Post-Election Maintenance

Post-Election Maintenance was completed on all voting equipment that was deployed during early voting, election day, and all canvass days. The State requirement for the primary election was to complete PEM on 20% of all voting equipment and any equipment that had an issue during the primary election.

Petitions

The Green party satisfied the 10K petition requirement to become a recognized party within the State of Maryland. The party is now live in MDVOTERS. Robert F. Kennedy satisfied the petition requirement to have his name on the General Election ballot in Maryland.

Declination of Nomination

August 5, 2024 was the deadline for candidates seeking nomination from a non-principal political party to file with SBE or the appropriate local board the Certificate of Nomination and Certificate of Candidacy.

Election Judge Training Schedule

An updated copy of the election judge training schedule has been included in your blue board folder. We decided to separate the ballot issue judges from the check in judge class which added a few additional classes to the schedule. Training begins September 3rd at 5:30pm at the fairgrounds. This will be a refresher training for those judges who participated in the full training for the Primary Election.

Ballot Drop Box Schedule

The ballot drop box schedule needs to be completed for the month of November. Delivery of drop boxes will begin the week of September 16th. SBE received complaints from voters that the drop boxes are “locked”. Voters see the locks below the insert slot and assume the boxes are locked. SBE is working towards a permanent solution for 2026 but for the 2024 General Election they are requesting that we cover up the lock. A copy of the template has been included in your blue board folder along with a recommendation for weather resistant tape.

Mail-In Ballot Statistics

As of September 2, 2024, we have received 5,040 mail-in applications for the General Election.

Ballot Proofing

Ballot proofing documents were received on Friday, August 30, 2024. The deadline to proof paper ballots is September 2, 2024. ExpressVotes and the audio ballot deadline is Wednesday, September 4th.

Deadline to Certify and Display Ballots

The deadline for SBE to certify and display the ballots for the General Election is Tuesday, September 3, 2024. (Monday is a holiday). Copies of our ballot are on display on the window in the main lobby. Proofing ballots are also posted on the State's website.

Logic and Accuracy Testing

L&A Testing is scheduled to begin on Monday, September 30, 2024. Mr. DeVore made a motion to authorize Diane Loibel to conduct L&A Testing. Ms. Lyons seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Specimen Ballots

In order to create uniformity and be more usable by socioeconomically diverse communities, the State Board of Elections developed a specimen ballot template, known as the Voter Guide & Practice Ballot. The template was specifically designed with the intent to avoid voter confusion on possibly voting the specimen ballot. Therefore, it is the policy of the State Board that the local boards shall use the template specimen ballot known as the Voter Guide & Practice Ballot. A local board of elections director, in consultation with the local board, may use a different template or design for the specimen ballot upon a written request including the specimen ballot proof subject to the approval of the State Administrator prior to any printing. This template is very similar to what we used for the primary election. Ms. Lyons made a motion to use the template provided by the State Board of Elections. Mrs. Pittman seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

EFS Techs

Our EFS tech names have been submitted to the State's staffing contractor for the upcoming general election. A copy of the staffing agreement has been provided for your review.

Polling Place Reminder Letters

Polling Place Reminder Letters will be sent out later this month to all polling places.

Public Education Plan for Early Voting

Radio and newspaper advertising will once again be purchased for early voting. In addition, we will be mailing the specimen ballot with early voting information to most voters.

Computer Systems and Software Security Updates

Office staff has successfully applied the Microsoft Security updates for the month of August on SBE workstations. We have also updated other third-party software applications to their latest versions on all workstations.

Registration Statistics

Statistics as of August 31, 2024 were as follows: Total Active Registration is 43,380. 10,781 Democrat, 22,917 Republican, 50 No Labels MD, 271 Libertarian, 55 Green, 8,798 Unaffiliated, and 508 Others.

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 October 1, 2024 at 9:00 A.M.

Adjournment:

Ms. Lyons made a motion for adjournment. Ms. Johnson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Mr. Stakem adjourned the meeting at 10:15 A.M.