

MINUTES

October 1, 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 9:05 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

Carla Zinn, a citizen volunteer, provided a letter for all board members including a copy of the Maryland Data Research Report for their review. Members will review the document prior to their next regularly scheduled meeting.

ADDITIONS

None

CLOSED SESSION

Mr. Stakem moved the meeting into closed session under the General Provisions Article 3-305(b)1 to discuss the appointment, employment, assignment, promotion, discipline, demotion, compensation, removal, resignation, or performance evaluation of appointees, employees, or officials over whom this public body has jurisdiction; any other personnel matter that affects one or more specific individuals as well as to consult with counsel to obtain legal advice. Mrs.

Pittman made a motion to go into closed session. Ms. Lyons seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously. The open meeting was recessed at 9:15 A.M. subject to reconvening in closed session.

Ms. Johnson made a motion to adjourn the closed session. The motion was seconded by Ms. Pittman and the motion passed unanimously. The closed session was adjourned at 9:41 A.M. and the meeting returned to open session.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Swearing in Board of Canvassers

Dawn Lindsey, Clerk of the Circuit Court was here to swear in the Board of Canvassers for the 2024 Presidential General Election.

Election of Officers

The floor was open to accept nominations for Chairman and Secretary for the Board of Canvassers. Mr. DeVore made a motion to nominate Ms. Lisa Lyons as Chairman of the Board of Canvassers. Mr. Stakem seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously. Mr. Stakem made a motion to nominate Mrs. Cecilia Pittman as Secretary of the Board of Canvassers. Ms. Johnson seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Attorney Meetings for the General Election

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

- Tuesday, October 15, 2024 at 9:00 A.M.
- Tuesday, October 29, 2024 at 9:00 A.M.

Polling Place Reminder Letters

Polling place reminder letters were sent out to all polling places. SBE received two complaints regarding gates that were closed the night before the primary election. Mrs. Loibel reached out to both polling places about this issue. Both locations assured her that the gates would be open all night at both locations. In addition, this was included in the polling place reminder letter.

Election Judge Training

Please see the updated training schedule in the blue board folders for any last-minute changes to the training schedule. Two open house refresher trainings will be held on Saturday, October 19th and Sunday, October 20th from 10 A.M. – 3 P.M. at the County Office Complex in Room 100.

Specimen Ballots

The specimen ballot proofs were received and approved by the State Board of Elections. Specimen ballots will be mailed out by the vendor beginning the week of October 7th.

EFS Training

All of the EFS Techs have completed the onboarding process and are scheduled for training on Thursday, October 10th at 5:30 P.M. We have a total of 14 techs. 5 all day techs and 9 part time techs.

Board Member Assignments

A copy of the board member assignments was sent to all members for their review. No changes have been made to the assignments from the primary election.

MOVE Act Deadline

The Move Act deadline was Saturday, September 21st. All UOCAVA ballots were sent out by the deadline.

Mail-In Ballot Statistics

As of September 30, 2024, we have received 5,317 mail-in applications for the General Election.

Logic and Accuracy Testing

L&A Testing is scheduled to begin on Monday, September 30, 2024. The deadline to test the Taylor test deck was Wednesday, September 11, 2024.

Contingency Plans

A copy of the contingency plans for both early voting and election day was provided to all members for their review. Please let the office know if you have any questions regarding any of the contingency plans.

Early Voting Sign Up

Early Voting begins on Thursday, October 24th and runs through Thursday, October 31, 2024. A sign-up sheet will be available to select the days you are available to help with early voting.

Verification of Supplies

A local board of elections may develop a method of verifying supplies for early voting and election day or adopt or customize the following verification method: No later than 15 days before early voting, the members of the local board of elections shall randomly select the greater of 2 precincts or precincts equaling 10% of the jurisdiction's precincts. When all voting supplies are packed for early voting and election day, a bipartisan team of local board members shall inspect the contents of the supplies of the randomly selected precincts and all early voting centers. Precincts randomly selected for the general election include 002-000, 003-000, and 009-000.

Polling Place Evaluation Surveys

Surveys will be conducted on 8 polling places for the general election. 003-000, 007-001, 012-000, 020-000, 022-000, 024-000, 029-002, and 031-000.

Public Demo and Canvass Dates

The public demo is scheduled for Wednesday, October 16th at 9:00 A.M.
Canvass begins on Tuesday, October 15th at 9:00 A.M. A copy of the public demo and canvass dates was sent to all members for their review prior to the meeting.

Computer Systems and Software Security Updates

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, 2024 were as follows: Total Active Registration is 43,658. 10,849 Democrat, 23,052 Republican, 62 No Labels MD, 272 Libertarian, 54 Green, 8,862 Unaffiliated, and 507 Others.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

None

Board Members Report:

None

Disclosure of Campaign Contributions:

Mr. DeVore disclosed that he bought a ticket to the Reagan Day dinner.

Next Meeting:

The next regular meeting will be held on Wednesday, December 4, 2024 at 9:00 A.M. The Christmas luncheon will be held following the meeting.

Adjournment:

Ms. Lyons made a motion for adjournment. Ms. Johnson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Mr. Stakem adjourned the meeting at 11:10 A.M.