

MINUTES

December 4, 2024

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

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

ABSENT: Armand Pannone, Board Attorney

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 November board minutes. Mrs. Pittman seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

ATTORNEY'S REPORT

None

CORRESPONDENCE

Prior to the election, Carla Zinn, provided a letter for all board members including a copy of the Maryland Data Research Report for their review. Members reviewed the letter and stated that the office is following the procedures set forth by the State Board of Elections regarding the removal of voters. Mrs. Loibel indicated that in some circumstances, if a voter dies out of state, it is possible that the name of the voter will not appear on the DHMH list and the name may not appear in the local newspaper's obituary section. No further action was taken.

ADDITIONS

Mrs. Loibel stated that Phase 2 of the Clear Ballot Audit was available for review and we can discuss this later in the Administrator's Report.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

General Election Review

Overall turnout for the general election was 74.5%.

Canvass Stage	2024 Voters	2022 Voters
Early Voting	7,207	2,315
Election Day	18,205	15,320
Mail In Ballots	5,617	3,889
Provisional Ballots	1,348	718
SDR Transactions	New - 443 Add. Changes - 79	New – 98 Add. Changes - 21

Post-election audits were completed on the three polling places randomly selected as part of our Comprehensive Audit. Post-election audits were also conducted on the remaining polling places prior to certification. As part of the Comprehensive Audit, all required ballot accounting forms from early voting and election day have been submitted to SBE as well as the ballot drop box integrity reports and acceptance logs. The ballot drop box that was selected for audit was from the Allegany County Office Complex. In addition, an independent audit was conducted by Clear Ballot and presented to the Board of Canvassers prior to certification.

SBE Active Procurements

Election Project Resources Task Order # D38B4600002:

The Task Order includes a wide variety of labor categories to offer support for IT, information security, warehouse, pollbook, and MDVOTERS. It is a Small Business Reserve (SBR) designated contract with a 30% Minority Business Enterprise (MBE) goal. This contract was approved by BPW on 10/30/2024 and commences on 1/1/2025.

Maryland Campaign Reporting Information System (MDCRIS) Task Order # D38B4600010:

Proposals were due on August 2nd, 2024 and SBE received 5 proposals. SBE has made an award decision and the decision is approved by State Administrator DeMarinis. SBE is targeting a late January BPW Agenda.

The Statewide Pollbook Modernization #D38B5600002:

The next major RFP slated for release in early 2025.

SBE's Security Operations Center (SOC):

Procurement for a one-year term for managed security services/managed defense services for its data center and endpoints had a deadline for bid on October 14, 2024. This service is to provide 24/7 threat monitoring, detection, alerting, and lightweight response services monitoring SBE IT assets. We are in the final stages of selecting a vendor but have extended the current contract with Silversky via a modification for 2 months. This will ensure no lapse in services and time to transition to the new SOC contract.

SBE Future Procurements

Statewide Pollbook Modernization (SPM) MITDP:

The requested funds have been appropriated for FY25. The Request for Proposals (RFP) is under development. The SPM project is planned for statewide deployment for the 2028 election cycle. SBE has secured licensing to utilize the existing EP5000 pollbooks through the 2026 gubernatorial elections.

New Voting System (NVS) MITDP:

This project is fully staffed. An RFI has been released and responses received. The requested funds have been appropriated for FY25. The draft RFP is currently under development and is planned for deployment in the 2028 election. The new system will BE certified to the latest EAC standard, VVSG 2.0. As reported earlier, the deployment was delayed for the development of the marketplace to the newest standard.

This information is available on the State Board of Elections website.

Polling Place Evaluations

Mrs. Maddux reviewed the polling place evaluations conducted by the board members on election day. Polling place evaluations must be turned in to SBE no later than January 3, 2025.

Post-Election Maintenance

Once the State has released the voting equipment, we will have 120 days to complete post-election maintenance of all the voting equipment.

Manual Ballot Tabulation Audit

The Manual Ballot Tabulation Audit must be completed within 120 days after the election. For the general election, this date is March 5, 2025. The manual ballot tabulation audit will consist of 100 ballots from the MIB1 Canvass, 25 ballots from the Provisional Ballot Canvass, one of the ballot bins from early voting selected by the chief judges and one precinct from election day. The State randomly selected District 013-000 for our election day precinct. The contest selected for the manual audit was the Senate. The board selected February 11, 2025 following the regularly scheduled board meeting to conduct the audit. An inclement weather date of February 18, 2025 was selected at this time.

Clear Ballot Audit

Mrs. Loibel provided all members with a copy of the final Clear Ballot Audit for their review. These reports show:

1. That Clear Ballot tabulated the same number of ballots (cards cast) as was tabulated by the voting system.
2. Any differences in the results between the two systems are less than 0.5%.
3. Clear Ballot's tabulation verified the accuracy of the voting system's results.

Computer Systems and Software Security Updates

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

Registration Statistics

Statistics as of November 30, 2024 were as follows: Total Active Registration is 44,565. 11,024 Democrat, 23,681 Republican, 71 No Labels MD, 284 Libertarian, 57 Green, 8,952 Unaffiliated, and 496 Others.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

None

Board Members Report:

Mr. Stakem wanted to thank all members and staff for all their work during the general election. Mr. DeVore expressed concern over the wording of Constitutional Amendments. He feels that the wording needs to be fixed because it was too confusing for voters. The question needs to have clear concise language.

Disclosure of Campaign Contributions:

None

Next Meeting:

The next regular meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 11, 2025 at 9:00 A.M. with the Manual Ballot Tabulation Audit to begin at 10.30 A.M.

Adjournment:

Mrs. Pittman made a motion for adjournment. Ms. Lyons seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Mr. Stakem adjourned the meeting at 10:57 A.M.