

MINUTES

April 1, 2025

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 9:04 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. Mr. DeVore made a motion to approve the March board minutes. Ms. Johnson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

ATTORNEY'S REPORT

Mr. Pannone reminded the board that beginning in June all open meetings need to be live streamed and the unedited live stream needs to be retained for 5 years.

CORRESPONDENCE

None

ADDITIONS

None

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Oath of Office

Mrs. Loibel requested that Mr. Stakem, Board President, administer the Oath of Office to our new employee, Lacey Robison, Registrar.

Office Directory

The office directory has been updated to include Lacey's contact information.

Candidate Filings

Candidate filings for the month of March include Rich Godlove and David R. Morgan who filed on 03/03/2025 and 03/20/2025 respectively for the office of Sheriff.

Post-Election Maintenance (PEM)

Post-Election Maintenance on the voting equipment should be completed within the next 10 days. The deadline for completion is April 18, 2025.

MAEO/SBE Biennial Meetings

An updated draft agenda was sent to all members. Hotel confirmations were sent out via email to all members a few weeks ago. Let the office know if you need a copy of your confirmation.

FY26 Budget

A draft copy of the budget was sent to all members for their review. The county is requesting that we hold the line and to include a memo with at least a 5% cut for each budget that we prepare.

FY25 Inventory Audit

The FY25 Inventory Audit is 94.38% complete. As mentioned last month, we are conducting the inventory audit along with completing post-election maintenance. The deadline for the inventory audit is the end of May.

Warehouse Regulations

The new warehouse regulations are now in effect. Quotes for door access, central fire monitoring, and cameras have been received. We are still waiting on the quotes for networking and various inspections. We are currently working with the Director of Public Works and the Director of IT to get this project completed.

Executive Order

On March 25, 2025, President Trump signed an Executive Order regarding elections. A copy of the Executive Order was sent to all members for their review. The State Board of Elections is currently reviewing the Executive Order. Any questions regarding this order should be directed to the State Board of Elections.

Financial Disclosures

Financial Disclosures should be completed by April 30, 2025. Please provide the office with a copy of your receipt once completed.

Legislative Update

Mrs. Maddux provided an update on some of the election related bills that will have an impact for the 2026 elections.

- **HB412/SB337** – Open Meeting Requirements - each local board shall make publicly available on its website each open meeting agenda,

together with a summary of any finalized documents, written testimony from the public, and other materials that the local board will vote on at the open meeting at least 48 hours in advance of each meeting. Each local board shall provide live video streaming of each open meeting held by the local board and each local board shall maintain a complete and unedited archived video recording of each open meeting for which live video streaming was provided for a minimum of 5 years after the date of the meeting.

- **HB426/SB313** – Risk Limiting Audits - following each statewide election, the state board, in collaboration with the local boards shall audit the accuracy of the voting system's tabulation of votes in each county by conducting a risk-limiting audit of at least one statewide contest; and at least one local contest in each county; and any other contests selected for audit by the State. A risk-limiting audit shall manually examine randomly chosen individual voter-verifiable paper records or batches of voter-verifiable paper records until the risk limit is met or the correct election outcome is established; be completed before the Board of State Canvassers transmits a certified statement of the election results to the State Board and be observable by the public to the maximum extent practicable.
- **HB586/SB534** – Election Judge Compensation - A local board shall pay an election judge the compensation required only after the election judge actually serves an election day or early voting day.
- **HB839/SB543** – Provisional Ballots and Non-Partisan Board of Education Contests - If a provisional ballot was cast because the voter claimed a different political party affiliation from the political party affiliation on record for the voter and the voter made a selection in a nonpartisan board of education contest on the ballot, count only the votes cast by the voter in a nonpartisan board of education contest.
- **HB945/SB645** – Gubernatorial Primary Election Date - A primary election shall be held in the year in which the Governor is elected, on the FOURTH Tuesday in June.

Computer Systems and Software Security Updates

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

Registration Statistics

Statistics as of March 31, 2025 were as follows: Total Active Registration is 44,481. 10,810 Democrat, 23,683 Republican, 55 Green, 54 Working Class Party, 9,098 Unaffiliated, and 781 Others.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

None

Board Members Report:

Board members directed Mrs. Loibel to email their board packet and then place a printed copy in their blue board folder. In some cases, the mail is taking too long to reach them before the meeting.

Disclosure of Campaign Contributions:

None

Next Meeting:

The next regular meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 3, 2025 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 open meeting at 11:24 A.M.