

**MEETING OF THE
PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS
1100 MERCANTILE LANE, SUITE 115A
LARGO, MD 20774
MONDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2022**

PRESENT: Roberta B. Deegan, President, Republican Member
Beatrice P. Tignor, Vice President, Democratic Member
Harold Ruston, Republican Member
Thomas J. Slezak, Republican Member
Lucille Gaither, Alternate Republican Member
Clement A. Gaynor, Jr., Alternate Republican Member
Terri L. Williams, Alternate Democratic Member
Anita C. Jones, Board Secretary
Alisha L. Alexander, Elections Administrator
Daneen Banks, Deputy Elections Administrator
Michael Adams, Board Attorney

ABSENT: Jaime J. Vazquez-Saldana, Republican Member

This meeting was conducted using the "Go To Meeting" platform. Ms. Deegan called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. and a quorum was present. Mr. Gaynor was seated for Mr. Vazquez-Saldana.

MINUTES

The minutes for July 19, 2022, (Primary Election Day) and the regular Board meeting of September 12, 2022, were reviewed. A motion was made by Mr. Gaynor, seconded by Mr. Ruston, and duly passed approving these minutes.

Minutes for the Canvass, July 21, 22, 23, 25, 26, and 27, 2022, were reviewed. Ms. Deegan requested clarifications to paragraph three under "Overview of Canvass Process" (explanation for the manual duplication of web ballots, and edit out duplicate words "the ballot"). A motion was made by Ms. Tignor, seconded by Mr. Slezak, and duly passed approving these minutes with the requested changes.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Correspondence – None.

Gubernatorial General Election

- A Calendar of Key Dates was included in the meeting package. The swearing-in of the Board of Election Canvassers is scheduled for September 30, 2022. The Logic and Accuracy testing and public demonstration is tentatively scheduled for Friday, October 14, 2022, at 10:00 a.m. at the Board of Elections (BOE) office. All Board Members are welcome to attend; however, a bi-partisan team is necessary as a minimum. Ms. Alexander will notify the Board of any changes. Ms. Tignor advised that she would be in attendance.

- Early Voting. Early voting is scheduled for Thursday, October 27, 2022, through Thursday, November 3, 2022.
- Election Day is Tuesday, November 8, 2022.
- Mail-In Ballots. Staff continues to process mail-in ballot applications. To date, 66,144 mail-in ballot requests have been received, which includes 7,165 web mail ballots. The State Board of Elections (SBOE) mailed over 59,000 ballots today. If a voter requested a mail-in ballot but goes to the precinct to vote, they will be required to vote a Provisional Ballot. The Board asked how many voters requested to be added to a permanent list; Ms. Alexander will get that information.

Voters must request a mail-in ballot, they will not be sent automatically. There is still time to apply.

- Drop Boxes. Drop boxes were delivered to 38 locations in the County last week. Each location has video surveillance and security guard coverage.
- General Election Canvass. Local boards of elections received tentative approval to begin canvassing the week on October 17, 2022. Ms. Alexander is in the process of finding space and will advise when a location has been secured.

Ms. Alexander will schedule canvassing days based on the number of mail-in ballots received. A quorum of the Board of Canvassers is required to canvass and a schedule for coverage will be developed. Ms. Deegan is unavailable on October 18, 2022, Ms. Williams has certification training October 17-20, 2022, Mr. Slezak will be out of town October 20-22, 2022. Ms. Tignor and Mr. Ruston are available. During the Primary Election, we processed over 47,000 mail-in ballots. We expect to receive over 70,000 mail-in ballots for the General Election.

- Sample Ballots were mailed this week. Ms. Alexander sent an email to the University of Maryland requesting that they return any sample ballots and other election material that is undeliverable.
- Election Judges. To date, 3,574 election judges have been recruited – 3,013 Democrats, 287 Republican, and 274 Other. Recruitment and outreach continues. BOE is using radio advertising, and contacting organizations, churches, and municipalities. Typically, staff recruits 25% more than is minimally required. Due to the high drop-off experienced during the Primary Election, they are hoping to recruit 50% extras.
- Voting Units. Staff is programming the voting units for Early Voting and Election Day. The goal is to complete the programming by October 13, 2022. The increased ballot size has increased the programming time.

- General Election Ballots. There are 327 ballot styles for the General Election. The ballot consists of four double-sided pages. The warehouse is full of pallets and staff is struggling to find sufficient space to manage the volume.

Meeting – Ms. Alexander had a virtual meeting with the County Executive and senior staff on September 14, 2022.

- The County Executive expressed her appreciation for all the extra work required of staff and commended them on a job well done.
- The County Executive shared complaints she from voters about the electioneering they experienced at the polling places. There are Deputy Sheriffs at each location, and they do respond if criminal activity occurs. However, they maintained a “stand down” presence since there were three candidates from the Sheriff’s Department on the ballot, and they did not want to appear to show partiality.

It was suggested that we open a side door to allow voters another alternative. Ms. Alexander reported that the State’s Attorney General provided an email opinion in 2018 that any entrance/exit available to voters is also available to candidates/electioneers. They still must abide by the electioneering line.

- Ms. Alexander did agree to install signs advising electioneers not to impede the sidewalks, funding permitting.
- Increase Stipends for Election Judges. This request was not approved. They discussed the Election Judge drop-out rate experienced during the Primary Election.

Voter Registrations – The Maryland Voter Registration System is updated based on information received from the registrants, ERIC (Electronic Registration Information Center), MVA (Motor Vehicle Administration, NCOA (National Change of address), and other reports. Today was the first day in the office since the end of September and an updated report will be printed and forwarded to the Board.

House Ways and Means Committee (HW&M) – The SBOE Administrator, Deputy Administrator, and representatives from three local boards (one large county, one medium count, and one small county) met with the HW&M to discuss the number of polling places available in each county. State law directed that the number of polling places in 2022 should be equal to the number available in 2018. In some instances, the number of polling places were consolidated and reduced by 35%. Jurisdictions are struggling to recruit sufficient Election Judges to cover the locations and the consolidation and reduction of precincts helps with this issue. The Acting Elections Director for Montgomery County shared the concerns and issues facing the counties. There needs to be change – new methodology and increased resources. We cannot continue to conduct elections with the existing resources.

Fiscal Year 2024 Budget – Budget School is scheduled this month; however, Ms. Alexander will be requesting an extension to submit the budget. She is going to ask for everything we need, including enhancements and additional staff (Warehouse Manager and Outreach/Minority Language Specialist). The budget will include pictures to document storage space and warehouse concerns.

Department of Justice (DOJ) – DOJ requires local boards of elections to provide all documents in English and Spanish and provide Spanish speaking services at polling places with higher concentrations of Spanish-speaking voters. DOJ visited key precincts and requested statistics based on surname assessment, which was due September 15, 2022. Ms. Alexander is scheduled to meet with the DOJ representative to review the findings from the Primary Election.

Security and Awareness Training – Ms. Alexander requested an extension for Board Members to complete the training until after the General Election and Canvass. Ms. Alexander will provide updates.

OLD BUSINESS – None.

PERSONNEL

- Ms. Alexander reported she was able to utilize an SBOE employment contract to get additional temporary help.
- The General Clerk position was posted.
- The IT Manager position advertisement is being prepared. It will not be filled prior to the election.

LEGAL – The SBOE filed a motion to allow local boards of elections to canvass mail-in ballots prior to Election Day. The Court of Special Appeals declined to rule. The Court of Appeals will hear oral arguments on Friday, October 7, 2022. Mr. Adams will update Ms. Alexander as soon as a decision is made.

NEW BUSINESS – None.

NEXT MEETING – Scheduling of the regular meeting for November was tabled until the Canvass. Ms. Alexander requested flexibility with the calendar to accommodate other meetings as needed.

A motion was made by Mr. Gaynor, seconded by Mr. Slezak, and duly passed to adjourn the meeting at 6:20 p.m.

Roberta B. Deegan, President

Anita C. Jones, Recording Secretary

Date