

**MEETING OF THE  
PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS  
1100 MERCANTILE LANE, SUITE 115A  
LARGO, MD 20774  
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2022**

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

**ABSENT:** Robert G. McGinley, Board Counsel

This meeting was conducted using the "Go To Meeting" platform. Ms. Deegan called the meeting to order at 5:31 p.m. and a quorum was present. Ms. Deegan requested that guests identify themselves and then mute their location to reduce background interference/noise. Ms. Janet Llewelyn identified herself.

## **MINUTES**

A motion was made by Mr. Gaynor, seconded by Mr. Slezak, and duly passed approving the minutes for the December 6, 2021, meeting.

## **ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT**

Correspondence – Ms. Deegan noted that she received correspondence from Lee Havis, Better Prince George's County group; Ms. Alexander was copied on the mailing. She will coordinate with Ms. Alexander to review.

Special Election – Council District 8 – Ms. Alexander noted that the Primary and General elections went very well. Throughout this process, Board of Elections (BOE) staff dealt with holidays, employee quarantines due to COVID, a snowstorm, and more.

- The Primary Election ballot included six (6) Democratic candidates and twelve percent (12%) of the eligible voters cast their ballots. During the Primary Election, 244 individuals voted in-person (Early Voting and Election Day).
- The General Election ballot included one (1) Democratic candidate and there was one (1) approved write-in candidate. Ten percent (10%) of the eligible voters cast their ballots. During the General Election, 173 individuals voted in-person (Early Voting and Election Day).
- In-person voting was low. Not sure if this is the trend; staff will continue to evaluate statistics going forward.

- The President and Vice President/Secretary certified the Election on February 12, 2022. The Special Election for Council District 8 is complete, and the Canvass minutes will be presented at the March meeting.

### Gubernatorial Election

- BOE staff are returning their focus to the Gubernatorial Election and redistricting.
- The 2020 Census redistricting plans for Legislative Districts and County Council Districts have been challenged in court. The County Council redistricting is scheduled to be heard in court on March 4, 2022. These delays really restrict our ability to implement the changes and prepare maps.
- Staff will use utility maps to create a template. In addition, we need to identify precincts, secure polling locations, conduct site evaluations, and notify voters. Changes to MD Voters is a manual operation. Ms. Alexander will solicit assistance from the County's IT staff.
- The candidate filing date for the Primary Election has been extended to March 22, 2022. The delay creates an increased workload on staff, and we will revise our election plans as needed to meet these challenges.
- The State Board of Elections (SBOE) sent ballot applications to all registered voters in Maryland. The voter can complete this application and opt to be placed on the permanent list to receive a mail-in ballot for each election as long as they maintain the same address, there is no address change, or notification from the United States Postal Service (USPS). Individuals may opt off the permanent list if they choose. To date, 5,510 applications have been processed and trays of applications are delivered daily. We are anticipating between 70 and 100K applications. This initiative is increasing staff workload and BOE faces challenges finding temporary staff to process these applications.
- Paper Supply. Ms. Alexander noted that printers are experiencing paper supply shortages. This will affect the printing of all election related materials, ballots, envelopes, voter notification cards, etc. She has contacted the printers currently being utilized to verify paper stock/supply needs. Mr. Slezak asked about using alternative printers. Ms. Alexander reported that a printer needs to be on the list approved by the County's or State's Procurement Office.
- Drop Boxes. The Prince George's County Board of Education legal department has notified the BOE that drop boxes will be prohibited at any schools. Staff is coordinating with the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning (MNCPPC) to identify locations (as close as possible to the schools previously used) for drop boxes. The changes will be forward to the SBOE for approval at their March meeting. All locations will be included on the website.
- Training. The MNCPPC has reopened their facilities. Therefore, they will not be available for Election Judge training. We will begin training March 21, 2022, using BOE facilities. We will hold classes Monday-Thursday, and Saturday (six sessions per day), and Friday (three sessions).

- Election Judges. BOE has recruited 4,336 Election Judges (Democratic - 3,600; Republican – 347; and Unaffiliated/Other – 389). We will send letters to newly registered voters (Republican, Unaffiliated, Other) to recruit more judges. Also, we will advertise for election judge positions.
- Election Act. As legislated in the Minority Provisions of the Election Act, BOE is required to provide voting materials (ballots, forms, etc.) in Spanish, provide outreach, and participate in events. This mandate affects Montgomery County also. Most election materials are being printed in English and Spanish now. Ms. Alexander previously requested funding for a Spanish Coordinator to assist with compliance and provide support. This request was originally denied; however, she going to resubmit the request. Ms. Deegan asked requested that Mr. Vazquez-Saldana be included in our recruitment and compliance efforts.

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. BOE staff will continue to update the Voter Registration Statistical Report as data is received. Ms. Alexander reported that one state (Louisiana) has withdrawn from ERIC. Hopefully, this will not impact the participation by other states.

2022 Maryland Legislative Session – A list of all election-related bills was included in the Board packet. Ms. Alexander noted the following.

- HB201/SB284 – Requiring each local board of elections to conduct a voter registration drive at least once each school year in each public high school in the county in a manner specified in an agreement between the local board and county board of education; and requiring each public official responsible for the use of a public high school to make available to the local board of elections, without charge, the space that is needed in the building for the proper conduct of a voter registration drive.
- BH291/SB101 – Altering certain definitions to allow a campaign finance entity to pay expenses associated with contesting an election; prohibiting a recount under certain circumstances; altering the circumstances under which a petitioner for a recount is not liable for the costs of the recount; providing that a person who accepts certain public campaign financing may accept a donation or make a disbursement related to a contested election only if the person establishes a contested election committee and makes certain disclosures; etc.
- HB327 – Establishing a minimum daily compensation of \$200 per day for election judges for each election day and each early voting day actually served.
- HB538 – Altering the days on which early voting centers are open before regularly scheduled primary and general elections to the second Thursday before a primary or general election through the Sunday, rather than the Thursday, before the election.
- HB629 – Authorizing individuals who are authorized to access a voting room to use electronic devices at polling places and early voting centers, subject to certain exceptions; authorizing voters to use an electronic device to photograph or record video of the voter or the voter's ballot at a voting booth; authorizing certain election officials, law enforcement officers, fire or rescue personnel, medical technicians, and other emergency services personnel to use an electronic device at a polling center in the performance of official duties; etc.
- SB352 – Altering the procedures for the canvassing of absentee and provisional ballots; requiring the State Board of Elections to adopt regulations requiring a local board to notify a voter of a problem with a ballot envelope and provide the voter an opportunity to correct the problem in order to have the ballot counted; and requiring the regulations to allow a voter to supply a certain signature and to choose among multiple methods of communicating with the local board to correct a problem on a ballot envelope.

- SB532 – Requiring an election judge to establish a voter's identity by requiring the voter to present certain proof of identity; requiring a voter to vote a provisional ballot if the voter is unable to provide proof of identity; and prohibiting a person from knowingly and willfully voting or attempting to vote under a false form of identification.

Ms. Williams asked about the effective date for approved/signed legislation. Some are effective immediately; however, the dates for the noted pieces of legislation vary and can be found on the General Assembly's website.

The Maryland Association of Election Officials (MAEO) typically does not take positions on legislation that is deemed political; however, they will provide fiscal notes, information on technical and operational impacts.

Ms. Alexander noted that HB538 (changing dates for Early Voting) would create an impossible challenge to update the e-poll books to include Early Voting activity and deliver them to the polling centers for the Tuesday election.

Space Requirements – Ms. Alexander reported on the BOE space needs, particularly warehousing. The Office of Central Services (OCS) is working on this issue. We may not be able to keep office services and warehousing in the same facility (this model had been used in the past). Voting equipment would remain in the facility with office space; however, off-site warehouse space would be used to store election material, non-critical items, and old records. We are required to maintain old records for up to 48 months (up from 22 months). Additional warehouse space will not be available until after the June Primary Election. Relocating supplies and files prior to June would be very disruptive.

Ethics and Financial Disclosure – Ms. Alexander advised Board Members that they should receive an e-mail notice from the State Ethics Commission and that their statements are due by April 30, 2022. The County's Financial Disclosure Office requires notice also.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

- Mr. Slezak asked the Board to look at revising the language on the Voter Confirmation card. He believes the language should be changed to match language provided in COMAR. SBOE has the final decision. Mr. Gaynor and Ms. Deegan agreed the language should match COMAR. Ms. Williams asked what the rationale was for this request. Mr. Slezak noted that there should be clarification of when an active or inactive voter is dropped from the list. Ms. Williams asked if the Board Attorney had reviewed this request.

A motion was made by Mr. Slezak, seconded by Mr. Gaynor, and duly passed to forward the request to the SBOE for their review and determination. Ms. Tignor voted no; she supports COMAR. Ms. Alexander was requested to forward to SBOE.

**PERSONNEL** – The Election Operations Manager (Citizen Services Specialist) position has been advertised. We hope to have a certificate of eligible candidates by mid-March 2022.

**LEGAL** – None.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Fiscal Year 2023 Budget – Ms. Alexander reported that the budget was developed and submitted (\$6,278,500) according to the cap established by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB). Budget enhancements were also included to cover two additional Early Voting sites (not covered in the FY2022 budget); drop boxes (39-41 locations), including staffing teams for pickups and delivery, security cameras, etc.; new unfunded initiatives; and a Language Coordinator position (Department of Justice mandate). The OMB recommended the FY2023 budget at \$8,708,300.

Fiscal Year 2022 Budget – Ms. Alexander noted that we will be over-budget for FY2022. This is due to the special elections and additional Early Voting sites that were not known and unbudgeted.

Ms. Deegan thanked Ms. Alexander and her staff for the challenging work they do.

**NEXT MEETING** –The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, March 7, 2022, at 5:30 p.m.

A motion was made by Mr. Ruston, seconded by Ms. Tignor, and duly passed to adjourn the meeting at 6:35 p.m.

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Roberta B. Deegan, President

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Anita C. Jones, Recording Secretary

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Date