

**MEETING OF THE  
PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS  
1100 MERCANTILE LANE, SUITE 115A  
LARGO, MD 20774  
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 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 L. Williams, Alternate Democratic Member  
Anita C. Jones, Board Secretary  
Alisha L. Alexander, Elections Administrator  
Daneen Banks, Deputy Elections Administrator

**ABSENT:** Michael Adams, Board Attorney

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.

## **MINUTES**

Prior to the meeting, Ms. Deegan shared several corrections to the minutes via email. A motion was made by Mr. Gaynor, seconded by Mr. Vazquez-Saldana, and duly passed approving the minutes for July 11, 2022, with the requested corrections. Minutes for the Canvass and Recount will be forwarded under separate cover for review and approval.

## **ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT**

### Correspondence

- August 3, 2022, letter to Ms. Alexander from Ms. Sweat, Candidate for County Executive, requesting a recount.
- August 8, 2022, letter from Ms. Alexander, Elections Administrator, responding to Ms. Sweat.
- Several remarks from Canvass poll watchers and a Chief Judge regarding processes. The remarks were forwarded to the State Board of Elections (SBOE) and the SBOE responded on the agency's behalf.

### Primary General Election

- Ms. Alexander gave an overview of the Primary Election and the recount.

## Gubernatorial General Election

- Early Voting. Early voting is scheduled for Thursday, October 27, 2022, through Thursday, November 3, 2022.
- Election Day is Tuesday, November 8, 2022.
- A calendar of key dates was included in the meeting package. The swearing-in of the Board of Election Canvassers is tentatively scheduled for September 30, 2022. Ms. Alexander will verify the date with the Clerk of the Circuit Court and notify the Board.
- General Election Canvass. The Canvass is scheduled to start on Thursday, November 10, 2022. Friday, November 11, 2022, is a holiday (Veterans Day) and the Board of Elections (BOE) will try to avoid canvassing on that day.

The SBOE filed a motion to allow local boards of elections to canvass mail-in ballots prior to Election Day. This motion will be reviewed by a judge for approval. To date, no opposition has been filed. Updates will follow.

- Training for Chief Judges started on September 6, 2022. We are conducting eight-hour sessions with a focus on opening/closing procedures, as well as opening polls on-time, even with minimal Election Judge coverage. We continue to experience Election Judge drop-out. BOE staff recruited almost 4,000 Election Judges for the Primary Election and approximately 2,000 dropped prior to Election Day. This is a concern at the local, state, and national levels. Staff will continue their recruitment efforts.

Ms. Deegan spoke with a Chief Judge who gave the BOE trainer high compliments regarding the training. Please relay our “thank you” to the trainer.

During the last Legislative Session, we sent documents to members of the General Assembly outlining our concerns regarding Election Judge recruitment/retention and securing polling places. Any change regarding polling places will require legislative action. Ms. Deegan recommended that we provide the General Assembly with actual statistics from the Primary Election to support our concerns.

- Sample Ballots should be delivered the first week of October.
- Redistricting Outreach. BOE staff will continue to inform voters, particularly those that did not participate in the Primary Election, of the potential changes to their precinct.
- Mail-In Ballots. To date, staff has processed approximately 1,500 mail-in ballot applications for Independent or Other registered voters. In addition, 66,023 mail-in ballot requests have been received, which includes 6,789 web mail ballots.
- General Election Ballots. The BOE ordered approximately 1.8 million ballots for the General Election. The ballot is four double-sided pages. We do not have a mailing date for these ballots. Staff is struggling to find sufficient space to manage and store these ballots. The ballots include fifteen questions -- five for the state and ten for Prince George’s County. Ms. Alexander will continue to advocate for a “ballot on demand” system to reduce the need to store physical ballots by ballot style.

- The SBOE has directed that all 2020 ballots be retained. Staff will have to store ballots off-site because of space limitations.
- Drop Boxes. Drop boxes will be delivered to 38 locations in the County during the last week of September.
- Precinct Locations. The voters previously assigned to vote at the Towers of Westchester were reassigned to Greenbelt MS. Ms. Banks tried to contact the management office with no success. It was recommended that our facility contracts be modified in the future requiring that BOE be given sufficient notice of changes. The Board of Education has many new staff members who are not familiar with the schools being one of our primary sources of precinct locations.

MAEO (Maryland Association of Election Officials) – Ms. Alexander reported that MAEO officials are in support of a vote-center model for Election Day. The increased difficulty in securing sufficient polling places and recruiting/retaining Election Judges is making this model a better option. Mr. Ruston added his support for the vote-center model. In addition, he believes the elected officials who adopt legislation affecting election processes should hear from the election officials that conduct the elections.

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 expect to complete the ERIC report today and the data will be included in the September Voter Registration Statistical Report.

Note: Staff cannot send confirmation mailers since the August 10, 2022, deadline had passed.

Meeting – Ms. Alexander has a virtual meeting scheduled with the County Executive on September 14, 2022, to discuss additional funds for Election Judges. We would like to increase the daily stipend by \$75.00. Daily stipends for Chief Judges would go from \$300.00 to \$375.00 and stipends for Election Judges would go from \$200.00 to \$275.00. They are required to work a very long day. Ms. Deegan advised that she believed this is a very good idea and the Board would support it.

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. BOE included a Minority Language Coordinator in the budget request for Fiscal Year 2023; however, it was not approved. We will make the request again for Fiscal Year 2024. DOJ visited key precincts and requested statistics based on surname assessment, which is due September 15, 2022. Staff is preparing a cost analysis of a staff position versus a contracted vendor to provide these services. The Office of Community Relations has a coordinator, however, they are unable to dedicate their time specifically for elections.

**OLD BUSINESS**

- Mr. Vazquez-Saldana will continue his efforts with local universities and colleges to get the undeliverable sample ballots and other election materials returned to the office so that voter rolls can be updated.
  
- Mr. Slezak asked if Ms. Alexander had responded to Mr. Gorman. Ms. Alexander advised that she would like to have her meeting with the County Executive regarding additional funds. Once she has all the information, she will write a response. In addition, Mr. Gorman asked if he could work during the Canvass.

**PERSONNEL** – Ms. Alexander reported that the BOE is at the crises level and struggling to complete tasks with the current staff. It has been very difficult to recruit temporary staff. We have a very committed staff providing extremely long hours. Ms. Alexander will be meeting with the County Executive and will discuss the staffing issues and the need to restructure BOE resources. Ms. Deegan offered to virtually participate in the meeting for support.

- Data Coordinator position. The incumbent resigned.
- IT Manager is retiring effective September 30, 2022.
- Several individuals are on extended sick leave.

**LEGAL** – None.

**NEW BUSINESS** – Ms. Williams asked about the documents that were signed after the recount. Ms. Alexander explained that the signatures were attesting to the data received as a result of the recount process.

**NEXT MEETING** –The next regular meeting is scheduled for Monday, October 3, 2022, at 5:30 p.m. Ms. Alexander requested that the board remain flexible in case there is a need to schedule “emergency” meetings.

Note: Due to the Recount effort, there was no meeting held in August 2022.

A motion was made by Mr. Slezak, seconded by Mr. Gaynor, and duly passed to adjourn the meeting at 6:30 p.m.

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Roberta B. Deegan, President

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Anita C. Jones, Recording Secretary

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Date