

Prince George's County Board of Elections

Ballot Shortages - Lessons Learned

PGCBOE staff will conduct a series of "Lessons Learned" meetings beginning in January 2019. However, it has been preliminarily determined that the following practices will be instituted in future elections:

- Ballots will be allocated based on the number of registered voters assigned to each polling place. (This will include accounting for newly registered voters that will register and vote on Election Day beginning in 2020.)
- The ballot allocation spreadsheet utilized in future elections will be forwarded to the Maryland State Board of Elections for review.
- Election Day Operators and delivery technicians will be retrained to ensure that they understand the importance of expediting ballot deliveries. Training will emphasize that all requests for ballots are a priority.
- Election Day operators will be required to periodically document and monitor the number of ballots each precinct has on hand.
- Chief Judges will receive additional training on how to identify potential ballot shortages (especially when dealing with multiple ballot pages). This will include the possibility of shrink-wrapping and placing a red label on the ballots that reads "CALL IMMEDIATELY, IT'S TIME TO ORDER ADDITIONAL BALLOTS!"
- Centralize the ballot dissemination process. There will be a minimum of two point persons who will receive all ballot requests. Those individuals will coordinate pulling ballots, recording the time that the ballots are disseminated and ensure that the process to get ballots out of the door doesn't exceed 15 minutes. They will also be responsible for following up with the Chief Judges to verify that the ballots were delivered and will also record the approximate time they were delivered.
- Establish communication methods between the Election Day Operators and delivery technicians that will streamline processes to expedite deliveries. Global Positioning Systems (GPS) will be utilized to determine an estimated time of arrival to the precinct.
- Work with Prince George's County Sheriffs and other public safety offices to determine if they can provide transportation solutions in the event of emergencies and/or gridlocked traffic.