

**MEETING OF THE
PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS
1100 MERCANTILE LANE, SUITE 115A
LARGO, MD 20774
MONDAY, APRIL 4, 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
Robert G. McGinley, Board Counsel
Anita C. Jones, Board Secretary
Alisha L. Alexander, Elections Administrator
Daneen Banks, Deputy Elections Administrator

ABSENT: None

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. Ms. Deegan requested that guests identify themselves and then mute their location to reduce background interference/noise. Ms. Janet Llewelyn, member of the Prince George's County Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. identified herself.

MINUTES

Mr. Ruston requested amendments to the minutes for March 7, 2022 (Page 4, Paragraph 2) should read: Mr. Ruston noted that flaws can be found in any electronic device. The 2020 election cycle conspiracy theories need to be put to rest. We can always go back to the paper ballot which is the original record."

The statement "The modem issue was handled when the equipment was received" should be credited to Ms. Alexander.

A motion was made by Mr. Gaynor, seconded by Mr. Ruston, and duly passed approving the minutes with the amendments noted.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Correspondence – E-mail from Mary Wagner, State Board of Elections (SBOE) with proposed language for confirmation mailing cards (hold for Old Business).

Gubernatorial Election

- Congressional Redistricting Maps. The Judge ruled last Friday that the maps were unconstitutional. The Maryland General Assembly was directed to submit new maps within five (5) days. It is expected that there will be significant differences; therefore, Board of Election (BOE) staff will have to start the process from the beginning.

- Legislative Redistricting Maps. These maps are still in litigation and several petitions have been filed; seven of the eleven districts that were challenged affect Prince George's County.
- Staff cannot complete the District/Precinct list until all maps (Board of Education, County Council, Legislative, and Congressional) are approved. The changes must be entered into the voter registration database.
- The Primary Election has been moved to July 19, 2022. Early Voting will be held July 7-14, 2022. The candidate filing deadline is April 15, 2022. These dates are subject to change based on pending legislation. The Primary Election could be postponed as late as August 16, 2022, which would benefit the larger counties. Ms. Alexander will send a revised calendar of key dates.
- Ballots cannot be generated until the redistricting process in every jurisdiction is completed.
- Legislation has been introduced to allow the canvassing of mail-in ballots up to eight days before Early Voting. It is anticipated that significantly more mail-in ballots will be canvassed in 2022 when compared to the 2018 Primary Election.
- Staff is developing their schedule based on a July 19, 2022, Election Day. Plans will be revised if an official notice of a date change is received.
- Ms. Deegan asked if the court decides to change the election date again will it impact the legislation that allows the Board to begin the canvass early. Ms. Alexander stated that if the legislation passes and the election date changes, the Board would still be allowed to begin canvassing ballots prior to early voting.
- The General Assembly is scheduled to adjourn next week on April 11, 2022.
- Staff is actively surveying potential polling places, Early Voting sites, and recruiting Election Judges.
- Stephan Decatur MS/Clinton Library does not appear to be an Early Voting site option. The Lanham VFW and the Accokeek VFD are not available for July dates. Staff is checking on August availability in case the dates are changed.
- Staff received notice from several churches and private sites that they will not be participating as polling places. They are looking at consolidating precinct sites. In addition, staff is utilizing GIS mapping to identify suitable facilities. Staff also is evaluating portable structures.
- Staff will post all information on the website before submitting our precinct information to the Board for final approval. Hopefully, this will mitigate confusion for the voters. We have asked for additional funding to conduct a voter education campaign.
- We have processed 42,029 mail-in ballot applications, which includes 2,980 web-based application requests. Twenty thousand six hundred (26,600) voters have requested to be placed on a permanent mail-in ballot list.
- Ms. Deegan asked about the turn-out for a Primary Gubernatorial Election. Ms. Alexander advised that historically it was 25-35%. There was a significant reduction in voter turn-out when the Primary Election date change September to June. In the past, we received 5,000-6,000 Absentee Ballots. Based on the results from the County Council District 8 Special Election, it is anticipated that mail-in ballot voters will increase.

Election Judges – Training started on March 21, 2022, and 771 Election Judges have been trained. If Election Day is moved to August, we may need to do refresher training. BOE has recruited 4,520 Election Judges (Democratic - 3,734; Republican – 383; and Unaffiliated/Other – 403). Staff conducted a survey to determine availability when Election Day was changed to July 19, 2022, and 50% of the Election Judges responded. Eighty-five percent (85%) of the respondents are still available. If the date is changed again, we will resurvey.

Audits and Investigations (A&I) – Ms. Alexander and Ms. Banks met with A&I on March 28, 2022, to review the agency's funding and budget. Since Election Day has been moved to July 19, 2022, it is now in the FY2023 budget and funding was not included for this change. In addition, the County Council District 8 Special Election, and the delays in implementing the redistricting plans was not funded in the FY2022 budget. Staff will be coordinating with the Director and staff liaison from Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to address budget overages.

Legislation

HB35/SB158 – Codifying a requirement that a county pay its share of 50% of the State's costs to acquire and operate the uniform statewide voting systems for voting in polling places and for absentee voting; requiring that a county's share of the cost be based on the county's voting age population; requiring that in certain statewide elections in-person voting on election day be conducted at a certain number of precinct polling places; prohibiting a court from postponing the date of the 2022 primary election to any date after July 12, 2022; etc.

This legislation also includes language regarding the number of polling places.

Ethics and Financial Disclosure – Ms. Alexander reminded Board Members that they should complete their State Ethics Commission by April 30, 2022. Ms. Deegan asked if Board Members needed to file with the County. Ms. Alexander reported that she did not believe so; however, she will verify with the County's Office of Ethics.

OLD BUSINESS

- Voter Confirmation Cards. Ms. Alexander received an email response from SBOE regarding Mr. Slezak's request to revise the language on the Voter Confirmation card. The proposed language has not been approved by the Assistant Attorney General. A motion was made by Mr. Slezak, seconded by Mr. Gaynor, and duly passed requesting Ms. Alexander to share the Board's appreciation for the SBOE's review and development of the proposed language.
- Better Prince George's County. Ms. Deegan will coordinate with Ms. Alexander to respond to correspondence from Lee Havis, Better Prince George's County group.
- Modems. Ms. Alexander confirmed that SBOE contracted with ES&S to remove the modems from the voting units. In addition, BOE staff and SBOE regional representatives verified that the modems were removed as part of the equipment acceptance process. One unit failed and it was returned to ES&S and they removed the modem. As part of the 2022 election cycle preparation process, language has been included in the Logic and Accuracy testing to verify that the modems were removed.

Using a modem is not a straightforward process; it requires connections, software programming, etc. There are several additional audits and verifications. Voters checked-in, votes on the units, VAC counts, a percentage of the ballots are hand counted, adherence to variances approved by SBOE. We also can rescan the paper ballots.

- Additional Alternate Board Member. Mr. Slezak asked if there was any activity on our request to add an Alternate Board Member. Ms. Deegan reported that she had not received any contact.
- Voter Registrations Using Commercial/Post Office Box Addresses. Ms. Alexander included a report with the Board package. She thanked Mr. Vazquez-Saldana for providing supporting information. Staff is in the process of sending letters to voters requesting updated information. If new information is not provided, they will be moved to the inactive list. The addresses have been flagged so that new registrations are not added. Staff also requested an updated list of commercial locations to update the voter registration database.

PERSONNEL – Interviews for the Election Operations Manager (Citizen Services Specialist) were conducted, and an in-house candidate was selected. Paperwork is being processed to fill the resulting vacancy.

LEGAL – Mr. McGinley has been in conversation with Ms. Alexander regarding his personal issues, and will notify the Board of pending changes.

NEW BUSINESS – Ms. Alexander asked that the Board be flexible with their schedules and be available for emergency meetings, as necessary.

NEXT MEETING –The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, May 2, 2022, at 5:30 p.m.

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

Roberta B. Deegan, President

Anita C. Jones, Recording Secretary

Date