

MINUTES

February 2, 2022

MEETING OF THE ALLEGANY COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS
701 Kelly Road, Room 100, Cumberland, Maryland

ATTENDEES: John Stakem, President
Armand Pannone, Board Attorney
JoAnn Spiker, Member
Debbie Johnson, Member
Tim Donaldson, Member
Lisa Griffith, Member
Diane Loibel, Election Administrator
Samantha Logsdon, Deputy Director

ABSENT: None

DECLARATION OF QUORUM PRESENT

Mr. Stakem called the meeting to order at 9:14 A.M., and stated that there was a quorum present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Stakem called for alterations, corrections, and/or approval of the minutes. Mrs. Spiker made a motion to approve the January board minutes. Ms. Johnson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

ATTORNEY'S REPORT

None

CORRESPONDENCE

None

ADDITIONS

None

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

OLD BUSINESS:

New Pollbook Printers

Mrs. Loibel reported that they have completed the acceptance testing of all new pollbook printers. All printers successfully passed the testing. Printers have been assigned to the current polling places, repackaged in boxes from Uline and packed with 7 rolls of paper.

Confidentiality Requests

Mrs. Loibel reported that they have received two requests for continuation of confidentiality for certain information. The requests meet the requirements for confidentiality. Ms. Johnson made a motion to approve the two requests for confidentiality. Mr. Stakem seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Polling Place Changes

Mrs. Loibel stated for the record that Notice of Action was posted on the website more than 48 hours prior to this meeting.

District 001-000

We are looking at the possibility of consolidating the polling place for 001-000 (Orleans Volunteer Fire Department with 003-000 (Flintstone Volunteer Fire Department.) Consolidating means that we will have one polling place for these two precincts. The polling place would be at the Flintstone Volunteer Fire Department. They will share the same voting equipment and election results will be reported separately for each precinct. The consolidated precinct will serve approximately 1,342 voters. No action was taken. A final vote will take place in March with the redistricting process.

District 014-00

As you are aware from the last meeting, we are looking at moving 014-000 (Ramada Inn) to Trinity Lutheran Church on Centre Street. As stated earlier, we are in search of a remedy to fix the sidewalk on the route to the polling place entrance. The church is currently in talks with the owner of the vacant lot to transfer ownership thus allowing us to repair the sidewalk which is not compliant at this time. If this transfer of ownership does not take place, we will need to look at consolidating this polling place with District 005-004. No action was taken. A final vote take place in March with the redistricting process.

District 029-001, 029-002, and 029-003

We are looking at the possibility of combining 029-002 (Parkside Elementary School), 029-003 (Christ Lutheran Church) with 029-001 (LaVale Volunteer Fire Department) and also would like to move the polling place from the LaVale Volunteer Fire Department to Cash Valley Elementary School. We will be conducting the Polling Place Accessibility Survey on Thursday morning at 9:00 AM. This combined precinct will serve approximately 4,515 voters. No action was taken.

Mrs. Loibel told members to expect to hold a special meeting during the month of March to vote on possible consolidations and redistricting.

Printer for Redistricting

Mrs. Loibel reported that the search for a printer to print and mail voter notification cards for redistricting is ongoing. At the present time, one of the local printers called to say that they do not have the manpower to handle this print job and the other local printer never got back to us with a quote. We received one quote from Creative Print Group in Baltimore. 22,000 voter notification cards will be approximately \$3,885 for the printing and ink jetting and approximately \$6,600 for postage, if they can get the paper in. A purchase order was sent to Creative Print Group hoping that they could order the paper by mid-February.

Election Judge Manual Update

Work on the election judge manual continues with the workgroup. Hopefully, the manual will be released sometime in January for customizations.

Meet and Greet Sessions

There will be three Meet and Greet sessions on February 9th at 10:30 a.m., 2:00 p.m., and 5:30 p.m. for potential new election judges. Mrs. Loibel invited all members to drop by if interested. A brief power point presentation will take place followed by a brief hands-on voting system demonstration.

Candidate Filings

Jonathan Dayton, Bill Atkinson, and Dave Caporale filed for County Commissioner, Craig Alexander filed for Judge of the Orphans' Court, Bob Farrell and Charity Friend filed for Republican Central Committee, and Bob Farrell filed for Board of Education in the month of January.

NEW BUSINESS:

Financial Disclosures

Mrs. Loibel reminded members to file their Financial Disclosures before the April 30, 2022 filing deadline. If anyone is in need of assistance, please contact Mrs. Loibel at your earliest convenience.

2022 Mail-in Applications

Allegany County's mail-in applications for the 2022 Gubernatorial Elections were entered in to the USPS system on January 28, 2022. The first phase of the applications was addressed to registered Democrats and registered Republicans. Voters registered with other parties will receive a request form in the second phase of mailers if there is a primary election in the Board of Education race or City of Cumberland. There will be a final phase of mailers after the primary election for all other registered voters.

Election Judge Training Schedule

A copy of the election judge training schedule was sent out with the board packets. This is a tentative schedule at this time. Classes may be added or

removed depending on what happens with redistricting. As always, please try to attend at least one class for each type of election judge.

Additional BMDs

A copy of the allocation of additional BMDs was sent out with the board packets for member's review. According to the NFB settlement, we are required to ensure that at least 50% of all election day polling places in the State shall be required to have at least 2 BMDs available for election day. Included among these 50% of election day polling places will be:

- The assigned election day polling places of the plaintiffs;
- Any election day polling place where a documented technical issue required or requires a BMD to be taken out of service during voting in any of the previous three primary or general elections and;
- 25% of polling places, in a given jurisdiction, that are the farthest by driving distance from the location in that jurisdiction where replacement BMDs are stored on election day.
- All early voting centers are required to have at least 3 BMDs and may authorize up to 6 BMDs without obtaining permission of the Board.

We will be deploying a total of 54 BMDs on election day and 3 BMDs during early voting. Our current inventory shows that we have 41 ExpressVote tables. I have been able to secure an additional 13 tables for Election Day bringing our total to 54.

As of today, we have received an additional 11 BMDs from SBE and we are expecting to receive another 3 BMDs in the near future. Acceptance testing is complete on the 11 additional BMDs.

FY23 Budget

Mrs. Loibel reported that she is currently working on the FY23 Budget but the County has not provided us with our budget packet at this time. The new printers will be paid for out of the FY22 Budget. Additional monies include:

- An additional \$25.00 per election judge (HB327);
- Additional money for ballot-drop boxes for mileage and compensation;
- New electronic pollbooks;
- New computers and monitors for all state computers with MDVOTERS; and
- Online training for election judges for Chapters 1 -4.

FY22 Inventory Audit

The FY22 Inventory Audit can begin on February 1, 2022 and must be completed by June 30, 2022. Currently we are experiencing an issue with our mobile devices being able to connect to the eEquip app. Mr. Keith Ross at SBE has been notified of the situation and is currently looking into the issue. We hope to have this issue corrected and will begin the audit as soon as possible.

Bread and Roses Party

The Bread and Roses party has disbanded. Letters have been sent to all voters who were affiliated with this party giving them the option to pick a different party or remain on the rolls as Oth/Bread and Roses.

Legislative Review

- **HB0201** - Election Law – Voter Registration Drive – High Schools
Synopsis: 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.
- **HB0327** - Elections - Election Judges - Minimum Compensation
Synopsis: Establishing a minimum daily compensation of \$200 per day for election judges for each election day and each early voting day actually served.
- **HB0328** - Elections - Polling Place Location Restrictions – Repeal
Synopsis: Repealing restrictions on holding an election in a building used, owned, or occupied by an establishment that holds an alcoholic beverages license.
- **SB0163** - Election Law – Ballots – Processing and Reporting Procedures
Synopsis: Altering the procedures for the canvassing of and curing of errors on absentee and provisional ballots; and requiring that all election results be reported by precinct, including reports of the early, absentee, and provisional vote.
- **SB0352** - Election Law - Ballots - Processing and Reporting Procedures
Synopsis: 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.
- **SJ2** – Legislative Districting Plan of 2022
This bill was passed. Anyone who contends that the legislative districting plan is invalid has until February 10, 2022 at 4:30 pm to file a petition with the Clerk of the Court.

The State's response to said petitions and alternative plans must be electronically filed on or before Tuesday, February 15, 2022 at 4:30 pm.

The Special Magistrate will conduct a scheduling conference on Thursday, February 17, 2022 at 10:00 am. The hearing will be conducted virtually.

- **SJ3** – Maryland Citizens' Legislative Districting Plan of 2022
This is the Governor's Bill.

Printer for Specimen Ballot

I received a quote for our specimen ballots from Corporate Communications Group. The quote is for 13 ballot styles and a quantity of 45,000 pieces. The quote came in at \$9,577.97. This does not include the postage for the mailing. A letter was sent to us recommending ordering stock paper 60 days ahead of time because of the paper shortage. A purchase order has been sent to the printer in hopes of securing the paper for this project.

Computer Systems and Software Security Updates:

Mrs. Loibel reports that office staff has successfully applied the Microsoft Security updates for the month of January on SBE workstations. We have also updated other third-party software applications to their latest versions on all workstations.

Registration Statistics:

Statistics as of January 31, 2021 were as follows: Total Active Registration 43,861, 12,221 Democrat, 22,697 Republican, 78 Green, 223 Libertarian, 43 Working Class, 8,182 Unaffiliated, and 417 Others.

Board Members Report:

Mr. Stakem took a moment to welcome our new board member, Lisa Griffith to the board.

Disclosure of Campaign Contributions:

None

Next Meeting:

The next regular meeting will be held on March 2, 2022 at 9:00 A.M.

Adjournment:

Ms. Johnson made a motion for adjournment. Mrs. Spiker seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Mr. Stakem adjourned the meeting at 10:50 A.M.