

MINUTES

March 25, 2022

MEETING OF THE ALLEGANY COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS 701 Kelly Road, Room 230, 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 emergency meeting to order at 9:00 A.M., and stated that there was a quorum present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

None

ATTORNEY'S REPORT

None

CORRESPONDENCE

None

ADDITIONS

None

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

New Primary Election Date

The Court of Appeals of Maryland issued an Order, In the Matter of 2022 Legislative Districting of the State, moving the 2022 Primary Election from June 28 to July 19. The Order also amends certain deadlines for the Primary Election Calendar.

The following deadlines have been amended:

1. The deadline for filing certificates of candidacy, established pursuant to Election Law Article ("EL") § 5-303, is extended to Friday, April 15, 2022 at 9:00 p.m.;

2. The deadline for candidates to withdraw a certificate of candidacy, established pursuant to EL § 5-502(a), is extended to Monday, April 18, 2022;
3. The deadline to fill a vacancy in candidacy for a primary election, established pursuant to EL § 5-901, is extended to Wednesday, April 20, 2022;
4. The deadline to challenge a candidate's residency, established pursuant to EL § 5-305, is extended to Thursday, April 21, 2022.

HB35/SB158 - The enrolled bill states that in both the 2022 statewide primary and general election, in-person voting on election day shall be conducted at a total number of precinct polling places that is at least equal to the total number of precinct polling places that were open for in-person voting on election day in the 2018 statewide general election. The total number of precinct polling places required to be open for voting in the 2022 statewide primary election and the 2022 statewide general election may not be reduced: by a local board of elections or the State Board of Elections under § 2-303 of the Election Law Article; by a circuit court or any other court under §8-103(b) of the Election Law Article; or except as provided in subsection (d) of this section, by a person acting under authority of any other provision of law. This section does not limit the authority of the Governor to specify alternate voting locations under §8-103(a) of the Election Law Article during a declared state of emergency.

With the passage of this bill, the polling place plan that was passed during the March 2nd board meeting will need to be rescinded as we will no longer meet the requirements of the new law. The polling place plan approved earlier this month included 25 polling places compared to 36 polling places in 2018. Mrs. Loibel explained that part of the reason for consolidating was because of the severe election judge shortage following the COVID-19 pandemic and that several locations were no longer willing to serve as polling places. We are working on a recruitment plan, but finding democratic election judges is proving to be a real challenge as well as finding new polling locations that are ADA compliant.

Mrs. Spiker made a motion to rescind the motions from the March 2nd board meeting where they approved the consolidated polling place plan along with several polling place changes. The Board directed Mrs. Loibel to restore the number of polling places that were in place for the 2018 statewide general election. Ms. Johnson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Mrs. Spiker made a motion to approve the following polling place changes. Ms. Johnson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

| Dist/Prec | Old Polling Place Name | New Polling Place Name | Comments |
|-----------|---|---|--|
| 006-006 | Allegany County Multi-Purpose Building | Bowling Green Volunteer Fire Department | This is a temporary polling place change because the Multi-Purpose Building is not available for the new election date of July 19, 2022. |
| 10-000 | Westmar Middle School Lobby | Westmar Middle School Gym | Changing polling place location from the main lobby to the Gym at Westmar Middle School |
| 12-000 | Mountain Ridge High School – Bus Entrance | Mountain Ridge High School – Gym | Changing polling place from the bus entrance to the gym |
| 18-000 | Midland Fire Station | Midland Fire Hall | Change polling place from the Midland Fire Station to the Midland Fire Hall at the request of the Midland Fire Station. |

The board also discussed several other possible polling place changes due to the fact that the facilities are not available for the new election date or not willing to serve as a polling place in the 2022 Gubernatorial Elections. No action was taken at this time.

| Dist/Prec | Old Polling Place Name | Possible New Polling Place Locations | Comments |
|-----------|---------------------------------|---|---|
| 004-008 | Salvation Army Community Center | Memorial Heights Baptist Church Cumberland Gospel Hall Church of Christ Salvation Army Community Center Hot Stove Baseball Bingo Hall Washington Middle School | Memorial Heights – Called and left message. Cumberland Gospel Hall – Called and left message. Church of Christ – Called and left message. Salvation Army – Called to see if available because of date change – Answer is still no. Hot Stove Baseball Bingo Hall – Called and left message. Washington Middle School – Emailed message. |
| 014-000 | Ramada Inn | Trinity Lutheran Church | We have looked at many locations for this precinct. Previous surveys include: Windsor Castle Events Centre, JFK Apartments, Cumberland Arms, Old Senior Citizen’s Center Dining Hall, and City of Cumberland’s Council Chamber. None of the locations were compliant. We are in the process of seeking a corrective action for Trinity Lutheran Church. |
| 004-004 | Fort Hill High School | | We have been notified by the Supervisor of Operations that there is a conflict with the new election date and this school. They will do what they can to try to make it work. More information to come. |
| 006-005 | Allegany High School | | We have been notified by the Supervisor of Operations that there is a conflict with the new election date and this school. They will do what they can to try to make it work. More information |

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|---------|----------------|--|---|
| | | | to come. |
| 024-000 | Eckhart School | | We have been notified by the Supervisor of Operations that there is a conflict with the new election date and this school. They will do what they can to try to make it work. More information to come. |

Polling Place Listing for 2022 Gubernatorial Elections

An updated copy of the polling place listing was provided for the members' review.

Board Members Report:

None

Disclosure of Campaign Contributions:

None

Next Meeting:

The next regular meeting will now be held on April 12, 2022 at 9:00 A.M, which will replace the April 6, 2022 regular meeting.

Adjournment:

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