

**MEETING OF THE
PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS
1100 MERCANTILE LANE, SUITE 115A
LARGO, MD 20774
MONDAY, MAY 2, 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 identified herself.

MINUTES

Ms. Deegan noted a discrepancy on Page 2, second bullet from the bottom. The number of voters that have requested to be placed on a permanent mail-in ballot list should be twenty-six thousand (26,000). A motion was made by Mr. Gaynor, seconded by Mr. Vazquez-Saldana, and duly passed approving the minutes with the correction noted.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Correspondence

- Citizens for a Better Prince George's County. Ms. Deegan coordinated with Ms. Alexander and responded to Lee Havis.
- E-mail from Mary Wagner, State Board of Elections (SBOE) noting approval of new language for confirmation mailing cards.

Gubernatorial Election

- Congressional Redistricting Maps. The Maryland General Assembly submitted new maps and they were approved on April 5, 2022.
- Legislative Redistricting Maps. These maps were upheld by the Court of Special Appeals.

- Staff is working long hours to complete the District/Precinct list utilizing data from all maps (Board of Education, County Council, Legislative, and Congressional). This is a very tedious process compressed into a one-month period. Normally, Board of Elections (BOE) staff schedules this work over a six-month cycle. BOE expects to complete this work by the end of the week and then review all the changes for accuracy. A special meeting will be held to review all the changes with the Board. Finding locations to accommodate the new and split precincts resulting from these maps are presenting huge challenges. In some situations, streets may split between even and odd addresses and/or halfway down the street.
- BOE will conduct voter outreach to educate voters on all the changes resulting from the redistricting efforts.
- Ballot styles cannot be generated until all redistricting maps are implemented and referred to the SBOE. With all the precinct changes, we anticipate an increased number of Provisional Ballots.
- Early Voting Sites. The Lanham VFW was able to rearrange their schedule to accommodate the Primary Election. Accokeek Academy is recommended as the replacement for the Accokeek VFD for the Primary Election. The SBOE gave tentative approval for the Accokeek Academy location, pending Board approval. We will return to the Accokeek VFD for the General Election. A motion was made by Ms. Tignor, seconded by Mr. Ruston, and duly passed approving the Accokeek Academy as an Early Voting site during the Primary Election.
- We are continuing to process Republican and Democratic mail-in ballot applications (42,810). The SBOE will send mail-in ballot applications to Independent voters later this month. Independent voters can vote on Board of Education races.

Election Judges – Training started on March 21, 2022, and 1,221 Election Judges have been trained. We will continue our recruitment efforts, including radio and social media.

Department of Justice (DOJ) Section 203 Mandates – DOJ Section 203 outlines provisions to accommodate limited English proficient voters. Staff met with the representative to review our efforts. We have met many requirements, i.e., all print media complies. However, there is more work to be done. We need to hire a coordinator to ensure compliance. The representative did not provide a timeline for compliance, though we were able to review our progress. One of our biggest efforts is the website. During the 2020 election, we hired Spanish speakers at Early Voting sites located in the higher population areas. DOJ suggests Spanish speakers at precincts on Election Day. We will use all available resources to meet this effort. The Coordinator position has been requested in past budgets; however, it has not been approved. Mr. Vazquez-Saldana offered to assist staff.

E-Poll Book Printers – SBOE notified staff that the printers we received have been recalled by the manufacturer and will need to be returned. We will continue to use the older model printers for the election. Election Judges will be given training on the old units and SBOE is sending additional documentation that can be used as a reference by staff and Election Judges.

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 will continue to update the Voter Registration Statistical Report as data is received. The April 2022 report will be forwarded to the Board tomorrow.

Government Operations and Fiscal Policy (GOF) Committee – Ms. Alexander and Ms. Banks met with GOF on April 28, 2022, to review the agency's funding and budget. Since Election Day has been moved to July 19, 2022, it now falls 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.

Security and Awareness Training – Board members are required to take the County's Security and Awareness training. Ms. Alexander will send the e-mail that should be used to take the training.

Ethics and Financial Disclosure – Ms. Alexander reminded Board Members that the State Ethics Commission disclosure should have been completed by April 30, 2022. If you have questions or have not completed the forms, please let Ms. Alexander know.

OLD BUSINESS

- Additional Alternate Board Member. Mr. Slezak asked if there was any information on our request to add an Alternate Board Member. Ms. Deegan advised that a letter was sent; however, we did not receive a response. Ms. Tignor suggested that any effort should be as a whole Board. Ms. Deegan is not sure of the best approach; we need to get a sponsor for legislation. An in-person meeting to request a sponsor may help. We should gather data during the next canvass to support our request. A new Board will be appointed in 2023.
- Citizens for a Better Prince George's County. Mr. Slezak commented on a report of voters from pre-2012.
- Reports of double registrations. Mr. Vazquez-Saldana discussed several reports he forwarded to Mr. Alexander for review. Ms. Alexander requested that reports containing personally identifiable information not be sent by email. They should not be forwarded or opened.
- There was considerable discussion on the processes used to update the voter registration databases, inactivation/reactivation of voters, purging, etc. BOE staff, as well as all other Maryland jurisdictions, follow guidelines established by the SBOE.
- The BOE file retention schedule is twenty-two months. Older supporting documents, including signed VAC and Absentee Ballot envelopes, are no longer available.

PERSONNEL

- Staff is facing major challenges in getting temporary employees; we will increase our recruitment outreach.

- In the past, bi-partisan teams conducting drop-box pick-ups have used their own vehicles. With the increased costs in fuel, etc. BOE is looking at other options.
- Data Coordinator position. We expect to advertise this position in the next two weeks.

LEGAL – Mr. McGinley tendered his 30-day resignation. Ms. Alexander and the Board expressed their appreciation for all his support over the years and wished him well dealing with his health concerns. Mr. McGinley offered to assist with learning the canvass process.

A new attorney needs to be hired and time is of the essence. Ms. Deegan has made some contacts. If anyone has recommendations, please coordinate with Ms. Deegan. The Board requested an opportunity to review resumes and conduct interviews.

NEW BUSINESS

- Ms. Alexander will send a revised Primary Election calendar shortly. She asked that the Board be flexible with their schedules and be available for emergency meetings, as necessary.
- Ms. Alexander requested a special meeting for Thursday, May 12, 2022, at 5:30 p.m. to review the precinct changes and maps. Ms. Kreutter, BOE, will be presenting and sharing map images on the computer screen.

NEXT MEETING –The next regular meeting is scheduled for Monday, June 6, 2022, at 5:30 p.m.

A motion was made by Mr. Gaynor, seconded by Ms. Tignor, and duly passed to adjourn the meeting at 7:05 p.m.

Roberta B. Deegan, President

Anita C. Jones, Recording Secretary

Date