

MINUTES

October 5, 2022

MEETING OF THE ALLEGANY COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS 701 Kelly Road, Room 230, Cumberland, Maryland

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

ABSENT: Armand Pannone, Board Attorney

DECLARATION OF QUORUM PRESENT

Mr. Stakem called the meeting to order at 9:02 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 September board minutes. Ms. Johnson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

ATTORNEY'S REPORT

None

CORRESPONDENCE

None

ADDITIONS

None

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

OLD BUSINESS:

MAEO Meeting Update

The annual MAEO meeting was held on Thursday, September 22, 2022 at the Anne Arundel County Board of Elections as well as virtually for those who did not want to travel. Nikki Charlson presented an update on litigation and emergency regulations, followed by a roundtable discussion titled Legislation 101. Two presentations included Threats to Election Officials and Situational Awareness – The Foundation of Staying Safe. The meeting ended with a seminar entitled Self-Care for Election Officials.

Nursing Homes/Assisted Living Facilities

Most of the nursing homes and assisted living facilities will conduct mail-in voting over the next few weeks. Once ballot packets are prepared, Brandy will be delivering the packets to each activity director in person. The Kensington is the only facility requesting us to come in person to assist with voting. We are looking at October 13th or 14th as possible dates to go to the Kensington. Mr. Stakem would prefer to go on Thursday, October 13th.

MOVE ACT Deadline

SBE completed the initial data pull for the mailing house on Thursday, September 22nd and those ballots will be out to meet the MOVE ACT deadline.

Public Education Plan for Early Voting

The public education plan for the 2022 Gubernatorial General includes the following:

- Flyers distributed to HRDC for all Senior Centers
- Flyers distributed to all Allegany County Libraries
- Newspaper Advertising – Cumberland Times News – Saturday, October 22nd
- Radio Advertising
 - WCBC – 24 ads over 8 days
 - Big Froggy – 25 ads over 8 days
 - WRQE – 25 ads over 8 days
 - WTBO (AM) - 25 ads over 8 days
 - WFRB (AM) – 25 spots over 8 days
 - WQZK – 31 ads over 8 days
 - 99.5 The Wolf – 31 ads over 8 days

Logic and Accuracy Testing – Voting Equipment and Mail-in Ballot 1

Canvass

Logic and Accuracy testing began on Wednesday, September 21, 2022 for the Mail-in Ballot 1 Canvass. Logic and Accuracy testing on the voting equipment for early voting and election day began on Monday, October 3, 2022. We hope to complete L&A testing early next week.

Post-Election Maintenance

Post-Election Maintenance was completed on 5 ExpressVotes and 1 DS200. A physical count of all voting equipment sent out to each polling place has been completed.

NEW BUSINESS:

Swearing in of the Board of Canvassers

Dawne Lindsey, Clerk of the Court for Allegany County was present to swear-in board members as the Board of Canvassers for the General Election.

Election of Officers

Mrs. Spiker made a motion to retain Mr. Donaldson as Chairman of the Board of Canvassers. Mr. Stakem seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Mrs. Spiker made a motion to retain Ms. Johnson as Secretary of the Board of Canvassers. Mr. Stakem seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Maryland State Board of Elections Statement on Emergency Petition

SBE released a statement on September 23rd regarding the Court's decision which will allow local election officials to begin canvassing mail-in ballots on October 1, 2022. Pre-Election Day canvassing will be conducted in public on published dates. The results of pre-election canvasses will be withheld until the polls close on Election Day. Board members must be present during all canvass days.

Mail-in Ballots

As of October 2, 2022, we have processed 4,087 mail-in ballot requests for the General Election. Mail-in ballots for Allegany County were mailed out by the State's vendor, Taylor on September 29th. Ballot drop boxes were also delivered on September 29th. We have been notified about a situation where some Allegany County residents' may have received an outgoing envelope with the name of the Queen Anne's County Board of Elections in the upper left corner of the envelope. The contents of the envelope, including the return envelope and ballot are correct. This will have no impact on those ballots being received by our office.

Signal Testing

Signal Testing for the early voting center was completed on Tuesday, September 27, 2022 and the results sent to our Regional Manager. Signal testing is required before each election.

Cradlepoint Routers

The Cradlepoint Router has been updated with the newest release per SBE. No additional updates will be pushed out before the election.

Logic and Accuracy Testing – Pollbooks

Logic and Accuracy testing on the electronic pollbooks will be conducted during the week of October 24th. Time will depend on when we receive the files from SBE.

Specimen Ballots

Specimen ballots have been approved by SBE and are in the process of being printed by our vendor, Corporate Communications Group. We hope to have the specimen ballots in the mail stream by Monday, October 10th.

Public Demo

The public demo is scheduled for Monday, October 17th at 9:00 AM at the Allegany County Office Complex – 701 Kelly Road – Room 230 – Cumberland.

Canvass Dates

Canvass dates include the following:

- Friday, October 21st at 9:00 AM – Mail-in Ballot 1 Canvass
- Thursday, November 10th at 10:00 AM – Mail-in Ballot 1 Canvass
- Wednesday, November 16th at 10:00 AM – Provisional Ballot Canvass
- Friday, November 18th at 10:00 AM – Mail-in Ballot 2 Canvass

All canvassing will be held at the Allegany County Office Complex – 701 Kelly Road – Room 100 – Cumberland.

Verification of Voting Supplies

Each local board of elections must have written documentation explaining how the contents of early voting and election day supplies are verified. No later than 15 days before early voting, the members of the local board of elections shall randomly select the greater of 2 precincts or precincts equaling 10% of the jurisdiction's precincts. When all voting supplies are packed for early voting and election day, a bipartisan team of local board members shall inspect the contents of the supplies of the randomly selected precincts and all early voting centers. Mrs. Spiker and Mr. Stakem volunteered to check supplies for Early Voting and Mr. Stakem and Mr. Donaldson volunteered to check supplies for Election Day. Precincts randomly selected include: 007-001, 013-000, 016-001, and 024-000.

EFS Tech Training and Assignments

EFS Tech training was held on Tuesday, October 4th at the Allegany County Multi-Purpose Building – 11490 Moss Avenue SW – Cumberland. A make-up session is scheduled for October 6th at 5:30 PM at the same location. We have two new technicians for the General Election. A copy of their assignments has been provided in the board packet.

Board Member Assignments

Board member assignments was mailed to each member for their review. There have been no changes to the assignments since the primary election.

Polling Place Accessibility Checklists

Each board members have been given the polling place accessibility checklist based on the election day assignments. Please review and make sure that anything noted on the checklist has been done on election day to make the polling place compliant.

Early Voting Signup

A sign-up sheet has been provided for members to select which days they will be available for early voting.

Computer Systems and Software Security Updates:

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

Registration Statistics:

Statistics as of September 30, 2022 were as follows: Total Active Registration 43,999, 11,868 Democrat, 22,908 Republican, 78 Green, 230 Libertarian, 73 Working Class, 8,453 Unaffiliated, and 389 Others.

Board Members Report:

None

Disclosure of Campaign Contributions:

None

Next Meeting:

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

Adjournment:

Ms. Spiker made a motion for adjournment. Mr. Donaldson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Mr. Stakem adjourned the meeting at 10:07 A.M.