

APPROVED

November 16, 2009

MEETING OF THE MONTGOMERY COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS
18753-210 North Frederick Avenue, Gaithersburg, Maryland

In Attendance:

Board Members:

Jerrold Garson, President
John Sullivan, Vice President
Nancy Dacek, Secretary
Nahid Khozeimeh
Mary Kiraly
Lucia Nazarian

Staff:

Margaret Jurgensen, Director
Sara Harris, Deputy Election Director
Betty Ann Lucey, Registration Manager
Edward O'Neill, IT Specialist
Christine Rzeszut, Acting Operations Manager
Gilberto Zelaya, Outreach Coordinator
Marjorie Roher, Administrative Specialist
Renee Adams, Election Aide

Guests:

Alan Banov, Montgomery County Democratic Central Committee
Barbara Sanders, League of Woman Voters of Montgomery County
Bryan Hunt, Office of Management and Budget
Amanda Mihill, Montgomery County Council
Kate Rhudy, Montgomery County Democratic Central Committee

Mr. Garson called the meeting to order and declared a quorum present at 2:33 p.m.

Public Comments

Ms. Roher stated that no one requested to address the Board.

Additions/Changes to the Agenda

Ms. Jurgensen noted that an Executive Session would be needed at the conclusion of the regular agenda.

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Approval of October 19, 2009, Minutes

Minutes from the October 19, 2009, meeting were distributed for review. A motion was made by Mrs. Khozeimeh to approve the October 19, 2009, minutes as submitted. The motion was seconded by Ms. Kiraly and carried unanimously.

Election Director Status Reports

Budget

Ms. Jurgensen announced that there was nothing new to report. She stated that expenses remain steady. Ms. Jurgensen reported that overtime for Municipal Elections did occur but will be reimbursed by the cities.

Voter Registration

Ms. Jurgensen stated that voter registration remains steady. She added that approximately 300 changes were forwarded to the BOE related to the municipal elections. Ms. Jurgensen noted that the call log from Election Day is provided in the packet. She stated that the confirmation mailing is still processing. Ms. Jurgensen reported that they had processed 85% of out of state changes, 50% of expired forwarding orders, and received over 1000 responses from the confirmation mailing this month. She explained that MD Voters remains a work in progress. Ms. Jurgensen added that approximate 150 problems have been identified by users statewide, reporting to the SBE/Saber Help Desk. She stated that Montgomery County identified more than 35 problems.

State Board of Elections

Ms. Jurgensen informed the Board that the Federal changes to the (UOCAVA) Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act are:

- A. Certain absentee ballots are mailed at least 45 days before the election. Montgomery County has historically mailed the UOCAVA ballots out approximately 40 days before by photocopying optical scan ballots.
- B. SBE is requesting a waiver because it will be impossible to meet the General Election (30 days out is ballot certification) and Primary election is 50 days prior to election.
- C. SBE is contracting with UMD to develop an e-mail ballot to address developing a quicker delivery. Montgomery County did e-mail ballots in the 2008 election.
- D. Changes to Early Voting Regulations (letter enclosed in Board packet).

Facility Issues

Ms. Roher stated that signage has been placed on Game Preserve Road. She stated that there have been some issues with the fire alarm system. Ms. Roher noted that there are two or three ducts on the roof that are causing the alarm system to enter supervisor alert mode. She stated that the owner requested permission from the Fire Marshal to disconnect the alarm so that the supervisor alarm doesn't continue to go off.

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Ms. Jurgensen added that the network was off line for three days because of a storm. She stated that DTS rebuilt the network. She noted that DTS is working to get fiber into the building from Verizon. Ms. Jurgensen reported that she spoke to Mike Knuppel and John Castner to finalize a plan for fiber and wireless capability in the building as a redundant back up.

*** Alan Banov left meeting at 3:12 p.m.***

Board Attorney Report

Mr. Garson announced that Mr. Karpinski was unable to attend the meeting and noted that the Board Attorney Report would be deferred until the next Board meeting.

Old Business

Early Voting

Ms. Jurgensen stated that the Early Voting packet is ready and will be delivered to the State Board of Elections tomorrow morning. Ms. Kiraly and Mr. Garson thanked staff for all early voting preparation. Mrs. Dacek thanked the staff for early voting preparation and stated that she does not support the letter. The Board then discussed the letter to SBE requesting approval of recommended Early Voting Centers.

2010 Polling Places

Mrs. Rzeszut distributed and reviewed an updated list of polling place changes for 2010. She stated that Cedarbrook Church may not be able to accommodate our needs and suggested that Clarksburg High School may be an alternative polling site. The Board discussed Cedarbrook Church and Clarksburg High School. Mrs. Dacek suggested that Clarksburg Elementary be considered as an alternative site. A motion was made by Mrs. Dacek to approve all polling place changes except Clarksburg High School and Garrett Park Elementary School. The motion was seconded by Mr. Sullivan and carried unanimously.

New Business

Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act

Mr. Garson stated that discussion was previously held under the Election Director's Status Report.

Freedom of Information Act Request

Mr. Sullivan discussed and questioned the confidentiality of the document requested in a recent FOIA. Ms. Jurgensen indicated that she was awaiting the decision of legal counsel. The Board had further discussion on the document and Mr. Garson read an email from Mr. Karpinski which stated that he was awaiting a response from the Maryland Attorney General.

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Introduction of Operations Manager

Mrs. Harris introduced Christine Rzeszut as the new Manager of Election Operation. The Board welcomed Mrs. Rzeszut to her new position.

*** Mr. Hunt, Mrs. Lucey, Ms. Mihill, Mr. O'Neill, Ms. Rhudy, Mrs. Rzeszut, Ms. Sanders, and Mr. Zelaya left the meeting at 3:19 p.m.***

Report on the Executive Session

The Montgomery County Board of Elections convened in Executive Session at 3:20 p.m., pursuant to State Government Article, Sections 10-508(a) 10-508(a)(13), and 10-508(a)(14) to discuss SBE costs and minutes from the previous Executive Session.

The Montgomery County Board of Elections met in closed session on this date. The following members of the Board and staff were in attendance: Jerrold Garson, John Sullivan, Nancy Dacek, Nahid Khozeimeh, Mary Kiraly, Lucia Nazarian, Margaret A. Jurgensen, Sara Harris, Marjorie Roher, and Renee Adams.

SBE Costs

Ms. Kiraly distributed and reviewed an analysis of the SBE spreadsheet which was discussed by the Board.

Mrs. Dacek recused herself from the discussion and left meeting at 3:29p.m.

Executive Session Minutes

Ms. Roher distributed minutes from the October 19, 2009, Executive Session for review.

There were no other items discussed in Executive Session.

A motion was made by Mrs. Khozeimeh to adjourn the Executive Session and reconvene in regular session. The motion was seconded by Mr. Sullivan and carried unanimously, with the Board reconvening in regular session at 3:58 p.m.

SBE Costs

A motion was made by Mr. Sullivan for the Director to draft a letter to SBE requesting information on budget planning and cost projections. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Khozeimeh and, following agreed upon modifications, the motion carried unanimously.

Executive Session Minutes

A motion was made by Ms. Kiraly to approve the Executive Session Minutes from the October 19, 2009, meeting as submitted. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Khozeimeh and, following modifications to the letter, the motion carried unanimously.

Future Meetings

- A. January 25, 2010
- B. February 22, 2010
- C. March 22, 2010
- D. April 19, 2010
- E. May 17, 2010 – *tentative*
- F. June 14, 2010
- G. July 19, 2010
- H. August 16, 2010
- I. September 14, 2010 - Election Day
- J. September 16, 2010 - 10:00 a.m. - Absentee Canvass
- K. September 20, 2010
- L. September 22, 2010 - 10:00 a.m. - Provisional Canvass
- M. September 24, 2010 – 10:00 a.m. - Absentee II Canvass
- N. October 18, 2010
- O. November 2, 2010- Election Day
- P. November 4, 2010 – 10:00 a.m. - Absentee Canvass
- Q. November 10, 2010 – 10:00 a.m.- Provisional Canvass
- R. November 12, 2010 – 10:00 a.m. – Absentee II Canvass
- S. November 15, 2010
- T. December 13, 2010 - *tentative*

Adjournment

With no further business, a motion was made by Mr. Sullivan to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Khozemeh and carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Marjorie M. Roher

Marjorie M. Roher
Administrative Specialist

APPROVED BY THE BOARD:

Jerrold S. Garson

Jerrold S. Garson
Board President

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