

November 12, 2010

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
Deborah Hamer, Election Judge Recruiter
Leslie Hatch, Election Judge Coordinator
Betty Ann Lucey, Registration Manager
Michael McLaughlin, Election Aide
Bobbie Payne, Absentee Manager
Jerry Quarshie, Acting IT Specialist III
Marjorie Roher, Management and Budget Specialist III
Christine Rzeszut, Operations Manager
Shafiq Satterfield, IT Technician I
Ryan White, Polling Place Supply Coordinator
Gilberto Zelaya, Outreach Coordinator
Kevin Karpinski, Legal Counsel

Mr. Garson called the meeting to order and declared a quorum present at 9:03 a.m.

Mr. Garson thanked staffed for their work during the election.

Voter Registration

Staff discussed the removal of inactive voters. Mrs. Harris reported that inactive voters are to be removed after two federal elections. She stated that primary election sample ballots were forwarded based on a U.S. Postal Service required use of address change. Mr. Sullivan requested clarification of the current removal process which Mrs. Lucey then described. Mr. Sullivan further

inquired whether the voter is notified of their removal after it is completed. Mr. Karpinski stated that inactive voter removal is in accordance with procedure but in opposition with the Green Party decision. Discussion continued regarding handling inactive voters and the need for new state guidelines and financial reporting requirements. Mr. Sullivan concurred with the concerns expressed, but requested that staff develop a voter notification process to be used whenever a voter is removed. Ms. Jurgensen agreed to develop a letter for discussion in either January, February, or March. Mr. Garson asked for a draft of legislation to be forwarded to council. Ms. Jurgensen requested that Mr. Karpinski draft a letter with recommendation to the county regarding reporting requirements for referendums.

Sample Ballots

Mrs. Harris stated that the general election sample ballot mailing was completed and successful. Mr. Sullivan stated that he noticed blank pages in the sample ballots and wanted to know if they could be removed. Mrs. Harris responded that the blank pages saved time and processing costs during the folding phase. Mr. Garson suggested that the blank pages can be used by the voters for notes.

Operations

Polling Place

Mrs. Rzeszut stated that the election went well and procedures will be reviewed for 2012. Ms. Jurgensen stated that a meeting is scheduled with Office Movers to discuss one electronic poll book delivery route. Mrs. Kiraly stated that voting units were misplaced by the school system when delivery occurred during the primary. Mrs. Rzeszut responded that a lack of communication between MCPS shifts occurred and she has worked closely with vendor and polling place facility contacts on this issue. Ms. Jurgensen stated that the purpose of the Monday night meeting before the election is designed to prevent problems such as this on Election Day. Mrs. Dacek stated that election judges did a fabulous job with an occasional human error.

Polling Place Supplies

Ms. Jurgensen discussed the bag check. Mr. White stated that the compliance evaluation and League of Women Voters audit will be available in January. Mrs. Nazarian reported that Precinct 05-19 had no phone jack, and Mrs. Dacek stated that, if no landline was available, the chief judge should have been issued a cell phone.

Voting Equipment

Mr. Satterfield stated that post election maintenance, with equipment performance reviews and statistical reports on the voting units, will be available in February. Mr. Quarshie discussed syncing issues with EPBs in the primary election, noting they decreased for the general election. The Board discussed security procedures regarding EPBs.

Election Judges

Ms. Hatch stated that the election judge evaluations are in the process of completion from the primary election and she will provide a summary at a future Board meeting. She noted that the peer to peer evaluation will be available in February. Mrs. Dacek stated that there were precincts that did not have Republican judges. Ms. Jurgensen responded that all precincts had at least one Republican judge and noted that she would research the issue. Ms. Hatch stated that recruiters were calling people to be Election Judges a week before the election and held one-on-one training classes to fill the positions. Ms. Jurgensen stated that outreach was decimated due to fiscal issues.

Early Voting

Ms. Kiraly stated that site managers need additional support. Mr. Zelaya reported that early voting and the dashboard went well despite a few challenges. He thanked staff and noted that security was seamless. Mrs. Dacek added that she was pleased with how early voting worked.

Absentee

Ballots

Ms. Payne updated the Board on e-mail ballots. She reported that 2000 e-mail ballots were returned; voters were successfully served; and an increased number of e-mail ballots were requested. Mrs. Dacek recommended that staff develop a process for the duplication of e-mail ballots. Mr. Garson stated that BOE should recommend to SBE a change of processing dates to accommodate volume.

Call Center

Mr. McLaughlin reported that the call center was the busiest two weeks prior to the election.

Media

Ms. Roher stated that the media showed little interest in the Election. She expresses concern that the election judges did not appear aware of how to handle the media.

Adjournment

With no further business, a motion was made by Mrs. Khozeimeh to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Sullivan and carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 10:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Marjoris M. Robert

Marjorie M. Roher

Management & Budget Specialist III

APPROVED BY THE BOARD:

Jerrold S. Garson Board President