

**APPROVED**

**Meeting Minutes**  
**Monday, May 23, 2022**  
**MONTGOMERY COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS**  
**Virtual Board Meeting via Zoom**

**In Attendance Virtually:**

**Board Members:**

Nahid Khozeimeh, President  
Diane Nash Dillon, Vice President  
David A. Naimon, Secretary  
Dr. Elisse W. Barnes  
Alan Banov

**Board Attorney:**

Kevin Karpinski

**Staff:**

Alysoun McLaughlin, Acting Director  
Janet Ross, Acting Deputy Director  
Boris Brajkovic, Voter Services Manager  
Lisa Merino-Dean, Administrative Specialist  
Christine Rzeszut, Operations Manager  
Gilberto Zelaya, Community Empowerment/Public Information Officer

Audio video of the meeting may be found on YouTube at the link below:  
<https://youtu.be/HrF86bklzYQ>

**Convene Board Meeting and Declare Quorum Present**

Ms. Khozeimeh convened the meeting at 2:35pm.

**Board President Remarks [1:39]**

Ms. Khozeimeh thanked everyone for their hard work and effort. She also reminded members of the public that if they would like to speak to register at [www.777vote.org](http://www.777vote.org).

**Additions/Changes to the Agenda [2:09]**

Mr. Naimon stated that he will raise a question at the appropriate time about how the ballot lists a particular candidate. Mr. Karpinski suggested adding the new legislation for curing vote-by-mail ballots as an item under New Business.

**Disclosure of Campaign Contributions [2:55]**

No contributions were reported.

## **Public Comments [3:47]**

Lisa Merino-Dean reported that there were no advance requests from the public to address the Board at this meeting.

## **Election Director Status Report [3:55]**

Alysoun McLaughlin expressed appreciation to the Board for their hard work and frequent meetings to complete the redistricting and polling place reviews. Changes to voter records to reflect redistricting were completed on Friday, May 20. The information on the State Board of Elections' website has been updated to reflect the Board's actions to implement redistricting. Polling place changes approved by this body were approved by the State Board on Friday, May 20. The full list of polling places will be on the Montgomery County Board of Elections' website soon and shared with Data Montgomery and other places.

The full Acting Election Director's Report for May 2022 may be found [here](#).

**[7:38]** Mr. Naimon requested clarification regarding the hyphenation of candidate Grace Rivera-Oven's name on the ballot. Janet Ross reported that Ms. Rivera-Oven submitted an affidavit stating that her name should not be hyphenated on the ballot. Mr. Naimon disputed this with information he received from Ms. Rivera-Oven. The item was tabled until later in the meeting pending further information. Mr. Karpinski shared there is no legal reason why Ms. Rivera-Oven's name cannot be hyphenated on the ballot.

**[17:30]** Mr. Naimon asked what dates ballots will be mailed out. Ms. McLaughlin replied that the State Board will mail out the ballots – military and overseas ballots on June 4 and domestic ballots 30-40 days before the election (around June 9). Mr. Naimon asked if the drop boxes will be in place when the ballots are mailed. The response was that the drop boxes would arrive early in the week of June 6.

**[20:10]** Dr. Barnes asked how long it takes to install all the drop boxes. Ms. McLaughlin shared that the state and its vendor handle the installation and routes. In 2020, the first time Montgomery County had drop boxes, installation was spread out over several weeks. Dr. Barnes would like to receive any information about the schedule and routes if/when they are available.

**[29:42]** Mr. Naimon requested data about mail-in ballot requests by party affiliation.

**[31:51]** Dr. Barnes asked how often ballots are collected from drop boxes. Ms. Dillon asked about quality checks on drop box and security cameras. Ms. McLaughlin shared that ballots will be collected from drop boxes once per day by bipartisan teams. Staff will collect information about camera security and share it with the Board.

**[33:48]** Mr. Naimon would like to discuss the drop box placement location at the Activity Center at Bohrer Park. Mr. Karpinski reported that there have been discussions about the placement of that drop box.

**[36:36]** Ms. McLaughlin shared that the change in primary date increased the challenge of recruiting election judges in this gubernatorial election year. Everyone's support is needed to recruit election judges this year. Four years ago, there were 2970 election judges. As of now, 1205 individuals have completed their training. Active outreach is being done to Montgomery County employees, younger voters and judges who served in 2020. Board members requested a report from Dr. Gilberto Zelaya on outreach activities and how Board members can help. Ms. McLaughlin said that report will go to the Board by the end of the week.

**[54:38]** Mr. Naimon inquired about receipt of meeting materials, and stated that they are to be posted on the Montgomery Board of Elections' website three days before Board meetings in accordance with the bylaws. Additionally, information on how to join Board meetings should be posted earlier for members the public. Mr. Naimon also requested that the election calendar in Ms. McLaughlin's report be placed prominently on the Montgomery County Board of Elections' website.

**[1:01:46]** Since certification of the election requires signatures of the Board President and Secretary, Mr. Naimon asked that his and Mrs. Khozeimeh's schedules be taken into consideration when setting the mid-August date for election certification. Mr. Naimon also requested the Montgomery County Board of Elections' website more prominently post polling locations, new precinct maps, and drop box locations.

#### **Board Attorney Report [1:06:12]**

Replying to an inquiry from Mr. Banov, Mr. Karpinski shared he does not have any information on Governor Hogan's intentions regarding SB 163. Mr. Karpinski reported on the proposed fee for relocating recreation activities at the Activity Center at Bohrer Park in order to use the center for early voting. He and Chris Rzeszut will work with the Montgomery County Public Schools on an agreement to retain video of drop boxes located at schools.

**[1:09:09]** The process for curing vote-by-mail ballots has been for the voter to sign the affidavit on their ballot before the conclusion of the provisional canvass, the second Friday after the election. Legislation has been enacted that will allow voters to perhaps cure their ballots using a mobile device. The State Board of Elections has requested that Montgomery County serve as the pilot county for the 2022 election cycle for a mobile curing process. It would be one mechanism by which a voter could cure their ballot.

**[1:13:04]** Boris Brajkovic, Voter Services Manager, shared that the product will be prepared by the State Board of Elections. If Montgomery County pilots the program, because it is the most populous jurisdiction, it will help identify areas that might need improvement before the program is released to all 23 jurisdictions. Mobile curing would be another option for a voter to cure their ballot. The options already in place are to sign the oath in-person at the Board of Elections; sign and return it by mail to the Board of Elections; and sign, scan, and email it to the Board of Elections.

**[1:18:02]** Dr. Gilberto Zelaya, Community Empowerment/Public Information Officer, joined the meeting remotely to answer questions from the Board. He reported the English version of the 2022 primary sample ballot will be sent to the Board for approval tomorrow. Under Section 203, the sample ballot will

be a bilingual publication. Once the English version is approved, the Spanish version will be prepared and shared with the Board. Rapid Board approval of the English version will be appreciated.

**[1:20:01]** Discussion returned to the mobile ballot curing pilot project. Ms. McLaughlin does not anticipate that the Montgomery Board of Elections will be able to integrate the pilot project into the MoCo Voters app for the 2022 election. The Board discussed their questions and concerns regarding the possibility of piloting the project.

**[1:32:56]** Mr. Naimon moved that the staff proceed in discussions with the State Board of Elections on the mobile ballot curing pilot project, including Mr. Karpinski in the conversations, and keeping the Board informed. The motion was seconded by Mr. Banov, and it passed unanimously.

## **New Business**

### **A. Wait Times [1:33:42]**

Ms. McLaughlin reviewed the background of this item from the 2012 and 2018 elections. In the 2012 Presidential Election, the national standard for maximum wait time to vote was 30 minutes. The Maryland statewide average wait time was 36 minutes. In Montgomery County, it was 33 minutes. The average wait time in Montgomery County in 2016 was 15.7 minutes. In the 2018 election, which was a 3-card ballot, the wait time was 7 minutes on average but varied widely across the county. The wait time at 45 polling places was 35-55 minutes at their peak. Additionally, voters waited over one hour to vote at 12 polling locations. This year, more scanners will be provided at polling places that had longer wait times in 2018. The 2022 election is a 1-card ballot. This, along with more voters selecting vote-by-mail and the availability of drop boxes, is likely to reduce turnout at polling places on Election Day. Staff have also evaluated the new districts, data on past voter turnout behavior and requests for vote-by-mail ballots and are planning accordingly.

**[1:52:34]** Mr. Naimon asked how newly created large precincts are being handled, and if analysis is being done on the 45 polling places that had above national average wait times in 2018. He also asked if information about early voting and Election Day wait times will be available to the public, and if there will be a way for voters to contact the Board of Elections if they are in an extraordinarily long line. Ms. McLaughlin confirmed that data analysis is being done on all precincts, including projected voter numbers per precinct and past issues. Wait times will be available to the public for early voting but it will be difficult to provide them on Election Day. In terms of problems encountered by voters at polling locations, the Board of Elections receives phone calls and social media messages from voters. These reports are logged and followed up by staff. There are several systems in place for situations that might not be reported by voters. Election judges can call a dedicated number at the Board of Elections. The Office of Emergency Management has allowed the Board of Elections to use an emergency communications platform to send text messages with a polling feature to election workers.

**[2:08:39]** Mr. Banov and Mr. Naimon asked if the option to report a problem can be added to the MoCo Votes app.

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**B. Grace Rivera-Oven ballot listing [2:09:50]**

The Board members inquired what the standard is when a candidate registers their candidacy and the names appears on the ballot. Mr. Naimon raised a specific concern with how Ms. Grace Rivera-Oven's name would appear on the ballot. Ms. Rzeszut said it was too late to change her name on the ballot.

**C. Primary Canvass Schedule [2:17:54]**

Mr. Brajkovic presented staff recommendations for the 2022 primary canvass, which is scheduled to be held at the Watkins Mill High School auxiliary gym. Early canvass would start on June 27, with the intention of completing it before early voting begins, depending on volume. Mail-in Ballot Canvass 1 would start on July 21, Provisional Ballot Canvass on July 27, and Mail-in Ballot Canvass 2 on July 29. The canvass end date would be mid-August, depending on the volume, the number of ballot envelopes received and the pace in which they are received. Each canvass meeting would begin at 10:00am and finish around 5:00-6:00pm. Early canvass is scheduled for 8 calendar days, including July 4. Volume will dictate if all days will be used. Canvasses 1 and 2, including provisionals, are scheduled for 10 days. This could be reduced or expanded depending on volume.

Mr. Karpinski clarified there is a legal requirement that a quorum of the Board be present for the entire canvass.

**[2:25:29]** Ms. McLaughlin and Mr. Brajkovic responded to Mr. Naimon's question about the June 27 start date. They explained that although the State allows canvassing to begin on June 24, starting on Monday, June 27, allows staff to use the weekend to prepare the necessary items and stage the space.

**[2:33:15]** Ms. Dillon expressed support for the staff recommendation to start early canvassing on the June 27. Mr. Brajkovic confirmed that the canvass will be livestreamed and there will be in-person observers. In-person visitors to the canvass area will have to sign the daily log. They might have to sign twice – once at the entrance to the school building and once for the canvass area. **[2:41:14]** Sound with the livestream presents several issues, primarily that the sound that is broadcast is related to the canvass and not other conversations. Staff will research options.

**[2:37:33]** The proposed canvass dates will be sent to the Board and a sign-up system will be set up so a quorum of 4 Board members will be present for the canvass. Both parties must be represented.

**D. Early Voting Site – Germantown**

Ms. McLaughlin shared there might be an issue with the early voting site at the Germantown Community Recreation Center. This is a developing issue that will be resolved by staff action. It does not require Board action at this time.

**Old Business [2:43:44]**

**[2:44:15]** Chat and raised hand features in Zoom and terms of use – Mr. Naimon and Ms. McLaughlin discussed the terms of use of a chat feature, as well as options for visibility and ground rules. It was agreed that the staff will prepare a proposal for the next meeting.

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## Action Items

- Ms. McLaughlin will check on the status of final certification of the ballot and what recourse remains for a change made at the request of the Board of Elections.
- Proposed canvass dates will be sent to Board members.
- Check on possibility of sending to Board members monthly the number of vote-by-mail requests received by party.
- Schedule an executive session to report on the security and monitoring of drop box cameras.
- Specify on the sample ballot the specifics of the Silver Spring polling location by day.
- Circulate to the Board the precise placement and installation schedule of drop boxes at all early voting sites.
- Send to the Board an outreach status report by the end of the week.
- Staff discussion about adding the condensed calendar to the Board of Elections website.
- Investigate the possibility of adding “report a problem” to the MoCo Votes app. Also evaluate the methods voters can send their election day concerns to the Board of Elections.
- Identify a streamlined method of gathering Board member availability for canvass dates.
- Figure out how to include appropriate sound with the canvass livestream.
- Provide a proposal for discussion at the next meeting on usage of the Zoom chat. Mr. Naimon added that the public should be able to review the proposal 3 calendar days before the meeting.
- Update the Board on the Germantown Community Recreation Center.

## Approval of Minutes [2:55:38]

Ms. Dillon moved to accept the April 14, 2022 minutes as amended. The motion was seconded by Mr. Banov and passed unanimously.

Ms. Dillon moved to accept the April 18, 2022 minutes as amended. The motion was seconded by Mr. Banov and passed unanimously.

Ms. Dillon moved to accept the April 22, 2022 minutes as amended. The motion was seconded by Mr. Banov and passed unanimously.

Mr. Banov noted that the minutes just approved did not include the attendance of Board member Dr. Elisse Barnes. She was present at all three meetings.

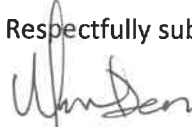
The next meeting of the Board will be on June 27, 2022.

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**Adjournment [2:57:58]**

Ms. Dillon moved to adjourn the Board meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Banov and passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,



Lisa Merino-Dean  
Administrative Specialist II

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Nahid Khozeimeh,  
Board President