

# Montgomery County Board of Elections

## Acting Election Director’s Report – December 2022

### Notice and Distribution of Materials

Draft minutes for the September 19, 2022, and October 17, 2022, meetings were circulated to the Board on November 30, 2022.

The agenda for the December meeting was posted to the website and circulated to the Board along with draft minutes for the November 8 and November 30 meetings on December 12, 2022.

The Acting Director’s report and attachments were provided to the Board on December 15, 2022.

### Action Items from Previous Meetings

**Canvass Stipends in Other Jurisdictions.** At the September Board meeting, a vote was taken by the Board to pay canvassers in Montgomery County the same amount or more than what other jurisdictions offer. In consultation with Board counsel, the staff increased the stipend amount offered to canvass workers from \$110 to \$175 per day.

At the October meeting, Board members objected that the \$175 amount was not equal to the highest daily stipend provided elsewhere in the state. Staff stated that the amount was based on an hourly equivalent, since other jurisdictions were canvassing on fewer days and working longer hours on the days that they canvass. Staff voiced concern about canvass worker stipends exceeding the hourly compensation provided to temporary staff of the department.

In response to this concern, the Board requested information on the data relied upon by the department regarding the stipend amounts and hours worked in other jurisdictions. Staff notes reflect that the following information was gathered:

| County                 | Amount        | Hours/Days Worked                                     | Estimated Hourly Rate** |
|------------------------|---------------|---|-------------------------|
| Montgomery County      | \$175         | 8 hours   | \$21.85/hour            |
| Prince George’s County | \$16 per hour |   | \$16/hour               |
| Baltimore County       | \$185         | At least 9 to 10 hours                                | up to \$20.55/hour      |
| Anne Arundel County    | \$175         | 8 hours   | \$21.85/hour            |
| Baltimore City         | \$200         | 8am until usually 7pm                                 | \$16.66/hour            |
| Howard County          | \$205/\$100   | \$205 for Election Day hours<br>\$100 for a few hours | \$15.77/hour            |
| Frederick County       | \$14 per hour |   | \$14/hour               |

\*\* Figures are calculations by Montgomery County personnel, based on information gathered from employees in other jurisdictions.

**Post Office Postmark Types.** Questions from the Board regarding the use of different types of postmarks were forwarded to the Rockville Postmaster. Staff will follow up with the Board once we are able to arrange a meeting and obtain the requested information.

### **State Board of Elections**

At its meeting on December 7, 2022, the State Board of Elections certified the results of the 2022 Gubernatorial General Election.

### **Voter Registration**

**Monthly Statistical Report.** The report for November was distributed to Board members on December 5, 2022. As of that date, there were 686,785 active registered voters in Montgomery County and 74,509 inactive voters, for a total voter count of 761,294.

### **Personnel**

**Permanent positions.** Board staff is currently interviewing for a replacement for Linda Caro, who retired during the 2022 Gubernatorial General Election. The staff extends its gratitude to Linda for service to the voters of Montgomery County and we wish her well in her retirement.

The department also currently has vacancies in the position of Election Director; Finance Specialist; Information Technology Specialist (four positions, including three newly created positions), Office Services Coordinator (two positions), and for a Principal Administrative Aide. Temporary employees will remain on the payroll after the holiday season while these vacancies are filled as well as to assist with a variety of seasonal functions including post-election inventory, voting equipment maintenance, and voter registration list maintenance.

### **Legislation**

On Tuesday, December 20, the Montgomery County House Delegation's Education, Elections, and Housing Committee will hold a work and possible voting session on two bills related to voting methods. Delegation bill MC 3-23 would authorize the Montgomery County Council to provide by law for ranked choice voting or approval voting, while MC 7-23 would provide for ranked choice voting and inclusion of municipal elections for the City of Takoma Park on the state ballot.

### **Upcoming Meetings**

On Thursday, January 5, the Acting Election Director will be speaking at a panel on the present and future of election administration at the Maryland Association of Counties' Winter Conference in Cambridge, Maryland. From January 11 to 13, one or more staff will also participate in the annual Joint Election Officials Liaison Conference, including meetings with election officials from other states and representatives of a variety of federal agencies and the Postal Service in Arlington, Virginia.

Also during the first few weeks of January, staff will begin discussions with State Board of Elections staff on lessons learned from the 2022 election season and on a number of topics looking ahead to the 2024 election season, including next steps for integration of the high-speed sorting equipment, the statewide curriculum for Election Judge training, and the path ahead for replacement of our electronic pollbooks for the 2024 election, and the expiration of our lease on our current voting system in 2025.

### **Lessons Learned from the 2022 Election Season**

In the past, after each general election, staff from each section have provided separate Lessons Learned presentations to the Board over a number of months. We would like to seek the Board's feedback on consolidating these debriefings into a single presentation in February. Staff is prepared to offer some

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initial reflections prior to then, but for a comprehensive presentation it will take some time to compile data and to allow staff to take leave during and after the holiday season.

**Website**

The website has been updated to reflect that the Board has certified the results of the 2022 Gubernatorial General Election. Now that the 2022 election season has concluded, we will be working with the Department of Technology and Enterprise Business Solutions to improve the presentation of information to voters and make the site easier to update.