

Meeting Minutes**Monday, April 15, 2024****MONTGOMERY COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS****Virtual and In-person Board Meeting****In-person Attendance Board Members:**

David A. Naimon, President
 Daniel A. Koroma, Vice President
 Diane Nash Dillon, Board Member
 Margie C. Delao, Substitute Member
 Alexander C. Vincent, Substitute Member

Virtual Attendance Board Members:

Amoretta M. (Amie) Hoeber, Secretary
 Keyna I. Anyiam, Board Member

In-person Attendance:

Kevin Karpinski, Board Attorney

In Person Staff Attendance:

Boris Brajkovic, Director
 Janet Ross, Acting Deputy Director / IT Manager
 Lisa Merino-Dean, Administrative Specialist
 Mindy Williams, Operations Manager
 Chris Rzeszut, Recruitment Manager
 Gilberto Zelaya, Outreach Coordinator and Public Information Officer
 Laletta Dorsey Voter Registration Specialist
 Michelle Gonda, Vote By Mail Specialist
 Aishah Mills-Pherigo, Recruitment Specialist
 Thomas Chuck Williams, Budget Specialist

A video of the meeting may be found on YouTube at the following link [April 15, 2024, Board Meeting](#)

Swearing-in of the Board of Canvassers (01:58)

The Board members were sworn in as the Board of Canvassers for the 2024 Presidential Primary Election. Ms. Karen Bushel, the Clerk of the Court, swore in Mr. Naimon, Mr. Koroma, Ms. Dillon, Ms. Delao, Mr. Vincent and Board Attorney Mr. Karpinski. Ms. Anyiam and Ms. Hoeber were sworn in before April 15.

Convene Board Meeting (05:30)

Mr. Naimon called the meeting to order and declared a quorum present.

Board Remarks (05:43)

Mr. Naimon expressed the Board's condolences to the family of Board employee Sammy Pearson who passed away. Mr. Person was a trainer for the Board of Elections since 2018.

Additions/Changes to the Agenda (06:24)

There were no changes to the agenda.

Disclosure of Campaign Contributions/Attendance to Fundraisers (06:38)

There were no campaign contributions disclosed.

Election Director's Report (08:55)

Mr. Brajkovic presented his report which can be found [here](#).

Mr. Brajkovic provided an overview of the preparations for the upcoming 2024 Presidential Primary Election, emphasizing changes compared to the 2022 Election, continuity of service, and new initiatives. The overview focused on key election dates, voter registration, vote by mail, early voting, Election Day voting, election workers and publicly available data. The presentation entitled *Preparations for the 2024 Presidential Primary Election* can be found [here](#). **(21:18)**

Ms. Hoeber thanked the Election Director and Board President for keeping Republican members of the Board fully informed, as that had not been always the case in the past. Ms. Hoeber reminded candidates of the importance of treating all the voters with as much courtesy as possible, particularly leaving parking spaces close to the voting sites for the voters and not for the campaign workers or candidates.

Ms. Hoeber excused herself from the meeting to attend to an unforeseen circumstance.

Mr. Naimon emphasized that Montgomery County's no-electioneering zone is between 25 ft and 100 ft, which is much closer to the entrance of the building than anywhere else in the State. He added that all no-electioneering zones can be found on the Board of Elections' website.

Mr. Naimon addressed signage at early voting centers and polling places, stating that State law indicates that campaign signs can be placed at 5:00 pm the night before early voting, or the night before Election Day. Any signage placed before 5:00 pm can possibly be taken down. In addition, the Board requests that campaign signs be removed by the following morning after Early Voting and Election Day.

Board members commended the Director's presentation, and all offered their availability to all who may have questions or concerns during the election cycle.

Public Comments (01:18:54)

Dennis Melby, Chairman of the Montgomery County Republican Central Committee, addressed the Board. He inquired how the canvass results are prevented from being disclosed and where candidates could direct their concerns or comments.

Mr. Brajkovic responded that ballots from the canvass are only scanned and not tabulated before Election Day. He noted that all staff involved in the election process sign State confidentiality agreements/forms to ensure no confidential information is shared at any time.

Mr. Naimon stated that comments and concerns can be made by contacting the Board of Elections or any of the Board members.

Mr. Karpinski added that any election integrity group or attorney that is representing a particular candidate can contact him directly.

Lori Jaffe, Secretary for the Republican Central Committee, inquired if the ballot drop box videos are archived or made available to the public.

Mr. Karpinski responded that there are several stakeholders involved in where drop boxes are placed, and they are required to maintain 24/7 video surveillance on the drop boxes and the video surveillance must be accessible if there are issues that require law enforcement intervention. Pursuant to federal law, the video is part of election-related material and is maintained for 22 months or longer, depending upon litigation.

Rob Yosaitis, with Larry Hogan's campaign, requested the statistics for the election judges referenced in the Director's presentation and inquired where he could find the information regarding the removal of the voters from the rolls.

Mr. Brajkovic re-shared the election workers' statistics and noted that these statistics are available in the Election Director's Report that is posted on the website. He also added that Voter Registration Monthly Statistics are available online and provide comprehensive data on voter registration.

He responded to Mr. Yosaitis' inquiry regarding the outreach to election workers, noting that staff makes calls to those election judges who have started to sign up and advises them of additional actions needed to complete their sign-ups. Ms. Ross added that electronic communication is also sent to election workers every Thursday, prompting them to complete necessary steps to become election workers.

Brigitta Mullican, Treasurer of the Republican Party but representing herself, asked for clarification on the voter registration statistics stated by the Director.

Mr. Brajkovic clarified that staff is processing around 20,000 either new registrations or updates to existing voter registrations on a monthly basis since January 2024. He added that monthly voter statistics are available on the Board of Elections' website.

Sarah Brown expressed concern with the lack of communication with prospective election workers as it pertains to those who are returning to serve.

Mr. Naimon asked that staff communicate with Ms. Brown regarding reported lack of communication for election worker's recruitment. Mr. Brajkovic stated that election judge recruitment began with electronic communication on February 7, 2024, to 23,000 current and past volunteers who served as election workers since 2018. Mr. Brajkovic will follow up with Ms. Brown directly.

Ann Hingston, Organization Chair of the Republican Central Committee, inquired if there were any security concerns outside polling places and if there were, who should be contacted.

Mr. Naimon responded that the Board of Elections, Members of the Board, or the Board Attorney can be contacted, should any security issues arise.

Mr. Brajkovic added that this meeting was an effort to address concerns that voters might have, and he invited everyone to share their concerns with the Board so the staff can address them ahead of the Election.

Mr. Karpinski stated that security is of utmost importance, and it is being addressed. However, no specifics can be shared. He added that if one is presented with an immediate harm, one should call the police. If someone is being uncivil, they should call the Board of Elections and we will send someone out to address the situation.

Senator Cheryl Kagan, Senator for Gaithersburg and Rockville and Vice Chair of the Senate Committee that works on all election-related bills, addressed the Board and provided an overview of legislation considered in the course of the 2024 General Assembly Session.

Legislation (2:09:01)

Mr. Brajkovic presented an overview of election-related bills which can be found [here](#). He added that the document published on the website shows bills that passed by both chambers in blue font.

Board Attorney's Report (02:20:30)

Mr. Karpinski reported that he has worked with staff on completing the MOUs and lease agreements for Early Voting, ballot drop boxes, Election Day and the Canvass.

He reported that the *Gibson* case, which raised a challenge regarding the 2020 Election results and some list maintenance issues, is pending in the Fourth Circuit now. The case has been fully briefed. It is unclear whether the Fourth Circuit will have a three-judge panel hear the case or issue an opinion.

He added that a second suit has been filed regarding issues concerning the 2022 Election and it is currently in the preliminary stages of the process. He stated that the local board is not a Defendant in that case. However, because the case involves information maintained by the local boards, a litigation hold has been issued by the Office of the Attorney General. Local boards will be required to hold election materials for both elections, which will cause a major storage problem.

Mr. Brajkovic noted that physical space is an issue as well as digital space, both of which are expected to have financial impacts.

Old Business (2:23:51)

No old business was discussed.

Website (02:23:57)

Mr. Brajkovic presented a statistical report on the Board of Elections' website usage for the previous month. The statistical report can be found [here](#).

Outreach Update (02:27:38)

Dr. Zelaya reported that outreach and engagement efforts will be focusing on promoting early voting and communicating three ways to vote. The Outreach calendar for April 2024 can be found [here](#).

The Board members thanked Dr. Zelaya for all his efforts with presentations, attendance at events, and answering questions.

New Business (02:34:36)

Mr. Naimon moved pursuant to Section 10-203 (a) of the Election Law article that the Board delegate to the Election Director, Mr. Boris Brajkovic, the authority to appoint and assign election judges for the 2024

Presidential Primary and General Elections. The motion was seconded by Ms. Dillon and passed unanimously.

Future Action Items (02:37:51)

Mr. Brajkovic will follow up with Ms. Brown regarding election judge communication.

Approval of Minutes (02:39:04)

Mr. Vincent moved to approve the March 18, 2024 minutes, as amended. The motion was seconded by Ms. Delao and approved unanimously.

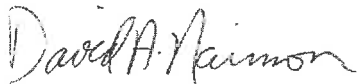
Future Meeting (02:39:35)

Mr. Naimon stated that the 2024 Presidential Primary Canvass will begin Monday, April 22 at 10:00 am.

The Canvass will be held at the Montgomery College, Germantown campus, Bioscience of Education building.

Mr. Naimon adjourned the meeting at 5:27pm.

Approved by the Board



David A. Naimon
Board President