Montgomery County Board of Elections

Election Director's Report – June 2024

Notice and Distribution of Materials

Draft minutes of the April 15, 2024, Election Day May 14, 2024, and Election Results Certification meeting on May 24, 2024, were distributed to the Board on June 9, 2024.

The Agenda for the June 17, 2024, meeting was posted on the Board of Elections website on June 10, 2024.

The Director's Report, the Expenditure Tracking Report, and meeting materials were shared with the Board and posted on the website on June 13, 2024.

Voter Registration Statistics:

The Advanced Deadline to Register to Vote and Update Vote Registration Information was April 23, 2024, and voter registration reopened on May 28, 2024. The processing of the new voter registrations and voter registration updates only restarted once all the counties certified their respective election results. Publishing of the Monthly Statistical Report will resume on July 1, 2024

State Board of Elections (SBE):

The State Board of Canvassers certified the 2024 Presidential Primary Election results at its June 13, 2024, meeting.

Personnel

Permanent positions:

Ms. Sandra Prudenti joined the Board on April 22, 2024, as the new Voter Services Manager.

Vote By Mail Program Manager I position is expected to be advertised before the next Board's meeting as the Team is eager to have this position filled before the 2024 Presidential General election.

The ad for the Deputy Election Director position remains open until filled.

Temporary positions:

While the number of the onboarded temporary team members peaked around election day, the overall number is gradually being reduced. While most of the temporary team members will rejoin the Board in the months preceding the general election, a number of the temporary staff will remain on-site to assist with petition, post-election data processing, archiving, and preparations for the November election.

Budget

The shared Expenditure Tracking Report reflects the approved Fiscal Year 2024 Budget and the Department's spending through May 2024. Both historically and per the calendar of election tasks, most expenditures are accrued in the third quarter of the current fiscal year, while invoices will be paid in June 2024. The two highest remaining payments in the Fiscal Year 24 are the end-of-the-year State Board of Elections bill and stipends for Montgomery County volunteers who served as election workers in the 2024 Presidential Primary election.

The County Council appropriated $17,071,137 for the BOE fiscal year 2025 budget. The FY25 budget contains several enhancements, including an additional $70,000 funding for Outreach Media activities.

Staff submitted an application and the BOE was awarded $48,500 in grants from the U.S Department of Homeland Security through the State Homeland Security Program (SHSP). The funds are utilized to enhance security measures.

Board of Elections voter communication efforts

The Montgomery County Councill approved a $70,000 on-time increase of the media and outreach budget for the Board of Elections in the FY25 budget. The Staff highly appreciated additional funding and we are preparing an amended Media Plan that will be presented to the Board's subcommittee in the next few weeks and to the Board at the July meeting.

Sections' Activities

Voter Services

On June 13, 2024, BOE received the initial batch of signatures collected for the Petition to have an amendment of the County Charter submitted to the registered voters of Montgomery County on the 2024 General Election ballot. The proposed amendment seeks to bar any County Executive from serving more than two full or partial consecutive terms of office. BOE has a legal

deadline to process the submitted Petition signatures within twenty (20) calendar days. The Petition organizers confirmed that approximately 12,000 signatures were included in the initial batch and that additional signatures would be submitted before the July 29, 2024, legal deadline. The Petition must have 10,000 validated signatures for the question to appear on the 2024 General Election ballot.

The Voter Registration Team has completed processing of the voter update forms received during early voting and on election day, as well as voter registration applications submitted on paper forms. Currently, the Team has a backlog of over 24,000 electronic voter registration requests (both new registrations and updates to existing voter records), generated since April 23, 2024, i.e. since the Advanced Deadline to Register to Vote and Update Vote Registration for the 2024 Presidential Primary election. Additionally, the Voter Registration Team has received ERIC files and needs to process returned Sample Ballots and other election mail to initiate the inactivation process for all qualifying voters before the National Voter Registration Act NVRA deadline of August 7, 2024. The above-listed processes will be completed once the processing of the petition is finalized.

All the temporary team members who were onboarded to support data entry and data processing in the run-up to and during the primary election will remain on the payroll until the backlog and petition processing is completed. A number of temporary team members will have uninterrupted employment with BOE through the 2024 Presidential General election.

Vote By Mail Team is processing new applications and returned mail (applications, vote-by-mail ballots, and permanent notices) and preparing for the general election.

IT / Training Section

IT Section is completing the State inventory audit that is due June 30, 2024. In addition, the IT Staff is conducting an assessment of the election equipment used during the primary election to initiate necessary replacements for the General Election.

The IT Manager is continuing to work with the Technology and Enterprise Business Solutions (TEBS) department on software enhancements to the Election Worker and Future Vote portals.

Training staff is working on developing classes for the election workers who served during the Primary Election.

Operations Section

Operations Section continues to conduct post-election clean-up and sort, inventory, and re-package election supplies in preparation for the General Election. Once completed, the Team will begin preparing unvoted ballots for shredding to free up much-needed space within the warehouse. Staff are reviewing all comments, suggestions, and identified polling place issues during the primary election that need to be addressed before the general election (i.e., additional signage, issues with entry doors, etc).

Recruitment and Election Support

Recruitment Team has been finalizing proofing and authorizing payment of the Election Workers stipends for the 2024 Presidential Primary Election. The payroll encompasses all election workers, including Early Voting and Election Day Election Judges, Drop Box Attendants, Canvass and Nursing Home workers, Early Voting Center Managers, Election Day Roamers, Early Voting and Election Day Runners, and Regional Site Technicians.

The Recruitment Team has completed sending emails to voters who expressed interest in serving in the upcoming election by signing up before they left their polling place. The number of voters who provided contact information is approximately 1,800.