

**Meeting Minutes**  
**Monday, July 15, 2024**  
**MONTGOMERY COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS**  
**Virtual Board Meeting**

**Virtual Attendance Board Members:**

David A. Naimon, President  
Daniel A. Koroma, Vice President  
Amoretta M. (Amie) Hoeber, Secretary  
Keyna I. Anyiam, Board Member  
Diane Nash Dillon, Board Member  
Margie C. Delao, Substitute Member  
Alexander C. Vincent, Substitute Member

**Virtual Attendance:**

Kevin Karpinski, Board Attorney

**In Person Staff Attendance:**

Boris Brajkovic, Director  
Janet Ross, Acting Deputy Director / IT Manager  
Lisa Merino-Dean, Administrative Specialist  
Sandra Prudenti, Voter Services Manager  
Thomas Chuck Williams, Budget Specialist

**Virtual staff attendance:**

Aishah Mills-Pherigo, Election Worker Recruitment Specialist  
Laletta Dorsey, Specialist Voter Registration Specialist  
Michelle Gonda, Vote By Mail Specialist

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

**Convene as the Board of Canvassers (00.05)**

Mr. Naimon called the Board of Canvassers meeting to order at 3:02 p.m. with a quorum present.

Mr. Brajkovic presented the Board with 41 untimely ballots - 22 domestic and 19 from overseas. Ballots were received after the legal deadline to return mail-in ballots for the 2024 Presidential Primary election.

Ms. Hoeber moved to reject the untimely ballots. The motion was seconded by Ms. Dillion and passed unanimously.

**Approval of the 2024 Presidential Primary Election Canvass Minutes (02:48)**

Mr. Koroma moved to accept the 2024 Presidential Primary Canvass minutes as amended. The motion was seconded by Ms. Hoeber and passed unanimously.

Mr. Naimon adjourned the Board of Canvassers Meeting at 3:13 p.m.

**Convene Board Meeting (11:07)**

Mr. Naimon convened the Board meeting with a quorum present at 3:13 p.m.

**Board President Remarks (11:17)**

Mr. Naimon stated that he was horrified by the shooting at former President Trump's rally in Pennsylvania on Saturday and was happy to hear that he's okay. One attendee is dead, and two were injured for attending a political rally for the candidate of their choice. That is shocking and un-American.

He stated that political violence is never acceptable, and our political differences need to be resolved through the electoral process. He also added that he knows that all Board members will continue to do their part to support the electoral process and the safety of everyone who participates in it.

Mr. Naimon complimented new State Board of Elections' member Mr. Jim Shalleck on some of comments that he made at his first meeting on June 25. He appreciated that Mr. Shalleck stated clearly and forcefully that in his six years on our Board, no one brought to him or to the Board evidence of fraud or deceit in our elections, and that, to Mr. Shalleck's knowledge, the elections in Montgomery County and the State have been safe and secure. Mr. Naimon agrees wholeheartedly, and thanks him for saying it. However, Mr. Naimon stated that he wonders why Mr. Shalleck did not say that in 2021, when Mr. Shalleck met with the Voter Integrity Group for a video interview that was reported on by MoCo360 on June 10, 2024. Mr. Naimon added that if Mr. Shalleck had, Mr. Naimon might have nominated Mr. Shalleck for a Profile in Courage award. Mr. Naimon stated that a Republican election official from outside Montgomery County told him that he thought the Board President should be an evangelist for the election process. Mr. Shalleck said in 2021 that he had no idea if there was fraud and expressed concerns about a large number of people who utilized early voting and mail-in ballots during the Pandemic in the 2020 elections. At the June 25, 2024 State Board meeting, Mr. Shalleck also suggested that the June 10th MoCo360 article gave the wrong impression, was misleading, and contained false innuendos. Mr. Shalleck said that the article insinuated that he didn't know if there was any fraud, and therefore there must have been fraud in our elections, and that he was hiding it. Mr. Naimon stated that he reread the MoCo360 article, and it said nothing close to that unless Mr. Shalleck was talking about another article about his 2021 comments that he had not seen.

Mr. Naimon added that he was glad to hear Mr. Shalleck say at the State Board meeting that he would be acting in a bipartisan fashion in his work as a State Board member. He added that he and Ms. Hoeber have not heard back from Mr. Shalleck regarding their invitation to have coffee, but that accepting our invitation would be a great start. Mr. Naimon stated that he agreed with Mr. Vincent's comments from last month about the importance of our County Board working together with the State Board, and he hopes Mr. Shalleck will accept the invitation so that they can discuss any issues of concern.

Ms. Dillon stated that she appreciated Mr. Naimon's remarks and noted that it was an assassination attempt on Donald Trump, not a mere shooting.

Mr. Vincent stated that he believes that Mr. Shalleck's 2021 remarks were taken out of context, and he pointed out the timing of when this was brought up, especially because the reporter herself was not investigating this but somebody had leaked it to her for some reason. Mr. Vincent stated that Mr. Shalleck is an honorable man, who served honorably. He believes that Mr. Shalleck had never cast doubt on the

validity of the election results. Mr. Vincent stated that he believes Mr. Shalleck was speaking of the inherent risks in certain methods of voting.

Mr. Naimon agreed that Mr. Shalleck is an honorable man but said that he interpreted Mr. Shalleck's remarks differently - - he either is very confused or he was talking about something very different when he stated that the article suggested that he knew about the fraud and didn't do anything about it. No one has suggested that, but that's what he said. Mr. Naimon added that for him to state that he had no idea whether fraud occurred is hard to understand and Mr. Naimon looks forward to a conversation with him and looks forward to working together.

**Additions/Changes to the Agenda (19:39)**

There were no changes or additions to the agenda.

**Disclosure of Campaign Contributions (19:44)**

There were no contributions disclosed.

**Public Comments (19:54)**

There were no public comments.

**Election Director's Report (21:53)**

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

He shared with the Board the number of active and inactive voters in Montgomery County, noting a total of 753,046, as of the last day of June.

He noted that the State Board of Elections sent out notifications to the voters on the permanent mail-in voting lists.

He reported that Christine Rzeszut retired from the Board of Elections on July 1 after working with the Board for 17 years.

He briefly reviewed the expenditure tracking report for the fiscal year 2024 and noted that the State Board of Elections' bill for the fourth quarter of 2024 fiscal year is still outstanding. He added that the fiscal year 2025 budget will contain several enhancements, including an additional \$70,000 for outreach activities.

Ms. Delao asked if the election worker stipend checks have an expiration date. Mr. Brajkovic will follow up and inquire with the Finance Department.

Mr. Brajkovic reported that staff worked with the Department of Motor Vehicles and the State Board of Elections to present key messages for the 2024 Presidential General Election at video screens at all MVA locations in Montgomery County.

Mr. Vincent asked about the rejection rates of the Petition signatures and Mr. Brajkovic confirmed that the Petition has a low rejection rate of signatures as it seems that the Committee for Better Government invalidated a number of signatures that would otherwise be rejected. Mr. Karpinski agreed that the rejection rate represents a very low percentage.

The Board Attorney briefly explained the signature validation process for Petitions submitted to the Board of Election for review. Ms. Dillon asked for an example when a signature is rejected, and Mr. Brajkovic provided an example that would not meet the name standard for the Petition.

Mr. Karpinski added that a signature on the Petition must meet the legally prescribed name standard. In answering Mr. Koroma's question, Mr. Brajkovic confirmed that a Charter Amendment Petition must have 10,000 validated signatures to have the question placed on the ballot for the November election.

#### **Board Attorney Report (1:09:53)**

Mr. Karpinski stated that storage is becoming a problem as the Board of Elections is currently holding onto 2020 and 2022 election materials. He added that the United States Court of Appeals for the 4th Circuit has not issued an opinion in the *Gibson* case. He reported that the plaintiffs have 90 days after the Fourth Circuit rules to file a Petition to the U.S. Supreme Court. Until that occurs, the Board of Elections is in a holding pattern and required to continue to hold onto election materials.

He reported that once the determination is made on the Petition it will be posted to the website.

#### **Old Business (01:11:22)**

There was no old business discussed.

#### **Website Update (01:11:36)**

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 (1:14:20)**

Dr. Zelaya reported on the collaborative efforts with the Motor Vehicle Administration and the State Board of Elections for bilingual English and Spanish election worker banners in four Montgomery County full-service MVAs locations.

The Outreach calendar can be found [here](#).

August 1<sup>st</sup> is National Election Worker Recruitment Day, and staff is working with the libraries and the U.S. Election Assistance Commission. Mr. Zelaya also reported on planned activities for the Back to School Fair on August 24, 2024. We will also work with the public libraries, recreation centers, Regional Services Centers, and senior centers to present our messages wherever there is a TV monitor.

Mr. Koroma stated that Dr. Zelaya may receive some inquiries about his and Ms. Anyiam's attendance at the World Peace Swahili Language Day earlier in the month.

#### **New Business (01:23:51)**

The Board considered the media advertising plan for the 2024 Presidential General Election. Mr. Zelaya reiterated that the outreach budget has been enhanced by an additional \$70,000.00, and he presented the proposed plan for advertising.

Mr. Naimon emphasized his satisfaction with the advertising expansion into the French language as mentioned to the County Council when the Board lobbied for an additional advertising budget.

Ms. Anyiam inquired if more data and breakdowns on spoken languages throughout Montgomery County

are available. Dr. Zelaya stated that he found the data provided from Montgomery County Public Schools demographics, and he agreed to reach out to GIS and Health and Human Services to seek additional demographic/language data sets.

Ms. Dillon moved to accept the media plan. The motion was seconded by Ms. Delao and passed unanimously. The approved plan can be found [here](#).

**Polling Place Change: Precinct 05-14 (01:53:43)**

Mr. Brajkovic presented information on MCPS' reconstruction plan for a current polling place location for precinct 05-14 (JoAnn Leleck Elementary School) and the reason for the proposed relocation of the polling place. He also emphasized the communication efforts that will be undertaken by the staff to reach out to all affected voters whose polling place is being moved.

Ms. Williams reviewed a presentation for the proposed polling place change for the 2024 Presidential General Election. The proposed relocation is due to the construction at the location that hosted the polling place in the 2024 Presidential Primary election.

The Board reviewed two presented options:

- a) Option one, St. Camillus Church Parish Life and Education Center, and
- b) Option two, Roscoe Nix Elementary School.

The full presentation can be found [here](#).

Ms. Anyiam moved to accept the Staff's recommendation to relocate polling place 05-14 to St. Camillus Church Parish Life and Education Center for the 2024 Presidential General Election. The motion was seconded by Ms. Dillon and passed unanimously.

**Motion for Logic and Accuracy Testing (02:11:16)**

Mr. Vincent moved to direct the Election Director to conduct Logic and Accuracy testing and preparation of all voting units for the 2024 Presidential General Election. The motion was seconded by Ms. Delao and passed unanimously.

**Future Action Items (02:13:10)**

- Dr. Zelaya will seek census data or other data on the languages spoken in Montgomery County.
- Mr. Brajkovic will inquire if election judge checks have an expiration date.

**Approval of Minutes (2:14:38)**

Ms. Hoeber moved to accept the June 17, 2024, minutes, as amended. The motion was seconded by Mr. Koroma and passed unanimously.

**Future Meeting**

The next Board Meeting will be on September 16, 2024.

**Adjournment**

Mr. Naimon moved to adjourn the regular Board meeting at 5:22 p.m. and proceed with an Executive Session to discuss a confidential voter request.

**Report on Executive Session**

The Montgomery County Board of Elections convened in executive session at 5:25 p.m., pursuant to § 3-

305(b)(2), General Provisions Article, to discuss a request to become a confidential voter. The following members and staff were in attendance:

- David A. Naimon
- Daniel A. Koroma
- Amoretta M. Hoeber
- Keyna Anyiam
- Diane Nash Dillon
- Margie Delao
- Alexander C. Vincent
- Boris Brajkovic

No action was taken during the executive session.

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Approved by the Board

  
David A. Naimon  
Board President