

Meeting Minutes
Monday, October 21, 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
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

Virtual staff attendance:

Gilberto Zelaya, Outreach Coordinator/PIO

A video of the meeting may be found on YouTube at the following link [October 21, 2024, Virtual Board Meeting Audio](#).

Convene as Board of Canvassers (00:10)

Mr. Naimon convened the Board of Canvassers' meeting at 3:00 p.m. and declared a quorum present.

Mr. Brajkovic presented four untimely mail-in ballots from the 2024 Presidential Primary election for the Board of Canvassers to reject. He reported that three were domestic mail-in ballots, mailed and received late. The 4th ballot was an overseas ballot, date stamped on May 13, 2024, and received untimely at the Board of Elections (BOE).

Ms. Hoeber moved to reject the mail-in ballots as untimely. The motion was seconded by Ms. Dillon and passed unanimously.

Mr. Naimon adjourned the Board of Canvassers' meeting.

Convene Board Meeting and Declare a Quorum Present (02:34)

Mr. Naimon called the Board Meeting to order and declared quorum present.

Board President's Remarks (2:51)

Mr. Naimon acknowledged the passing of a great supporter of democracy, his mother, Judith Sandberg Naimon, who passed away on September 23, 2024. Ms. Sandberg was an immigrant to this country and became a naturalized citizen who voted in every Montgomery County election from 1962 to 2020.

Mr. Naimon reported that he and Ms. Hoeber, along with Mr. Brajkovic and Board Attorney, Kevin Karpinski met with Michael Fletcher and MCGOP Vice Chair Stacy Sauter to discuss mail-in ballot concerns, voter registration list cleanup questions, sample ballot mailings, and election judge recruitment. Participants at the meeting acknowledged that the National Voter Registration Act does not allow for a change of voter registration status, except in very limited circumstances, during what's called *the quiet period*, which is 90 days before the election day. The BOE is still allowed to remove deceased voters from the voter rolls. Mr. Naimon added that it was a very productive bipartisan conversation.

He thanked the staff for all their work since the last Board Meeting on September 16. He reported that BOE has received 60,000 mail-in ballots, of which 38,000 have been canvassed to date.

Additions/Changes to Agenda (08:40)

There were no additions or changes to the agenda.

Disclosure if Campaign Contributions/Attendance to Fundraisers (08:51)

Ms. Hoeber reported donating within the last week \$1,000 to the Neil Parrott for Congress campaign for Congressional District 6, and \$1,500 to Larry Hogan for Senate Campaign.

Ms. Dillon reported attending a GOP Congressional Women fundraiser called "Women 47." She made a \$500 donation, a portion of which went to the Trump campaign.

Public Comments (10:52)

There were no public comments.

Director Report (11:58)

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

He reported that Montgomery County has 688,741 active registered voters, together with 75,072 inactive voters, for a total of 763,813 voters, of which there is almost 59% registered Democrats, 14.3% registered Republicans, 25% unaffiliated voters and 1.5% fell in the category of other.

Mr. Brajkovic reported that the Maryland State Board of Elections met on September 24, 2024, and it approved additional deployment of ballot marking devices to early voting sites and polling places for the 2024 Presidential General Election.

He reported that the Deputy Director position will be readvertised.

He added that the expenditure tracking report will now be presented in a new format to reflect the current month spending and total up to date.

Mr. Brajkovic indicated that sample ballots are legally required to be mailed to voters one week before the start of Early Voting. The BOE's goal was to have sample ballots to voters 45 days before Election Day (when the first mail-in ballots are mailed). Unfortunately, there was an error on the sample ballot and in the address list that we used to send the sample ballots to the voters. He added that voters called us

immediately when they noticed the error which prompted us to stop the mailing process. A press release was disseminated to notify the public regarding what had happened and what our next steps would be. The sample ballots were pulled from the mail-stream and, for the first time ever, staff emailed sample ballots to every voter who shared their email address with us. Mr. Brajkovic encouraged voters to share their email addresses with us.

Mr. Brajkovic reported that a second press release was issued after learning that 224 voters in Bethesda received duplicate mail-in ballots. He contacted the State Board of Elections, and it was determined that the duplicate mailing was the result of an unintentional error of the state vendor that was sending mail-in ballots to all Maryland voters.

Mr. Naimon said that the Board issued press releases about errors, whether they were ours or not, to make sure the public knew the true facts. We also went above and beyond what the law required in attempting to mail the sample ballots earlier than required but had to pull them back because of the errors, and called voters affected by the duplicate ballots even though that was not required. He stated that sometimes errors are made, and that he is very proud of the Board of Elections' transparency. He added that when errors are made, we not only own up to them if they're ours, but we make sure that our voters are appropriately informed of what's happening.

Mr. Brajkovic provided an overview of the workload and main activities of each of the BOE Sections.

Mr. Brajkovic stated that on September 17th, the Montgomery County Council issued a proclamation recognizing National Voter Registration Day.

Board Attorney's Report (50:30)

Mr. Karpinski stated that there were no significant legal updates to report. He added that he is working with Mr. Brajkovic and Mrs. Merino-Dean on Maryland Public Information Act requests.

Old Business (52:42)

There was no old business discussed.

Website (53:19)

Mr. Brajkovic briefly reviewed the website usage for the month of September. The full usage data can be found [here](#).

Outreach Update (1:00:45)

Dr. Zelaya thanked those who assisted and attended outreach events. He proudly reported that the Montgomery County Board of Elections has organized or attended over 600 outreach events this election cycle.

The outreach calendar for the month of October can be found [here](#).

New Business (1:08:21)

Random selection of polling places for the post-election audit was conducted at the canvass on Saturday October 19, 2024.

List of Action Items (1:09:26)

- Updating the voter registration reference on the website
- Suggestions on anything more we can do to recruit more Republican Judges.

Approval of Minutes (01:10:50)

There were no minutes to approve.

Mr. Naimon noted that the September Board meeting recording is available to the public on the Board of Elections website.

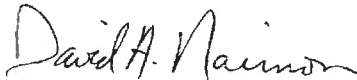
Future Meetings (01:12:13)

- The Presidential General Canvass meeting on October 23, 2024, has been cancelled.
- The next Presidential General Canvass meeting will be held on Saturday, October 26.
- Virtual Election Day Board Meeting, November 5, 2024, at 11:00 a.m.

Adjournment (1:13:37)

Mr. Naimon adjourned the Board meeting and the Board moved into Executive Session to discuss the future budget, consider confidentiality requests, and hear about the security plan for the 2024 Presidential General Election.

Approved by the Board



David A. Naimon
Board President