

Meeting Minutes

Monday, September 16, 2024

MONTGOMERY COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS

Virtual 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 Board Member Attendance:

Amoretta M. (Amie) Hoeber, Secretary

In Person Attendance:

Kevin Karpinski, Board Attorney

In Person Staff Attendance:

Boris Brajkovic, Director

Janet Ross, Acting Deputy Director / IT Manager

Michelle Gonda, Vote by Mail Specialist

Lisa Merino-Dean, Administrative Specialist

Sandra Prudenti, Voter Services Manager

Anna Johnson, Election Aide II

Mindy Williams, Operations Manager

Virtual staff attendance:

Aishah Mills-Pherigo, Election Worker Recruitment Specialist

Laletta Dorsey, Specialist Voter Registration Specialist

A video of the meeting may be found on YouTube at the link below:

[September 16, 2024 Board Meeting](#)

Swearing in of Board of Canvassers (1:28)

Karen Bushell, the Clerk of the Circuit Court in Montgomery County, swore in the Board Members who attended the meeting in-person. Ms. Keyna Anyiam was sworn in prior to the Board meeting while Ms. Amie Hoeber will be sworn in prior to the start of the 2024 Presidential General Election Canvass on October 15, 2024.

Convene as the Board of Canvassers (5:00)

Mr. Naimon declared a quorum present.

Mr. Brajkovic presented forty (40) untimely mail-in ballots for the 2024 Presidential Primary election (31 domestic mail-in ballots and 9 UOCAVA mail-in ballots). Ms. Dillon moved to reject the untimely mail-in ballots. The motion was seconded by Ms. Delao and approved unanimously.

Mr. Naimon adjourned the Board of Canvassers meeting at 1:41pm and convened the Board Meeting.

Board President's Remarks (07:30)

Mr. Naimon stated that he is horrified to hear about the assassination attempt on former President Trump at his Florida golf course over the weekend. He is happy to hear that he is okay.

He thanked and expressed appreciation to Mr. Brajkovic and the staff for all their work in the last two months, and for completing a variety of tasks including numerous outreach events, reviewing petition signatures for the county referendum concerning term limits for the county executive, reviewing petition signatures for an independent Presidential candidate and for the Green party, sending emails to those who signed up for mail-in ballots to confirm that they wanted to remain on the permanent mail-in ballot list, and to confirm that they wanted print-at-home ballots for those who made that decision.

He thanked Mr. Brajkovic and Ms. Hoeber as well as the Voter Services staff for an excellent Zoom meeting on September 10th with the United States Postal Service Postmasters from Montgomery County. He and the staff met with about 45 people from the Postal Service and had a very good discussion about the election process, including the need for legible, unambiguous official postmarks.

Mr. Naimon thanked his colleagues for working with him on the mail-in ballot canvass schedule. He also announced that canvassing of the mail-in ballots for the 2024 Presidential General Election will begin on October 15th at 10:00 a.m. at the Montgomery College, Germantown, Bioscience Education Center.

Additions/Changes to the Agenda (11:19)

There were no changes or additions to the agenda.

Disclosure of Campaign Contributions/Attendance at Fundraisers (11:31)

Mr. Naimon reported that later today he was giving a nonpartisan presentation at a political fundraiser for Delegate Bonnie Cullison about the options for voter registration, voting, serving as an election judge, and information about counting the ballots.

Election Director Report (14:35)

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

In his report, Mr. Brajkovic presented an overview of the workload and tasks for each of the BOE Sections, the County's new hiring and onboarding platform, budget expenditure tracking, and voter communication. He also announced that the State Board of Elections approved the Montgomery County Board of Elections Bylaws. He added that staff worked with the County's Department of Technology and Enterprise Business Solutions (TEBS) to send emails to every registered voter who shared their email, notifying them about their status on the permanent vote-by-mail list, encouraging voters to review and update their voter registration, or request a mail-in ballot if they prefer that voting option.

He reported that mail-in ballot drop box delivery begins tomorrow, September 17, 2024.

Mr. Brajkovic stated that 6,702 prospective volunteers indicated that they are available to serve as election workers in the General Election, including 1,421 prospective volunteers who renewed or completed an application since the Primary Election. 880 volunteers have completed in-person training by September 11, 2024, and 1,978 volunteers have signed up to attend in-person training from September 12th through October 5th.

Ms. Dillon inquired about where the limited number of Republicans available are placed to serve as election workers. Mr. Brajkovic explained the targeted outreach efforts and added that the messaging has always been to sign up early to serve either in your home precinct or nearby precincts.

Mr. Naimon inquired if other jurisdictions sent an email notification to voters. Mr. Brajkovic responded that he is not aware of any other jurisdiction emailing notifications to voters.

Presentation: Preparations for the 2024 General Elections (46:13)

Mr. Brajkovic delivered a presentation on Preparations for the 2024 Presidential General Election. The full presentation can be found [here](#).

The presentation included information about the key dates, voter registration monthly statics, ballot drop box locations, Early Voting locations, polling place locations, no-electioneering zones, canvass dates, and links to the BOE website where additional information is available.

Mr. Brajkovic explained that the polling place assessment program will be conducted by the League of Women Voters (LOWV) which is a longstanding program in Montgomery County. The assessment will include visits to polling places by LOWV's volunteers, completing of a questionnaire that's approved by the State Elections Administrator, and reporting back to the BOE any issues that need immediate attention on Election Day. Mr. Naimon added that there also will be different observers at the polling places, some of whom are poll-watchers designated by political parties or campaigns.

Anna Cork requested to address the Board regarding campaign signs at polling places. Ms. Cork inquired about the timing for placing signs before early voting and if signs can stay overnight during early voting. Mr. Naimon responded that under State law, the campaign signs may be placed starting at 5 PM on the day before either early voting or Election Day and signs are allowed to remain in place overnight during early voting. Signs are not allowed after noon on the day after the early voting ends and therefore campaign signs are not allowed to be kept until Election Day.

Sarah Brown requested to address the Board. Ms. Brown complemented the information dissemination to election workers. She added that she would have enjoyed being a Chief Judge this election, however, due to the time commitment she was not able to. Ms. Brown suggested that the Board consider offering Chief Judge informational training during the off year.

Mr. Sheldon Fishman requested to address the Board. Mr. Fishman thanked the Board for making it so easy to register and vote, and for the transparency of the ballot counting process. He congratulated the Board on the introduced enhancements, stating that it was built on a strong base and it increases the trust in the election process.

Public Comments (1:42:08)

Mr. Fletcher requested to address the Board. He stated that at the June Board meeting he expressed concern that non-citizens may be voting in the upcoming Federal election as non-citizens will be applying for social benefits and driver's licenses at Maryland agencies that are also intake points for voter registration. Mr. Fletcher's comments can be found [here](#).

Mr. Naimon thanked Mr. Fletcher for his comments and inquired if he has specific data related to his concerns about what might happen relating to non-citizens. Mr. Fletcher reiterated that these were his concerns that it could happen, but he did not have any data to present. Mr. Naimon pointed out that an

increased volume of inquiries to Social Security is to be expected in election years like 2024, and that the number of non-matches also may be caused by mistakes.

Mr. Naimon expressed concern that Mr. Fletcher's statement about the Board's reaction at the June meeting could be misinterpreted. Mr. Naimon distinguished between Board members' statements about what state law requires and whether Board members agree or disagree with that law. He said he knew that at least Ms. Dillon disagrees with that law, but he hadn't expressed an opinion and he didn't believe that other Board members (other than Ms. Dillon) had expressed an opinion at the June meeting about whether the signing of an application under penalty of perjury was sufficient as a matter of policy. Mr. Naimon added that it is sufficient as a matter of law, as stated by the Board attorney at the June meeting.

Mr. Koroma spoke about his experience as an immigrant and encouraged those who are non-U.S. citizens not to register to vote as they are not eligible.

Ms. Dillon added that she agrees that US citizenship should be valued and agreed with Mr. Koroma's statement.

Mr. Brajkovic added that if one applies to register to vote and their provided information does not verify, they are not registered to vote.

Board Attorney Report (2:05:03)

Mr. Karpinski reported that there are two ongoing cases pending appeal. The Gibson case related to the 2020 election and another companion case that related to the 2022 election. Both are pending in the United States Court of Appeals for the 4th Circuit. Normally the Board can discard materials from previous elections 22 months after the election occurred. However, the Attorney General's office has put a litigation hold on the materials related to 2020 and 2022 elections. Therefore, the BOE is in a holding pattern until the 4th Circuit makes a ruling. When the 4th Circuit makes a ruling, there will be a 90-day period to file a petition to the Supreme Court for a writ of certiorari. So the BOE will hold the materials for an extended period.

Mr. Karpinski stated that the Board received materials regarding COMAR changes made by the State Board of Elections, one of which involves the definition of sociological information. Mr. Karpinski added that the COMAR changes that were approved in August simply bring the State Board of Elections' procedures for allowing the distribution of personal identifying information into conformity with what's permitted under the Maryland Public Information Act. The question that the Board may get is how that affects voter registration lists for which campaigns and candidates ask and the response would be that it does not affect that process at all, as it does not fall under the Maryland Public information Act.

Old Business (2:08:15)

There was no old business to discuss.

Website Report (2:08:55)

Mr. Brajkovic reported on the website usage in July and August. The data can be found [here](#).

Outreach Update (2:10:52)

Dr. Zelaya informed the Board on upcoming Outreach events. The full outreach calendar for the months of August, September and October can be found [here](#).

Dr. Zelaya shared information about languages spoken in Montgomery County, as per data received from the U.S. Census Bureau.

Mr. Naimon requested that Dr. Zelaya share the document with the Board.

Dr. Zelaya reported that tomorrow is National Voter Registration Day. The Outreach Team will be encouraging the public to register to vote or update their voter registration, and the Team will answer questions about mail-in voting if voters have a desire to request a mail-in ballot.

New Business (2:32:03)

Mr. Naimon asked for a motion to authorize the Election Director and Acting Deputy Election Director/IT Manager to sign off on the scanning reports for the 2024 Presidential General Election. The motion was moved by Ms. Dillon and seconded by Mr. Koroma. The motion passed unanimously.

Future Action Items (2:34:08)

- Dr. Zelaya will provide an electronic version of the language statistics to the Board.

Approval of the Minutes (2:34:53)

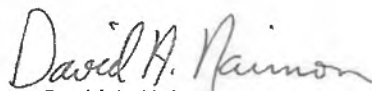
Mr. Koroma moved to approve the July 15, 2024, minutes as amended. The motion was seconded by Ms. Dillon and passed unanimously.

Future Meetings (2:35:24)

- 2024 Presidential General Canvassing of Vote by Mail ballots - October 15, 2024, at 10:00 am at Montgomery College-Germantown.

Mr. Naimon adjourned the meeting, and the Board entered executive session.

Approved by the Board



David A. Naimon
Board President