

## **Meeting Minutes**

**Monday, March 17, 2025**

### **MONTGOMERY COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS/BOARD OF CANVASSERS**

#### **In-Person Attendance Board Members:**

David A. Naimon, President

Daniel A. Koroma, Vice President

Amoretta (Amie) M. Hoeber, Secretary

Keyna I. Anyiam, Board Member

Diane Nash Dillon, Board Member

Margie C. Delao, Substitute Member

Alexander C. Vincent, Substitute Member

#### **Virtual Attendance Board Attorney:**

Kevin Karpinski

#### **In-Person Staff Attendance:**

Boris Brajkovic, Director

Laletta Dorsey, Voter Registration Specialist

Michelle Gonda, Vote By Mail Program Manager

Lisa Merino-Dean, Administrative Specialist

Aishah Mills-Pherigo, Acting Recruitment Manager

Sandra Prudenti, Voter Services Manager

Janet Ross, IT/Training Manager

#### **In-Person Guest Attendance:**

Josh Daniels

Caleb Hays

Ryan Kirby

Walter Olson

Michelle Whittaker

A video of the meeting may be found on YouTube at the link [March 17, 2025 Board Meeting](#)

#### **Convene Board of Canvassers Meeting**

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

Mr. Brajkovic presented five untimely mail-in ballots from the 2024 Presidential General Election that were received at the Board of Elections after the mandated deadline of 10:00 A.M. on November 15, 2024.

- Three ballots sent from within the United States were postmarked after Election Day and arrived untimely.
- One ballot sent from outside of the United States was postmarked after Election Day and arrived untimely.
- One ballot sent from outside of the United States was postmarked on or before Election Day but arrived untimely.

Ms. Hoeber moved to reject the 5 untimely mail-in ballots. The motion was seconded by Ms. Dillon and passed unanimously.

Mr. Naimon adjourned the meeting of the Board of Canvassers.

### **Convene Board of Elections Meeting**

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

### **President's Remarks (5:00)**

Mr. Naimon congratulated Ms. Delao on her recent engagement, birthday, and acceptance into several graduate school programs. Mr. Naimon also congratulated Board Attorney Kevin Karpinski on his recent induction as a fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers. Mr. Naimon reported that on March 10, 2025, he, Mr. Koroma, and Ms. Hoeber attended a meeting organized by the Maryland Association of Election Officials (MAEO) with members of other local boards of elections across the state of Maryland. Mr. Naimon noted that it was interesting to see how each jurisdiction carries out its Board meetings as well as how they handle public comment.

### **Additions/Changes to the Agenda (7:15)**

There were no additions or changes to the agenda.

### **Disclosure of Campaign Contributions and Fundraiser Attendance (7:20)**

No disclosures were made.

### **Election Director's Report (25:24)**

The Election Director's Report can be found [here](#).

Mr. Brajkovic indicated that the information requested from the previous meeting's action items can be found in his Director's Report. Mr. Brajkovic reported that the Working Class Party filed a petition with the State Board of Elections to become a recognized political party within the state of Maryland. The petition was successful, following the verification by local boards of elections across the state of Maryland of more than 10,000 signatures collected by the petition. The Working Class Party is once again a recognized political party in Maryland.

Mr. Brajkovic reported that a vacancy advertisement had been posted for the Nursing Homes and Vote by Mail Canvassing Specialist positions with an anticipated hiring date of mid to late April. The vacancy advertisement for the Recruitment, Training, and Outreach Manager position will be posted by the end of this month.

Mr. Brajkovic reported that the anticipated costs of the new voting system may increase between 20 and 50 percent based on the new standards introduced by the U.S. Election Assistance Commission. The State Board of Elections is still in the early stages of procurement and more information regarding the costs of the new voting system and the voting system itself will be provided to the Board once it has been received. Mr. Vincent asked if the new voting system was referring to the electronic pollbooks. Mr. Brajkovic responded that in this instance the voting system is referring to the ballot marking devices (BMDs) and the scanners. Mr. Brajkovic added that replacement of the legacy pollbooks is also scheduled and that State Administrator of Elections Jared DeMarinis had announced that the goal is to have procurement, integration, and testing of the new Pollbooks completed ahead of the 2028 election cycle.

Mr. Brajkovic updated the Board that since the beginning of candidate filing for the 2026 Gubernatorial Primary Election on February 25, 2025, six candidates who will appear on the Montgomery County ballots in the 2026 primary election have filed at our office and an additional seven have filed with the State. Candidate Filing will remain open through February 24, 2026, and more information on how to file can be found on the Board of Elections website at [777vote.org](http://777vote.org) or at the State Board of Elections website [Elections.Maryland.gov](http://Elections.Maryland.gov).

#### **2024 Presidential General Election Manual Audit Report**

Manual Audit Documentation can be found [here](#).

Mr. Brajkovic reported that the manual audit confirmed the accuracy of the voting system results.

#### **Board Attorney's Report**

Mr. Karpinski reported that an opinion has been issued in the case of *Sullivan et al v. Summers et al*. The United States District Court for the District of Maryland found that the Maryland Code of Regulations (COMAR) regulation regarding the use of voter registration information violated the National Voter Registration Act. Mr. Brajkovic added that the State Board of Elections had already sent updated forms in accordance with the ruling.

Mr. Karpinski also reported that he is working with Mr. Brajkovic and Ms. Williams on various memoranda of understanding (MOUs) for Early Voting centers, Election Day polling places, and Drop Boxes.

#### **2025 General Assembly Session – Overview of the Introduced Election-Related Bills**

The legislation tracking for election-related bills as of March 4, 2025, can be found [here](#).

Mr. Naimon reported that both the House Bill and Senate Bill on moving the Gubernatorial Primary Election Date have passed their original chambers and are moving to the opposite chamber. Mr. Naimon also reported that the House and Senate Bills on Nonpartisan Board of Education Contests and Provisional Ballots have also both passed their original chambers and have crossed over into the opposite chambers.

#### **Ranked Choice Voting Discussion (37:10)**

The Board welcomed guests and subject matter experts Josh Daniels, Caleb Hays, Ryan Kirby, Walter Olson, and Michelle Whittaker for a discussion of Ranked Choice Voting. The full discussion can be found [here](#).

#### **Public Comments (3:02:33)**

Public Comment documentation can be found [here](#).

Mr. Michael Fletcher questioned the need for Ranked Choice Voting given the financial burdens it could have on Montgomery County as well as uncertainties regarding the completion of post-election audits. Mr. Fletcher also quoted a New York State NAACP leader who said that Ranked Choice Voting may disenfranchise minority voters and quoted an MIT Election Lab study that indicated that Ranked Choice Voting negatively impacts voters' experiences during the voting process and increases the time it takes to receive election results. Finally, Mr. Fletcher asked the Board and Mr. Brajkovic if they had a response from the State Board of Elections regarding the use of obituaries to confirm the death of a registered voter. Mr. Brajkovic responded that he is still waiting on an answer from the State and will be sure to inform Mr. Fletcher of their answer once it is available.

Mr. Sheldon Fishman recognized the speakers from the earlier conversation on Ranked Choice voting and agreed with several of them that there are a great number of benefits that Ranked Choice voting can provide voters. Mr. Fishman added that he had run the 2018 Montgomery County Green Democrats endorsement selection using Ranked Choice voting, and everyone involved, including the losing candidates, had an enjoyable experience with the voting process.

#### **Website Update**

Mr. Brajkovic informed the Board that the Board of Elections' website usage has returned to expected non-election year volume following the 2024 Election Cycle. Mr. Brajkovic explained that the high volume of page views of the Election Inclement Weather Policy was due to inclement weather in the county and that they were likely looking for the main county website or inclement weather updates from MCPS. Website Statistics can be found [here](#).

#### **Outreach Update**

Staff is currently scheduling High School outreach events and other community events and attendance for the spring of 2025 through the end of the school year. Additionally, Dr. Zelaya and staff are working with local organizations who indicate that they would like the Board of Elections to be a part of their events. Mr. Naimon added that on March 20, 2025, he alongside Mr. Brajkovic, Ms. Prudenti, Ms. Mills-Pherigo, and Ms. Gonda, will be speaking at an event for Montgomery Women, a nonpartisan community organization. The list of outreach events for March 2025 through April 2025 can be found [here](#).

#### **Future Action Items**

- Board staff will continue conversations about the duplication process with Mr. Daniels.

#### **Approval of Minutes**

Ms. Hoeber moved to approve the minutes from the Board Meeting on February 3, 2025, as amended. The motion was seconded by Ms. Dillon and passed unanimously.

#### **Future Meetings**

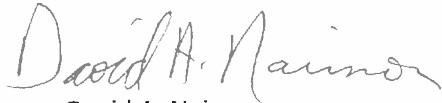
All meetings begin at 3:00 P.M. unless otherwise indicated. Dates are subject to change.

- April 21, 2025
- May 19, 2025
- June 16, 2025
- August 4, 2025
- September 15, 2025
- October 20, 2025
- November 17, 2025
- December 15, 2025

**Adjournment**

Mr. Naimon adjourned the Board Meeting at 6:24 P.M.

Approved by the Board,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "David A. Naimon". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

David A. Naimon  
Board President

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