

Meeting Minutes

Monday, April 21, 2025

MONTGOMERY COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS

Virtual Attendance Board Members:

David A. Naimon, President

Daniel A. Koroma, Vice President

Amoretta (Amie) M. Hoeber, Secretary

Keyna I. Anyiam, Board Member

Alexander C. Vincent, Board Member

Margie C. Delao, Substitute Member

Virtual Attendance Board Attorney:

Kevin Karpinski

In-Person Staff Attendance:

Boris Brajkovic, Director

Deborah Hamer, Election Judge Recruiter

Lisa Merino-Dean, Administrative Specialist

Aishah Mills-Pherigo, Election Worker Recruitment Coordinator

Sandra Prudenti, Voter Services Manager

Mindy Williams, Operations Manager

Gilberto Zelaya, Outreach Coordinator/Public Information Officer

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

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ho1_2Htrgig

Convene Board of Elections

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

President's Remarks (1:35)

Mr. Naimon began by expressing his condolences regarding the death of Pope Francis, the leader of the Catholic Church.

Mr. Naimon informed the Board that he, alongside Mrs. Hoeber, Mr. Brajkovic and Ms. Merino-Dean, attended a meeting of the County Council's Government Operations Committee to discuss the Fiscal Year 2026 budget. Committee Chair and Council President

Kate Stewart and Council Members Sydney Katz and Andrew Friedson thanked the Board and staff for their bipartisan approach and asked for clarifying information regarding the high volume of provisional ballots from the 2024 Presidential General Election, as well as information regarding the Election Resource Management System. The Government Operations Committee unanimously recommended approval of the Board of Elections' FY26 budget to the full County Council.

Mr. Naimon noted that during the 2025 Maryland General Assembly legislative session, a bill was passed through both chambers requiring each local board of elections to livestream their Board Meetings, but it will not change how we operate because we already do everything the bill requires and more. Mr. Naimon thanked everyone who has been involved over the past 10 years at the Montgomery County Board of Elections for the leadership role we have played in the process of increasing transparency by live streaming Board meetings (including posting the audio since 2014 and the video since 2021), Canvass sessions, and the post-election Manual Audit; posting meeting agendas and recordings of previous meetings, and posting agendas and meeting documents on the Board of Elections website ahead of Board meetings.

Mr. Naimon honored former Board Member Diane Nash Dillon, who resigned from the Montgomery County Board of Elections effective March 30, 2025. Each of the Board Members and Board Attorney Kevin Karpinski offered kind words regarding their service with Ms. Dillon. Mr. Brajkovic presented Ms. Dillon with a certificate of recognition and appreciation from the County Executive Marc Elrich. Ms. Dillon expressed gratitude to the Board Members, Staff, and Election Workers and added that she appreciates the friendships that her position has provided her and is looking forward to continuing those friendships for a long time to come.

Additions/Changes to the Agenda (23:30)

There were no additions or changes to the agenda.

Disclosure of Campaign Contributions and Fundraiser Attendance (23:40)

No disclosures were made.

Public Comments (23:55)

No public comments were submitted.

Election Director's Report (24:35 and 1:05:00)

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

Mr. Brajkovic informed the Board that the State Board of Elections would be considering an updated version of the Obituary Policy and other COMAR policy updates at the upcoming April 29, 2025, State Board meeting. Mr. Brajkovic updated the Board that staff is currently interviewing for the Nursing Home and Mail-In Ballot Canvassing specialist positions, with onboarding of the selected candidate expected by the end of May. Additionally, the Recruitment, Training, and Outreach Manager position has been advertised and onboarding of the successful candidate is expected to be completed by the end of June.

Mr. Brajkovic noted that the Budget Expenditure Report that was shared with the Board includes last month's spending and the up-to-date spending for the fiscal year. Mr. Brajkovic added that it is projected that the Board of Elections will close out fiscal year 2025 with a surplus, although we're still waiting for the third and fourth quarter billings from the State Board of Elections, which may affect that.

Mr. Brajkovic noted that a review of the usage of texting options versus the usage of the MoCo Votes App shows that texting options are heavily favored among voters and users. Texting options provide a more direct route to information that voters are searching for, without the time needed to download, update, and navigate the MoCo Votes App. Additionally, the Board of Elections will expand to the new social media platform, BlueSky. Mr. Brajkovic informed the Board that, based on these findings, it has been decided to discontinue use of the MoCo Votes App to focus resources on other avenues and platforms that are more recognized and used more frequently by voters.

Mr. Brajkovic reported that in preparation for the 2025 municipal elections, the Board of Elections has been working with municipalities to provide them with voter registration lists and precinct registers upon their request. Additionally, Mr. Brajkovic noted that staff are working on expanding work with Adult Day Care Centers and Assisted Living Programs to better serve these communities through voter registration and requesting mail-in ballots.

Mr. Brajkovic also reminded Board Members that the biennial meeting and conference of the Maryland Association of Election Officials (MAEO) will be held May 4-9, 2025, in Ocean City, Maryland.

2025 Election Law Legislation Discussion with Senator Cheryl Kagan and Delegate Jheanelle Wilkins (31:30)

Senator Cheryl Kagan, Vice Chair of the Senate Education, Energy and the Environment Committee, spoke regarding the 11 election law bills she sponsored during the 2025

Maryland General Assembly legislative session. Senator Kagan summarized the pieces of election legislation she sponsored, including, but not limited to, legislation on the changing of the Gubernatorial Primary Election date, municipal election administration and procurement, transparency of meetings and meeting documents of local boards of elections, provisional ballots and nonpartisan contests, scam PACs, and Election Judge Compensation. Senator Kagan also commented on pieces of election legislation from the 2025 session that were not passed by both chambers. Additionally, Senator Kagan noted that two years ago at the National Conference of State Legislatures she introduced a resolution regarding the importance of the States' involvement in the Electronic Registration Information Center (ERIC) and plans to bring it up again. Mr. Naimon agreed about the importance of ERIC and suggested continued conversations on this topic.

Delegate Jheanelle Wilkins, Vice Chair of the House Ways and Means Committee and Chair of its Elections Subcommittee, discussed several pieces of legislation that she had sponsored during the 2025 Maryland General Assembly Legislative Session. Delegate Wilkins first thanked the Montgomery County Board of Elections for their policy ideas and engagement with legislators during the 2025 legislative session. Delegate Wilkins summarized legislation, including the Gubernatorial Primary Election date being moved to the fourth Tuesday in June, the newly created language assistance program, and risk-limiting audits. Delegate Wilkins also highlighted pieces of legislation that did not pass through both chambers during this session, while noting that interest in these topics remains high.

Mr. Koroma asked about any potential budgetary implications for the bills passed during the 2025 legislative session and whether there will be any impact on the budget that has already been presented to the County Council. Mr. Brajkovic responded that in regards to several of the bills passed, including the language assistance program and open board meetings bills, many of their components are actions we are already taking. This includes livestreaming meetings, posting board meeting documents, and sample ballot translations in several languages. Mr. Brajkovic noted that specific details regarding budgetary implications will be available once the State Board of Elections has determined the number of eligible voters in each language group that meet the criteria for the language assistance program. Once the list of these languages has been provided to the Board, there will be a better estimate of the budgetary implications of these bills.

Board Attorney's Report (1:08:05)

Mr. Karpinski updated the Board on the pending lawsuits regarding the election results of the 2020 and 2022 elections. Both cases have gone through the United States Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit and their decisions in each of the cases have affirmed the United States

District Court for the District of Maryland's opinion that both plaintiffs lack standing to bring their cases. A motion for reconsideration was filed and denied in the Gibson (2020) case. The deadline to file a petition for writ of certiorari is May 5, 2025, in the Maryland Election Integrity case relating to 2022 and May 16, 2025, for the Gibson case relating to 2020. Mr. Karpinski expects to hear shortly after these dates if materials from the 2020 and 2022 elections that have been on a litigation hold can be shredded.

Old Business (1:10:20)

Old business on the 2025 Maryland General Assembly legislative session was discussed during the panel discussion with Senator Cheryl Kagan and Delegate Jheanelle Wilkins earlier in the meeting. No other old business was discussed.

Website Update (1:10:40)

Mr. Brajkovic informed the Board that the Board of Elections' website usage demonstrated a usage pattern typical of a non-election year following the 2024 Election Cycle. Website statistics can be found [here](#).

Outreach Update (1:13:10)

Dr. Zelaya informed the Board that the staff is currently scheduling various outreach events, including community festivals, high school visits and other community events through the summer and fall of 2025. The next large event that Dr. Zelaya and staff are preparing for is National Voter Registration Day on Tuesday, September 16, 2025. Dr. Zelaya and the Board of Elections staff will be working together with the Montgomery County Public Libraries for the use of their spaces all across the County for this full-day event. The list of outreach events for April through May 2025 can be found [here](#).

Drop Boxes locations for the 2026 Election Cycle – Staff Proposal and Board Action (1:18:40)

The presentation of the Drop Box Locations for the 2026 Election Cycle can be found [here](#).

In the opening statement, Mr. Brajkovic indicated that per SB 259 from the 2025 General Assembly session, local boards of elections are required to submit a comprehensive election plan to the State Board of Elections for approval. The election plan will consist of the drop box locations, polling places, and early voting centers approved by the local Board of Elections. He emphasized that, if approved by the Board, the presented list of locations of drop boxes for the 2026 election cycle will constitute the first part of the holistic election plan for the 2026 gubernatorial election cycle.

Ms. Williams noted that the staff's proposal for the 2026 election cycle represents continuity of service, while preparing for the increased public acceptance of mail-in voting and planning for accommodating the maximum utilization of any voting option throughout the county. The staff proposal, as presented by Ms. Williams, includes deploying 58 Drop Boxes at the same locations used during the 2024 Election Cycle. Mr. Naimon asked if there was data on the percentage of Montgomery County voters living within a certain distance of a drop box. Ms. Williams responded that approximately 92 percent of Montgomery County Voters live within a 2-mile radius of a proposed Drop Box location. Mr. Naimon added that all early voting sites and all MCPS high schools, except Northwood HS, which is under construction, have drop boxes at their locations and, in the case of Northwood HS, there is a drop box around the corner at Forest Knolls ES. Mr. Vincent asked if the staff would share the Excel sheet as seen on Slide 5 of the presentation.

Mr. Koroma moved to approve the list of 58 drop box locations for the 2026 Election Cycle to be sent to the State Board of Elections for final approval. The motion was seconded by Ms. Anyiam and passed unanimously.

Mr. Naimon informed the Board and all meeting attendees that the Election Day polling places proposal will be presented at the May Board Meeting and the early voting sites proposal will be presented at the June Board Meeting.

Future Action Items (1:33:10)

The Excel sheet used in the Drop Box proposal presentation will be shared with all Board Members.

Approval of Minutes (1:33:10)

Mr. Vincent moved to approve the minutes from the Board Meeting on December 16, 2024, as amended. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Hoeber and passed unanimously.

Future Meetings (1:33:50)

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

- Monday, May 19, 2025
- Monday, June 16, 2025
- Monday, August 4, 2025
- Monday, September 15, 2025
- Monday, October 20, 2025

Adjournment (1:37:55)

Mr. Delao moved for the Board to adjourn the public meeting and move into a closed Executive Session to discuss a personnel matter. The motion was seconded by Mr. Vincent and passed unanimously. The public Board Meeting was adjourned at 4:40 p.m.

Report on Executive Session

The Montgomery County Board of Elections moved into an executive session at 4:45 p.m., pursuant to §3-305(b)(2), General Provisions Article, to discuss a personnel matter. The Executive Session ended at 5:29 p.m.

Approved by the Board,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "David A. Naimon". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

David A. Naimon
Board President

