

MEETING MINUTES

MONDAY, MAY 19, 2025

MONTGOMERY COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS/BOARD OF CANVASSERS

In-Person Attendance Board Members:

David A. Naimon, President

Alexander Vincent, Board Member

Margie C. Delao, Substitute Member

Lawrence Halloran, Substitute Member

Virtual Attendance Board Members:

Daniel A. Koroma, Vice President

Amoretta (Amie) M. Hoeber, Secretary

Keyna I. Anyiam, Board Member

In-Person Attendance Board Attorney:

Kevin Karpinski

In-Person Staff Attendance:

Boris Brajkovic, Director

Julia Douglass, Lead Trainer

Michelle Gonda, Vote By Mail Program Manager

Lisa Merino-Dean, Administrative Specialist

Aishah Mills-Pherigo, Election Worker Recruitment Coordinator

Sandra Prudenti, Voter Services Manager

Janet Ross, IT/Training Manager

Mindy Williams, Operations Manager

Gilberto Zelaya, Outreach Coordinator/Public Information Officer

In-Person Guest Attendance:

Curtis Antonucci

Anita Cox

Mary Elcano

Ann Hingston

Lorraine Jaffe

Dennis Melby

Brigitta Mullican

Reardon Sullivan

Amy Waychoff

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

<https://youtu.be/BFhj8ehLe9s?si=O9bQumzdrGnKH1js>

Swearing-In of New Substitute Member of the Board of Elections (1:50)

Lawrence Halloran was nominated by the Montgomery County Republican Central Committee and appointed by Governor Wes Moore to fill the vacancy of the minority party Substitute Board Member of the Montgomery County Board of Elections. The Clerk of the Court, Karen Bushell, administered the oath of office.

Mr. Halloran and other Board Members' comments can be found here.

- (5:06) Lawrence Halloran
- (8:11) David A. Naimon
- (11:38) Amoretta (Amie) M. Hoeber
- (13:50) Daniel A. Koroma
- (14:21) Alexander Vincent
- (15:09) Margie Delao
- (15:33) Keyna I. Anyiam

Convene Board of Canvassers Meeting (17:56)

Mr. Naimon called the meeting of the Board of Canvassers (which includes the six remaining Board members who were sworn in for the Board of Canvassers for the 2024 general election but does not include Mr. Halloran) to order and declared a quorum present.

Mr. Brajkovic presented four 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.

- Two ballots were sent from within the United States, were postmarked after Election Day (11/5/2024), and arrived untimely.
- Two ballots were sent from within the United States, arrived untimely, and did not have a postmark with date information.

Mr. Vincent moved to reject the four untimely mail-in ballots. The motion was seconded by Ms. Delao and passed unanimously.

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

Convene Board of Elections Meeting (21:08)

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

President's Remarks (21:11)

Mr. Naimon announced that he joined Governor Wes Moore at the Tuesday, May 6, 2025 bill signing ceremony, for the signing into law of two pieces of election legislation from the 2025 Maryland General Assembly that were proposed by our Board of Elections. These pieces of legislation include the change of the Gubernatorial Primary Election date to the fourth Tuesday in June. Mr. Naimon clarified that, as a result of this legislation, the 2026 Gubernatorial Primary Election will take place on Tuesday, June 23, 2026, with Early Voting held from Thursday, June 11 through Thursday, June 18, 2026. Additionally, Governor Moore signed into law legislation that requires local boards to count votes for the Board of Education contests on provisional ballots that would otherwise have been rejected due to the voters' ballot not matching their party affiliation listed in the voter registry. Mr. Naimon congratulated Mr. Koroma for his feature in a chapter of a new book entitled, *African Roots American Dreams*, by author Dehab Ghebreab.

Additions/Changes to the Agenda (23:41)

Kevin Karpinski, Board Attorney, requested that a closed executive session be added to the end of the public meeting.

Disclosure of Campaign Contributions and Fundraiser Attendance (24:42)

No disclosures were made.

Public Comments (24:50)

No public comments were submitted.

Election Director's Report (25:22)

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

Mr. Brajkovic reported that the State Board of Elections adopted two policies at its Board Meeting on April 29, 2025. The first policy pertains to voters who require assistance at polling places. Mr. Brajkovic informed the Board that all required actions are already in place in Montgomery County. The second adopted policy is the updated Obituary Policy, which

clarifies the sources from which obituaries may be obtained to perform Voter Registration List Maintenance.

Mr. Brajkovic informed the Board that hiring processes are underway for the Nursing Homes and Mail-In Ballot Specialist positions, as well as the Outreach, Recruitment, and Training Manager position. Onboarding for the Nursing Homes and Mail-In Ballot Specialist is expected by the end of May 2025. Onboarding for the Outreach, Recruitment, and Training Manager is expected in June 2025.

Mr. Brajkovic noted that the Budget Expenditure Report that was shared with the Board includes last month's spending. Mr. Brajkovic anticipates that the department will be in a surplus at the end of FY25, including the anticipated billings from the State Board of Elections for the third and fourth quarters.

Mr. Brajkovic added that the Voter Services section is working with municipalities that are conducting elections this year by providing them with voter registration lists upon request. A full list of 2025 municipal elections and election dates can be found in the Director's Report available on the website under the meeting documents for this Board Meeting and linked above. Mr. Naimon requested that a communication be sent to all municipalities within Montgomery County, requesting that they send their election results to the State Board of Elections for publishing on the website.

Mr. Vincent asked why the State Board of Elections' final invoice for the third and fourth quarter of FY25 is not expected until after the end of FY25. Mr. Brajkovic responded that the third quarter bill has been paid but was not reflected on the prepared document.

Mr. Halloran asked about the status of the procurement for new Electronic Pollbooks. Mr. Brajkovic responded that the procurement process is underway at the State Board of Elections, and it is anticipated that the process will be completed for the 2028 Election Cycle. The plan is to utilize the Legacy Electronic Pollbooks for the 2026 Election Cycle.

Ms. Delao asked where the surplus of our budget goes at the end of the fiscal year. Mr. Brajkovic responded that the surplus is directed to the Montgomery County General Fund.

Board Attorney's Report (46:20)

Mr. Karpinski updated the Board and Staff on the lawsuits regarding the 2020 and 2022 elections. Both the 2020 and 2022 cases have been decided by the United States Court of Appeals for the 4th Circuit, and no writ of certiorari petitions were filed before the deadline.

The litigation hold on 2020 and 2022 election materials has been lifted and shredding of old materials may commence.

Old Business (47:27)

There was no old business discussed.

Website Update (47:36)

Mr. Brajkovic informed the Board that the Board of Elections' website usage continues to reflect normal usage in a non-election year following the 2024 Election Cycle. Website Statistics can be found [here](#).

Outreach Update (49:13)

Dr. Zelaya informed the Board that the staff continues to participate in High School outreach events through the end of the school year, as well as other community events throughout the summer of 2025. The list of outreach events for May and June 2025 can be found [here](#).

New Business – (51:55)

Discussion of Election Day Polling Place Locations for the 2026 Election Cycle (52:51)

Mr. Brajkovic and Ms. Williams presented the staff proposal of Election Day Polling Place location changes for the 2026 election cycle. The full presentation can be found [here](#).

Mr. Brajkovic indicated that per SB259 from the 2025 General Assembly Legislative Session, local boards of elections are required to submit a comprehensive election plan to the State Board of Elections for approval. This election plan will consist of the proposed drop box locations, Election Day polling places, and early voting centers approved by the local board of elections. Mr. Brajkovic added that if approved by the Board, the presented list of Election Day polling place locations would constitute the second part of the holistic Election Plan for the 2026 Gubernatorial Election Cycle.

Ms. Williams noted that local boards of elections must maintain a list of individuals and organizations to be notified about local board meetings at which proposed changes to the location of polling places will be discussed. A notification was emailed to 275 email addresses on May 5, 2025. Mr. Halloran asked how someone could sign up for this email notification. Mr. Brajkovic responded that there is a link to sign up for the polling place change notification on the Board of Elections' website under the tab entitled 'Board Meeting'. Mr. Naimon requested that all board members be added to the list of emails to receive the polling place change communications.

Ms. Williams proposed a slate of 229 Election Day polling places serving 257 Precincts. This includes 7 polling place changes from the 2024 Election Cycle. These changes are predominantly caused by construction at locations that served as polling places in 2024. The proposed changes are as follows:

1. Precinct 01-07, previously held at Damascus Library & Senior Center, will be consolidated into Laytonsville Elementary School, currently housing precincts 01-01 and 12-06.
2. Precinct 02-06, previously held at Hallie Wells Middle School, will be moved to Snowden Farm Elementary School to be within the assigned precinct.
3. Precinct 02-12, previously held at Snowden Farm Elementary School, will be moved to Hallie Wells Middle School to be within the assigned precinct.
4. Precinct 10-09, previously held at Our Lady of Mercy Catholic School, will be temporarily consolidated into Seven Locks Elementary School, currently housing precinct 10-03, due to construction.
5. Precinct 13-07, previously held at the IMAAM Center, will be moved to Woodlin Elementary School as school construction was completed.
6. Precinct 13-50, previously held at Sligo Creek ES, will be moved to Silver Spring International Middle School, which is located in the same building, to improve accessibility and increase parking.
7. Precinct 13-13, previously held at Highland View Elementary School, will be temporarily consolidated into Silver Spring International Middle School, housing precinct 13-50.

Mr. Naimon stated that this small number of proposed polling place changes is ideal and that he is grateful that legislation changing the Gubernatorial Primary Election date helped minimize the number of polling place changes by avoiding some school construction. Mr. Brajkovic added that all affected registered voters living within the precincts that will have their polling place location changed will receive a new Voter Notification Card issued and mailed to them on colored paper to indicate the change in voting location.

The Board plans to vote on the proposed Election Day polling places for the 2026 Gubernatorial Election Cycle at the June 16, 2025, Board Meeting.

Election Workers' Stipends – Staff Proposal and Board Action (1:35:10)

Mr. Brajkovic presented the proposed stipend amounts for each Election Worker and Election Judge service position. The list of proposed stipend amounts for the 2026 Gubernatorial Election Cycle can be found [here](#).

The proposal includes one change compared to the 2024 election cycle in the stipend amount for the Nursing Home volunteers. The proposed stipend amount for Nursing Home volunteers is raised to equal the stipend amounts for Canvass volunteers. The proposed stipend amounts for all other positions remain the same from the 2024 Presidential Election Cycle.

Mr. Vincent moved to approve the list of stipend amounts for Election Workers and Election Judges, including one change, for the 2026 Gubernatorial Election Cycle. The motion was seconded by Mr. Halloran and passed unanimously.

Proposal on the Creation of a Subcommittee on Web Delivered Ballots (1:38:35)

Ms. Anyiam proposed to the Board the creation of a subcommittee focusing on voter outreach regarding the process by which voters can obtain and return web-delivered ballots. Ms. Anyiam added that, given the difficulties and misunderstandings regarding the full process of the use of web-delivered ballots, it would be valuable to look at the ways the Board can help educate voters more fully on how to complete the full voting process with a web-delivered ballot.

Mr. Naimon agreed that this subcommittee is a valuable idea, and the creation of the subcommittee can help further the goals of the Board regarding educating voters on web-delivered ballots. Mr. Naimon appointed Ms. Anyiam and Mr. Halloran to serve on the Board subcommittee on web-delivered ballots. Mr. Naimon requested that the subcommittee present its report and suggestions at the August 4, 2025, Board Meeting.

Future Action Items (1:54:54)

- Staff will send a notification to the municipalities holding elections in 2025, reminding them to communicate to the State Board of Elections the 2025 election results.
- Instructions for signing up to receive notifications regarding Board meetings where polling place changes will be discussed will be posted on the main page of the Board of Elections website, 777Vote.org.
- All Board Members will be added to the notification distribution list for polling place change meetings.

Approval of Minutes (1:56:00)

Mrs. Hoeber moved to approve the minutes from the Board Meeting on April 21, 2025, as amended. The motion was seconded by Ms. Delao and passed unanimously.

Future Meetings (1:57:10)

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

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

Adjournment (1:58:32)

Ms. Anyiam moved to adjourn the public meeting of the Board of Elections and move into an executive session to discuss a matter with the Board Attorney. The motion was seconded by Mr. Vincent and passed unanimously. The public meeting of the Board of Elections was adjourned at 5:06 P.M.

Report on Executive Session

The Montgomery County Board of Elections moved into an executive session at 5:06 P.M., pursuant to §3-305(b)(2), General Provisions Article, to obtain legal advice.

The Executive Session was adjourned at 6:02 P.M.

Approved by the Board,

Board President's signature appears on the original document

David A. Naimon

Board President

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