



**Board of Elections
Staff Points of Contact**

- Kaye Robucci, Director
240-313-2053
kaye.robucci@maryland.gov
- Barry Jackson, Deputy Director
240-313-2054
barry.jackson@maryland.gov
- Teresa Morningstar, Supervisor & Absentee Voting
240-313-2052
teresa.morningstar1@maryland.gov
- Tammi Derr, Election Judge Coordinator & Voter Registration
240-313-2058
tamara.derr@maryland.gov
- Cory Green, Election Program Assistant
240-313-2055
tamara.derr@maryland.gov
- Carl Dayley, Election Program IT Specialist
240-313-2097
carl.dayley@maryland.gov

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Election Judge News

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July 14, 2021

What's Happening?

Happy July everyone! The Board of Elections has been pretty busy in an "off" election year. Here are some of the things we've been working on this summer:

- **Office Move**—we continue to put the finishing touches on the new place on Virginia Avenue. We will be installing new work tables and shelving in the warehouse work area, where all of our voting equipment will be staged. Also, a new HVAC system will be installed in the Early Voting/Training Room over the summer. Once all these things are completed, we will have an open house. We'll keep you posted!
- **Early Voting**—because of new state requirements, we will be required to have at least two, probably three Early Voting Centers in 2022. We are assuming we need three, so we are actively determining the best locations for the additional sites and identifying possible venues.
- **New Pollbooks**—will we actually have new pollbooks in the 2022 election? Dare we dream of such a thing? After years of trying to replace our current pollbooks, the State Board of Elections (SBE) is going through the procurement process. It's all a big mys-

tery, but we believe the new pollbooks will be similar to tablets, like an iPad. Once the selection is made, we will begin the testing and preparation for the 2022 election.

- **2020 Census and Redistricting**—ordinarily, we would have the decennial census information by now and would know how it will affect legislative districts, but COVID-19 delayed the release of the information until September. The Census data may affect the geographical boundaries of legislative districts and precincts.

2022 Election

Looking ahead to the 2022 gubernatorial Election, here are some of the changes and where you can get involved in 2022:

- **Polling Places**—all 49 polling places will be back in 2022! If you are a veteran election worker who worked in 2018 or earlier, you will have the opportunity to work at your previous polling place. For those of you who were new in 2020, you haven't worked in a traditional polling place yet! So we will place you in the closest possible polling place to your home.
- **Early Voting**—because of the requirement for more Early Voting Centers, this means more opportunity

for election workers to work Early Voting. This is a great way to get some real time practice between training and Election Day.

- **Mail-In Ballots**—for at least the next two elections, every registered voter will receive a Mail-In Ballot application in the mail prior to each election. Also, voters have the option to be placed on a permanent absentee list, so that they will automatically receive a Mail-In Ballot every election. This means that Mail-In Ballots will continue to be a large part of each election. We are lobbying the General Assembly to allow us to open and count Mail-In Ballots as we get them in, in order to stay on top of the quantity we will be receiving. This is where you come in, because we will need help processing these ballots.
- **Drop Boxes**—Mail-In Ballot Drop Boxes are here to stay. We will have at least four drop boxes throughout the county, and they will need to be emptied two to three times a day, seven days a week, leading up to Election Day. We could use your help with this process as well. Not only do you get paid for your time, but we pay your mileage expenses as well!

Stay tuned for how to get involved in these and other opportunities.



Washington County, MD
BOARD OF ELECTIONS

17718 Virginia Avenue
Hagerstown, MD 21740

Phone: 240-313-2050
Fax: 240-313-2062
Email:
washco.elections@maryland.gov

www.washco-
mdelections.org

Questions or comments about
the Election Judge News?
Contact the editor,
Barry Jackson

Phone: 240-313-2054
Email:
barry.jackson@maryland.gov

Independence Day

We just celebrated Independence Day on July 4th, so this section is dedicated to one of the most significant events in world history.

On June 7, 1776, Richard Henry Lee of the Virginia delegation presented a resolution to the 2nd Continental Congress in Philadelphia that “these United Colonies are, and of right ought to be, free and independent States...”

On June 11, Congress postponed adoption of Lee’s resolution and recessed for three weeks, but not before creating a Committee of Five to create a “statement” detailing the colonies’ case for independence.

The members of the Committee of Five were John Adams of Massachusetts, Roger Sherman of Connecticut, Benjamin Franklin of Pennsylvania, Robert Livingston of New York, and Thomas Jefferson of Virginia.

The committee unanimously selected Jefferson to write the document. After his first draft, he showed it to Adams and Franklin only for edits. Afterwards, it was unanimously adopted by the committee.

On July 2, Lee’s resolution for independence was adopted, 12-0, with New York abstaining. The Declaration of Independence was then taken up for consideration.

After two days of revisions, the Declaration was adopted on July 4, 1776.

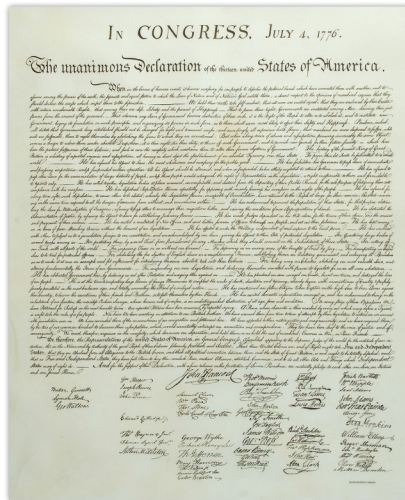
The actual signing of the Declaration of Independence did not occur until August 2, however.

By the way, New York did, eventually, adopt the resolution of independence on July 9, 1776, making it unanimous.

Source: [archives.gov/founding-docs/declaration-history](https://www.archives.gov/founding-docs/declaration-history)

All of the events you just read about are portrayed in a fun and entertaining way in the musical “1776” by Peter Stone and Sherman Edwards. If you’ve never seen it, we highly recommend it.

We also have a local Declaration of Independence related trivia question waiting for you at the end of this newsletter.

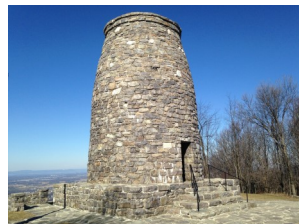


Training Center

I.15 Term of Office

The term of office for an election judge is approximately two years and ends thirteen weeks before the 2022 Gubernatorial Primary Election. You are expected to serve as an election judge for all elections held during that period.

This is why we send you a new Election Judge application before each election, because your current term is about to expire, and you need to begin a new term.



The Washington Monument on South Mountain in Boonsboro.

In Memoriam

We were saddened to learn of the passing of one of our veteran election judges, Jamie Boback.

Jamie and Russell Boback were both long time check in judges at Pangborn Elementary, and they worked many Early Voting’s together, including the hectic 2020 General Election.

We remember Jamie as someone who was easy to talk to and was well versed in many topics. She especially loved to talk about her children and her involvement in her church.

Our deepest sympathies go out to Russell and his family at this time.



Trivia Question

Who were Maryland’s four signers of the Declaration of Independence?

Answer below:



Flags flying outside the Washington County Administrative Building at 100 W. Washington Street, Hagerstown.