



# Election Judge News

“Yesterday is history. Tomorrow is a mystery. Today is a gift. That’s why we call it ‘The Present.’” - Eleanor Roosevelt (also Grand Master Oogway from Kung Fu Panda!)

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## Outgoing Board of Elections

Hi! This is our last newsletter under the current Board of Elections, whose term expires on June 4th.

This Board’s term, starting in 2019, may have been the most momentous. Outgoing President Marty Lumm sums it up well in his farewell address to our election judges.

*“On behalf of the current Board members, Tammy Downin, Bill Blazes, Connie Mozingo, Jim Schultheis, and myself, we would like to thank you for the endless hours you contributed to the thankless job of being election workers these past four years.*

*“While our term ends June 4th and a new Board comes onboard, we will remember and appreciate your loyalty, faithfulness, and friendship as we completed the 2020 and 2022 elections.*

*“Our term began on a high note in September 2019, when we finally secured approval from the County Commissioners to move and consolidate the election offices, warehouse, Early Voting, and election training to the new Election Center on Virginia Avenue.*

*“Six months later, COVID-19 changed the meaning of ‘normal,’ as businesses closed and personal contact became impossible.*

*“But through the efforts of our staff and hundreds of election workers, the election process*

*survived with masks, gloves, and face shields.*

*“Please know we appreciate your past contributions to the Washington County Board of Elections and look forward to seeing you at future elections. THANK YOU!” - Marty Lumm, Board President.*

In addition to the pandemic, this Board had to navigate through legislative redistricting, affecting tens of thousands of Washington County voters, and several lawsuits, not to mention constant inquiries into election fraud allegations.

Through it all, our Board members, staff, and election judges performed admirably, conducting two extremely difficult elections seamlessly, ensuring that all eligible Washington County voters had the right to vote and have their vote counted.

We are grateful for the leadership of our outgoing Board and wish each member all the best for the future.

## MAEO Conference

The Board and staff traveled to Ocean City for the Maryland Association of Election Officials (MAEO) annual conference from

May 14th-18th.

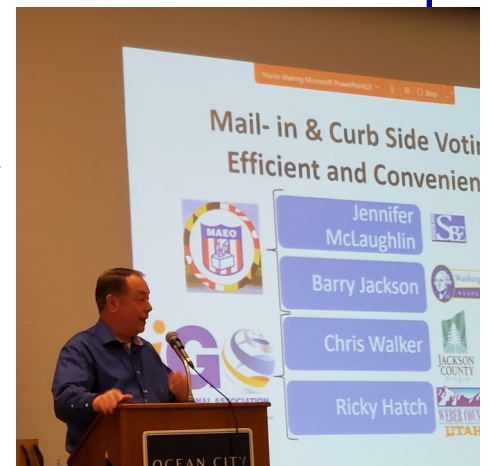
Each year, MAEO gets together to discuss and learn about a wide variety of topics, including lessons learned from previous elections, latest developments in elections, new technologies available to aid elections, and even first aid and wellness.

Director Barry Jackson, who currently sits on the MAEO Board, led a discussion of mail-in and curbside voting.

The attendees got to hear from Jackson County, Oregon Clerk Chris Walker and Weber County, Utah Clerk Ricky Hatch on how their states handle mail-in voting.

Oregon is a 100% mail-in voting

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### MAEO Conference (Cont.)

State and have been since the 1990's. They have no in-person voting whatsoever.

Utah just recently moved to vote by mail. They mail every eligible voter a ballot but still provide vote centers for those who wish to vote in person.

In Mr. Hatch's county, 95% of ballots were cast by mail, with 5% cast in person.

Because Utah still provides some in person voting, they instituted curbside voting for those who have difficulty coming inside the vote center. This was something the Maryland General Assembly considered this year in legislation, but it ultimately did not pass. Still something to look out for.

Another interesting concept discussed at the MAEO Conference was Ranked Choice Voting (RCV), where voters can rank their choices among a list of candidates (1,2,3,etc.), and that ranking is used to determine a winner.

There is not enough room in this newsletter to explain all the complexities, so for those who are interested in learning more, a great resource is [rcvresources.org](http://rcvresources.org).

### Ask the Election Experts

List maintenance has been a topic of concern for some folks recently.

What is list maintenance? It is the methods we use to ensure the voter registration database is as accurate and up to date as possible.

For instance, what if a voter passes away? How do we remove them from the database? The Maryland Department of Health (MDH)

sends us a report once a month, with all Washington County residents who have passed away. We are then able to remove them immediately, without any further confirmation.

But between those reports, if we get word that a voter has passed, we must send a letter of confirmation to their household for a family member to sign and send back. We may not remove that voter until we receive confirmation from the family or from the MDH report.

Another monthly report we receive is from the Administrative Offices of the Courts. The report shows a list of Washington County residents who have been incarcerated for a felony offense. Those individuals are ineligible to vote until they have completed their court-appointed sentence.

We send notices to those individuals, alerting them that we will cancel their registration if we don't hear from them within two weeks.

After all, there is the possibility that someone was misidentified.

After two weeks, if we haven't heard from them, we cancel their registration.

The Electronic Registration Information Center (ERIC) is another helpful tool for keeping our voter registration list current.

As of January, 2023, 33 states and the District of Columbia participated in ERIC, which shares information between states about voters moving into a new state or even from county to county within Maryland.

The United States Postal Service (USPS) works with us to identify voters that no longer live at the addresses we have on file through their returned mail process.

If a new, forwarding address for the voter has been identified by USPS, it will be sent back to us. We will then send a new Voter Notification Card (VNC) to the new address for confirmation.

These methods and more are how we keep the voter registration list in Washington County up to date.

### Training Center

Excerpts from Chapter 3—Voters with Disabilities from the Election Judge Training Manual.

### 3.2 Voters Asking for Instructions

If a voter asks for instructions on how to use voting equipment or about the voting process, election judges must provide the requested instructions. Election judges are **not allowed** to suggest how the voter should vote on any contest.

### Editor's Note

Most of us get a three day weekend this Memorial Day, and I hope you will all be safe and enjoy the time with family and friends. The weather should be beautiful!

But please take a moment to remember the reason for the holiday, to honor those who lost their lives in defense of our nation.

My father and my Uncle Edward both served in the Korean War. Edward was my father's closest brother.

Edward's bunker received a direct hit from an artillery round, and he was killed instantly.

I never got to meet my Uncle Edward, but my middle name honors his memory, and I will be thinking of him this weekend.

- Barry Edward Jackson, Editor

### Trivia Question

In what month is the Preakness Stakes held at Pimlico Race Course?

Answer below: