

# Election Judge News

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# Happy New Year!

Hello, and welcome to the First Edition of 2021!

The year 2020 is history, as they say, and, quite literally, one for the history books. Kids will be learning about 2020 in history class for generations to come.

Here's hoping 2021 finds you and your loved ones well and full of optimism for the new year.

Believe it or not, the 2022 Gubernatorial Election cycle is just around the corner, as candidacy filing for the election begins on February 23, 2021!

### **Staff Hours**

The Board of Elections staff is working a rotating schedule in the office, so as to reduce the number of people in the office at one time. All county buildings are closed to the public, but we are open by appointment only.

Here's hoping that, with the

recent delivery of vaccines, this pandemic will finally be put behind us!

#### We're on the Web!

Don't forget that our web address is www.washco-mdelections.org. You can click on the password protected link, titled "ELECTION JUDGES," to access information only available to our election judges, such as training aids, maps, and photos.

We updated the General Election Results and Turnout statistics in the ELECTION RESULTS section of the website. Check it out if you're interested in that sort of thing.

If there is anything you would like to see in the News, contact the editor, Barry Jackson at barry.jackson@maryland.gov.



The Board of Elections office is open by appointment only

# "Have You Thanked an Election Worker ...?"

During Early Voting, Lisa Prejean, a columnist with the Herald Mail, wrote about her experience voting with her family.

In case you didn't see it, the link is provided here. We will also include the hard copy version for those who get the newsletter by mail.

www.heraldmailmedia.com/life/columns/have-you-thanked-an-election-worker-this-week/article\_6a4092a9-51b0-51f1-8078-a3ec8b5ba01d.html

In the article, Ms. Prejean said "the election workers were efficient, knowledgeable, and personable." We couldn't agree more! It's always nice to receive recognition from the folks we work hard to serve.

She also gave a shoutout to Steve Scrugham's amusing signs greeting voters while waiting in line.

Give it a read, and we hope you enjoy it I

## **Election Judge News**

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# **Training Center**

In each issue of the News, we will highlight a section of the Election Judge Manual. The topic for this issue is by request of one of our election judges, who said there was some confusion about whether voters in line were allowed to vote if they were not inside the building by 8:00PM. Hopefully, this clears it up.

# I.5 Closing Time for the Polls

All voters who are in line to be checked in at 8:00 p.m. are allowed to vote. Although the polls are officially closed at 8:00 p.m. (unless voting hours are extended by a court order), the polls may remain open past 8:00 p.m. Voters in line by 8:00 p.m. must be allowed to check in to cast their ballot. Extended voting hours may be ordered. When this occurs, all election judges must continue

to work. When the extended voting hours end, all voters who are in line by the time extended hours end will be allowed to vote.

# If a voter is in line at 8:00PM, can they still vote?

YES. This also includes if the line goes outside the building, which happened in the 2020 General Election. Chief judges will designate an election judge to stand at the back of the line at 8:00PM. Anyone who shows up after that will not be able to vote, but everyone in line in front of the election judge will be able to vote, even if it takes hours to get through the line.

### **Election Judge Manuals**

During training for the General Election, we instructed you to place your election judge manuals in the empty Main Ballot Box of the Scanning Unit at the end of the night.

This was a change from previous elections, and we understand that we

pump you so full of information during training that it's impossible to remember everything.

If you still have your training manual, you can drop it off at our downtown office at 35 West Washington Street, Hagerstown. Remember to call us at 240-313-2050 when you arrive, so we can meet you at the door.

Please DO NOT drop off your manual at our new facility on Virginia Avenue. We have not moved in YET.

### Voting Equipment Upgrade

SBE plans to replace our current electronic pollbooks with newer, tablet-style pollbooks in time for the 2022 election.

We have used our current pollbooks since 2006, so an upgrade is long overdue.

We are participating with SBE and other LBEs in the evaluation of the new pollbooks and will keep you updated on the progress.

# **New Facility Update**

A new roof and HVAC system are currently being installed, and construction focus will turn to the office and warehouse areas after the new year.

The target move in date is April 30th, 2021!

#### Martin Luther King Jr. Day

The Board of Elections office will be closed on January 18, 2021, in honor of Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday, which is actually January 15th.

Here is an inspirational quote, attributed to Dr. King:

"If you can't fly then run, if you can't run then walk, if you can't walk then crawl, but whatever you do you have to keep moving forward."

### **Trivia Question**

There are nine stars (one large star and eight smaller stars) on the official Washington County logo. What do the stars represent? Answer below.



New paint job and sign on front of new facility—I 1/22/20

