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Election Judge News

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The Election's Over, Right?

It's February, when we celebrate past presidents, focus on our sweethearts (for one day!), and honor the achievements of African Americans in U.S. history.

But February in an off-election year (so called) is not a time to be working on an election is it? Yes! we have two major election events happening in February.

Under state law, after each general election, we are required to manually audit a pre-determined amount of paper ballots to determine the accuracy of the scanning units that counted them.

Our manual audit will occur on February 19th, 9:00AM, at our warehouse on 145 IKO Way, Suite 102, Hagerstown. It is open to the public.

We will be counting a select number of ballots from the

provisional canvass, mail-in ballot canvass, Early Voting, and Election Day.

Then on February 23rd, the 2022 Gubernatorial Election officially kicks off with the first day of candidacy filing.

So it is true for us that there never really is a time where an election is not going on!

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.

There are other helpful links for voters, such as voter registration, absentee voting, and many more.



The Board of Elections office is open by appointment only

Presidents Day

Two of our most famous presidents have birthdays in February, George Washington (February 22, 1732) and Abraham Lincoln (February 12, 1809).

Washington was rightly called the "Father of our Country," because of his many contributions in establishing the United States of America.

There is not enough room in this newsletter to do justice to those many contributions.

But our focus is on the many precedents he set as the first President of the United States, directions he set that are still observed to this day.

It was Washington's idea to choose a cabinet of appointed

leaders over each of the executive departments; Washington preferred to be called "Mr. President," rather than "Your Highness," or "Your Excellency;" he insisted on being sworn in with his hand on the Bible; he reluctantly agreed to a second term but insisted on returning home after the second, a tradition followed by all but



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Presidents Day (cont.)

one president until being put into law with the 22nd Amendment; and Washington oversaw the first peaceful transfer of power when he gladly handed the office over to John Adams. Washington was truly a man of many firsts. Abraham Lincoln's accomplishment as "Savior of the Union" has been well documented. It can be hardly disputed that he presided over the darkest time in American history and brought the country through it. At the Lincoln Memorial, there are two of Lincoln's speeches engraved on the walls: to the left of his statue is his Gettysburg Address. When we were kids, we used to have to memorize it; a lot said in just a few words. But to the right of the statue is his second inaugural address, perhaps an even more power-

ful speech that accurately described the soul of the nation at that time and in some ways can be applied to our current situation. We recommend you give it a read.

In observance of Presidents Day, our office will be closed on Monday, February 15th.

Valentine's Day

So who was Valentine anyway? Why is he a saint, and why do I have to buy flowers and chocolate every February 14th?

Valentine was a Roman priest and physician who suffered martyrdom during the persecution of Christians by the emperor Claudius II Gothicus around 270A.D., according to Britannica.com.

He was commemorated on February 14th, and since the high middle ages, his Saints' Day has been associated with a tradition of courtly love. And

the chocolate, floral, and candy hearts industries are appreciative!

By the way, fun fact: St. Valentine is also the patron saint of epilepsy!

Black History Month

February is also Black History Month, and in honor of the occasion, we bring you a little election related history.

Hiram Rhodes Revels was sworn in as the first Black member of Congress in 1870, not without some opposition from his colleagues in the Senate.

The Constitution required that senators hold citizenship for at least nine years prior to taking office, and Democrats unsuccessfully argued that he had not become a citizen until after the 1866 Civil Rights Act and the 14th Amendment.

Source: history.com/news/first-black-congressman-hiram-revels

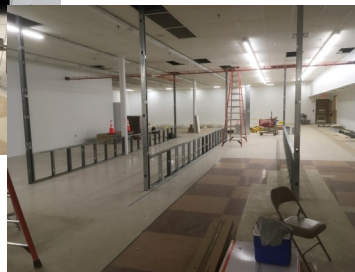
New Facility Update

We have a scheduled move in date! We are making plans to be moved in by April 30th.

Below are some pictures of the progress so far.



Lighting installed and walls painted in office area—02/01/21



Scanning Unit walls framed out, will be used for testing and charging—02/01/21

Training Center

Voter Update Forms

If a voter is voting a provisional ballot, the voter DOES NOT need to fill out a Voter Update Form. Any information a voter would need to update will be captured on the provisional ballot application that they are required to fill out.

Voter Update Forms should only be located at the Step 1

check-in tables and should only be filled out if a voter indicates they need to make a change to their record, such as incorrect spelling of a name or name change, incorrect date of birth, party change, address change within the correct precinct, etc.

Trivia Question

You may have noticed that all of our tamper tapes begin with the number 22-. Is there a reason for this? Answer below.

