



Election Judge News

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
- Carl Dayley, Voter Registration
240-313-2055
carl.dayley@maryland.gov

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In like a lion...?

That's how the old saying goes about the month of March, that it "comes in like a lion and goes out like a lamb."

And while February gave us our fair share of snow, ice, and sub-freezing temperatures, March has, so far, been rather mild.

Here's hoping this newsletter finds you warm, dry, healthy, and looking forward to the promise of Spring.

Recent Events

On February 26th, our final official act of the 2020 Presidential Election was to conduct a manual audit of selected voted ballots from the election.

The purpose of the audit was to determine the accuracy of the Scanning Units used for Early Voting, Election Day, Mail-In Ballot Canvass, and Provisional Ballot Canvass.

We were required to audit one Scanning Unit from one day of

Early Voting, so we selected Scanning Unit 1 from Day One. SBE randomly selected one of the Vote Centers on Election Day to audit, and they selected VC08, South High.

The audit determined that the Scanning Units were 100% accurate. All that's left of the 2020 Election is Post Election Maintenance on the voting equipment.

Moving on to the 2022 Gubernatorial Election, candidacy filing began on Tuesday, February 23rd, and continues until Tuesday, February 22nd, 2022.

As of publication of this newsletter, five people have filed for office.

You can view the list of filed candidates on SBE's website at elections.maryland.gov/elections/2022/primary_candidates/index.html, then clicking on "Washington County" at the bottom of the page.



The Board of Elections office is open by appointment only

Women's History Month

March is Women's History Month, and from an election standpoint, we'd like to address the 19th amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

The amendment stated that "The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex."

2020 was the 100th anniversary of the ratification of the 19th amendment.

Election officials across the state of Maryland were looking forward to celebrating the anniversary of the 19th amendment at our annual conference in Ocean City in June, but a global pandemic forced us to cancel the conference.

Though the 19th amendment was ratified in 1920, women's suffrage was something that was debated decades earlier. Women such as Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Sojourner Truth, and Susan B. Anthony gave impassioned and persuasive speeches on women's rights. Ms. Anthony was arrested for casting a ballot in the 1872 Presidential Election.



Washington County, MD
BOARD OF ELECTIONS

35 West Washington Street
Suite 101
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

Women's History Month (cont.)

By the time the Senate voted in favor of the 19th amendment in 1919, 16 state legislatures had already adopted women's suffrage (Wyoming, Colorado, Utah, Idaho, Washington, California, Oregon, Kansas, Arizona, Nevada, Montana, New York, Arkansas, Michigan,

South Dakota, and Oklahoma). Montana, in particular, adopted women's suffrage in 1914, and in 1916, Jeannette Rankin was elected to represent "The Treasure State" in Congress, the first woman to do so.

Election Related Bills in Annapolis

Every year, the Maryland General Assembly meets for 90 days from January through April in General Session to discuss and vote on proposed laws.

New Facility Update

Things are really beginning to take shape! We're looking forward to the April 30th move in date!

Big change in progress from the last newsletter!

This is the 442nd Session of the General Assembly.

Among the thousands of bills brought before the House of Delegates and the Senate, many deal with Election Law.

Here are a few that you might find interesting:

House Bill (HB) 211 would require that Early Voting go from the second Thursday before Election Day to the **SATURDAY** before Election Day, essentially adding two more days to Early Voting.

HB245 would require that we put a large sign at the entrance of each polling place alerting voters who may need assistance of their options.

HB247 goes a step further in giving voters who need assistance priority in line, basically skipping them to the front of the line.

We opposed this bill, because we

believe it puts election judges in a difficult position. We think our current method of holding their place in line and allowing them to sit at the front while waiting is a better solution.

HB423 would require that all voters use the Ballot Marking Device (BMD) to cast a ballot. Disability advocacy groups are lobbying hard for this, but there are many practical issues with implementing it, not the least of which is the cost to the state.

HB759 calls for a manual audit to occur on a select number of paper ballots BEFORE certification of the election.

HB760 would make counting mail-in ballots before Election Day state law. We were allowed to do it in 2020 under the Governor's emergency proclamation.

We'll keep you posted on these and more bills in the next couple newsletters.

Training Center

Qualifications for Election Judges

From Section 1.8 of the Election Judge Manual:

You cannot be an election judge if you are a:

- Candidate or currently hold a public or political office, including State and county political party

Central committees; or

- Chairman, campaign manager, or treasurer for a political or candidate committee.

In addition, family members of a candidate should generally not serve as election judges.

Trivia Question

How many electoral votes does Maryland cast in a presidential election?



New flooring installed in office lobby area.



New flooring, ceiling and paint job in office common area.



Work area, where charging and testing of our voting equipment will take place.