



Election Judge News

“I always get to where I am going by walking away from where I have been” - Winnie the Pooh

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It's March: baseball teams are at spring training; by the end of the month, it will officially be Spring; and we get to move our clocks forward (for perhaps the last time!).

We found some interesting information about daylight saving time that we'll share later. But first, an update regarding election judge pay.

FY24 Budget

Each year, the Board of Elections submits a draft budget to the county Budget and Finance department for the coming fiscal year, which begins in July.

This year, we submitted a personnel request to make the pay increase from the 2022 General Election approved by the County Commissioners permanent (Chief Judges-\$275, all others-\$225).

The request first goes to the Personnel Committee for review, then they make their recommendations to the County Commissioners on what to approve.

The Personnel Committee is comprised of the Budget and Finance Director, Human Resources Director, and County Administrator.

Unfortunately, the Personnel Committee did **NOT** submit the election judge pay increase to the Commissioners for approval; however, House Bill 1200, which we'll cover in the Legislative Update, would require an even greater pay

increase than we originally asked for! We will keep you updated on any developments.

Ask the Election Experts

Thanks to Allan Bare, Provisional/Same Day Registration Judge at 21-3, Northern Middle, for suggesting this month's topic.

If you have a question you would like addressed in a future newsletter, send it to the editor, Barry Jackson.

The question this month is related to verifying voter identity. If a person knows someone else's information, can they check in as that person and vote?

Most of you are aware that state law requires us to ask a voter at check in to state their name, address, date of birth, and during a primary election, their party affiliation.

As long as the information in the pollbook matches what the voter says, we are required to issue the voter a Voter Authority Card (VAC).

When the voter signs the VAC, they are attesting that they are who they say they are. If it is proven that they are not the person they claimed to be, they can be prosecuted.

Remember that Chapter 4.4 of the Election Judge Manual addresses voter identity challenges, and we cover it in election judge training.

Anyone can challenge a voter's identity, including election judges. But only the person's identity can be challenged, not address, birthdate, or any other information they provided.

So in answer to the question, yes, a person could check in as someone else and vote, but they would be committing a crime.

And there have been no cases in the state of Maryland where that has occurred.

There are no less than five bills in the General Assembly requiring voters to show proof of identity at the polling place. Some have had committee hearings, but so far, no other movement. We'll keep you posted on their status.

Legislative Update

And speaking of bills in the General Assembly, here is the status on some other election related bills that will be of interest to election judges:

House Bill 41— would allow curbside voting at Early Voting and the polling place on Election Day, limited to disabled or unable to enter polling place. This bill received a hearing in committee, but no progress since.

Senate Bill 379/House Bill 535— allow local boards to open and process mail in ballots before Election Day. May pass both houses this week!

House Bill 616/House Bill 1092—competing bills, both reducing the number of Early Voting days: HB616 has Early



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Legislative Update—Cont.

Voting days from Sunday to Thursday, HB1092 has Early Voting days from Monday to Thursday. Both bills received a hearing in committee, but no progress since.

House Bill 1200—sets a minimum amount of \$250 at which election judges can be paid for Early Voting and Election Day and a minimum amount of \$50 for election judge training. So far, only a committee hearing, but we will watch this one closely!

Training Center

Excerpts from Chapter 2—Security Rules and Awareness from the Election Judge Training Manual.

2.4 Maintaining Integrity of the Election Process

You have the responsibility to maintain the integrity of the election process in the following ways:

- Ask voters if they need help if they do not appear to be following the instructions you provided.
- Ask voters to remove personal items from the voting booths and check-in table when finished voting.
- Check the polling place to make sure a voter has not left personal items or campaign materials.
- Check the ballot marking devices, scanning units, and electronic pollbooks to make sure they are plugged in, charged, and that tamper tape and seals are undamaged and show

no signs of tampering.

- Make sure voters do not leave the polling place with a ballot, ballot activation card, or voter authority card.
- Ask if voters have reviewed their ballots before the ballots are scanned.

Daylight Savings Time

A lot of people today think that Daylight Savings Time (DST) is an antiquated idea that has no relevance today.

We've heard that it was established to assist farmers with harvesting their crops. Other stories say it was to conserve energy.

So what is the true history of Daylight Savings Time, and do we still need it?

DST was first introduced by Germany during World War I to conserve fuel and power by extending daylight hours. Many other countries in Europe followed suit.

The United States first adopted DST in 1918, but after the war ended it was abolished.

During World War II, President Franklin Roosevelt reinstated DST and called it "War Time."

It began in February, 1942 and lasted until the end of September, 1945.

Finally, in 1966, the Uniform Time Act was established to regulate a yearly time change, and it is generally the same format we follow today.

It called for clocks to be moved forward the Sunday in April and move back the last Sunday in October.

One exception was during the 1973 oil embargo, when Congress ordered a year-round period of daylight saving time, running from January, 1974 to April, 1975

It did little to save energy and quickly lost popularity. So, in October, 1974,

The U.S. went back to standard time.

From 1987 to 2006, DST started the first weekend in April and ran through the last weekend in October.

In 2007, the start and end date shifted to the second Sunday in March and first Sunday in November, and that is the format we have used ever since.

Several states have passed laws to make DST year round, so there is interest to make the time change permanent.

But in the meantime, don't forget to move your clocks forward, and go to bed an hourly early!

SOURCE: www.bts.gov
spectrumlocalnews.com

Trivia Question

With Spring Training in full swing and Opening Day just around the corner, what is Maryland's official state bird?

Answer below:

Editor's Note:

In last month's newsletter, I put a humorous quote at the top of page 1 that said, "The average person is really mean."

It was a math-related joke, using the term "mean," or the midway point between extremes; in other words "average."

It turns out that some people didn't get the joke and thought the staff was of the opinion that the average person is not nice.

I have received the message loud and clear. I apologize for the confusion and will not include math-related jokes in future newsletters!

- Barry Jackson