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Election Judge News

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Happy New Year!

And it's officially an election year, as we continue to gear up for the 2022 Gubernatorial Elections.

In this issue, we highlight the Maryland General Assembly convening its 444th General Session and what that means for elections in the state and Washington County.

We continue to remind you of some additional opportunities to serve the voters of Washington County (while picking up a little extra cash!), as well as make a plea to return your election judge application, if you haven't already done so, and turn in any past election judge manuals you may have lying around the house.

General Assembly

The Maryland General Assembly convened its 444th session on January 12th. First on the agenda is adopting the new Congressional and Legislative maps as a result of the 2020 Census.

Though the Congressional map doesn't change anything in Washington County (we're still all in the 6th Congressional District), the Legislative map will change some things.

Since Allegany and Garrett Counties lost some population over the last ten years, that means District 1C will move farther east and continue to gobble up more of Washington County.

In addition to the legislative maps, there are a couple bills

that we are currently tracking: HBI 13—would require voters to show picture ID when checking in to vote. This has been introduced every year but never goes anywhere. We'll keep you posted if this bill gains any traction.

SB 163—would allow election boards to canvass Mail-In Ballots before Election Day. We are very much in favor of this, because it keeps us from being overwhelmed with Mail-In Ballots after Election Day.

As new bills are introduced that we believe affect our election judges, we will keep you informed.

National Poll Worker Recruitment Day



Tuesday, January 25th, has been designated by the Election Assistance Commission (EAC) as National Poll Worker Recruitment Day.

There is a shortage of election judges, not just in Washington County, but all over the country, and the EAC wanted to bring attention to it and plead

for citizens to do their part to "Help America Vote."

We will remind you again later in this newsletter, but if you have not yet returned the application we mailed to you, please do so.

And if you know anyone who might like to help with the election, please get them in touch with us.

2022 Election

The details of the upcoming election are slowly taking shape. Here are some updates and how you can get involved in 2022:

- **Early Voting**—Our two Early Voting Centers were approved by the State Board of Elections (SBE) on Thursday, December 16th. The two Early Voting Centers are:
 - 1) Washington County Election Center, 17718 Virginia Avenue, Hagerstown, and
 - 2) Washington County Free Library, 100 S. Potomac Street, Hagerstown.

We can use your help in staffing either of those Early Voting Centers. Many election judges use this opportunity to further familiarize themselves with the election process ahead of Election Day, sort of a supplement to their training.



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2022 Gubernatorial Primary Election

Early Voting:

June 16-23, 2022 7AM-8PM

Election Day:

June 28, 2022 7AM-8PM

2022 Gubernatorial General Election

Early Voting:

October 23-November 3
7AM-8PM

Election Day:

November 8, 2022 7AM-8PM

Election Judge News

2022 Election (cont.)

Not to mention you get the same Election Day pay for each Early Voting day you work!

Your Election Judge Application included an area where you could volunteer to work Early Voting. If you didn't check that box but are still interested in working Early Voting, please let us know.

- **Drop Boxes**—We are proposing six Ballot Drop Boxes for 2022, spread throughout the county. The proposed drop boxes will be located at:

- 1) Washington County Election Center, 17718 Virginia Avenue, Hagerstown
- 2) Washington County Free Library, 100 S. Potomac Street, Hagerstown
- 3) Boonsboro Town Hall, 21 N. Main Street, Boonsboro
- 4) Clear Spring Town Hall, 146 Cumberland Street, Clear Spring
- 5) Hancock Town Hall, 126 High Street, Hancock
- 6) Smithsburg Town Hall, 21 W. Water Street, Smithsburg

Since there are more drop boxes, we will utilize multiple bipartisan teams to do our daily pickups.

So yet another opportunity for you to work some additional hours in support of the election, and remember: not only do you get paid for your time, but we pay your mileage expenses (office to drop boxes and back) as well!

Applications

So far we have received 433 applications back from our election judges. We need 650+ election judges to adequately staff the polling places. As you can see, we're nowhere close to where we need to be, and we're beginning to get nervous.

So, If you have not yet sent in your Election Judge Application, please do so soon. We will soon be in the process of placing election judges in their assigned polling places and preparing for the upcoming training. If you misplaced your application, you can find all the required documents on our website at

washco-mdelections.org/become-an-election-judge.

Binders

We are currently working on the Election Judge Training Manual for the 2022 election.

Every election we provide each election judge with a training manual that they can hold onto from the Primary to the General Election.

On General Election night, we ask that all manuals be turned in with the rest of the supplies. We do this, because we recycle the binders to be used in the next election.

The chief judges are responsible for ensuring everyone turns their manual in, but we recognize that the chiefs have a lot on their minds on election night.

If you still have your manual from past elections (and can locate it), please drop it off at our office, so that we can reuse it, rather than purchase new ones.

We appreciate it, and so do the taxpayers of Washington County!

Training Center

From the Election Judge Training Manual, Chapter 1, about electronic devices in the polling place:

1.18 General Policies About Voters

1.18.3 Electronic Equipment in the Polling Place

No one can use electronic devices inside the polling room. Prohibited devices include radios, televisions, cameras, cell phones, tablets, pagers, and computer equipment.

There are some exceptions to this rule:

- If both chief judges agree, members of the media may use cameras in a polling place and within the "No Electioneering Zone."
- Cell phones, pagers, or computer equipment that may be used by election judges in the polling place. These electronic devices may only be used for election purposes.
- Law enforcement officers and emergency workers may also use electronic devices when they are doing their jobs.

Voters may bring printed materials into the polling room. This includes sample ballots, voter's guides from newspapers, and campaign literature. Voters may use electronic devices while waiting in line outside of the polling room.

Trivia Question

As the General Assembly gets under way, we ask, how many members are there in the Maryland House of Delegates?

Answer below: