

MINUTES

WASHINGTON COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTION March 12, 2013

35 W. Washington Street
Hagerstown, MD 21740
240-313-2050

Present:

Board

John Benchoff, President
Carroll Earp, Vice President
Tammy Downin, Secretary
Bruce Field, Member
William Blazes, Member

Staff

Kaye Robucci, Election Director, I
Sharon Mackereth, Election Deputy Director, I

John Benchoff called the meeting to order at 2:05PM. Roger Schlossberg, Board Attorney was absent. There was a quorum present.

Approval of Minutes of February 12, 2013:

John Benchoff asked if the Board had any corrections or modifications to the minutes of the February 12, 2013 Board Meeting. Approved as submitted by Carroll Earp; Bruce Field seconded. Unanimously approved.

Addition/Changes to the Agenda:

Kaye Robucci requested the following additions under –

Correspondence – News article regarding electioneering on public and private property HB730/SB542, an amendment to HB224/SB279 Same Day Voter Registration and Tracking Bills report.

Correspondence:

A. MAEO Executive Board Meeting Agenda, February 27, 2013 – E-mailed to Board.

B. MAEO Minutes, December 17, 2012 – E-mailed to Board.

Cirdan contract with State not renewed – State regional managers will be established.
This will be a cost savings.

C. MAEO Minutes, January 29, 2013 – E-mailed to Board.

MAEO 2013 Conference – June 16 – 19, 2013 at University of Maryland Marriott Conference Center.

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- D. MAEO "Name the Conference Theme" – E-mailed to Board.
- E. Upcoming Bill Hearings – E-mailed to Board.
- F. Update on HB224/SB279 – E-mailed to Board.
Governor O'Malley's Bill – which includes three major issues –
 1. Same Day Registration during Early Voting days, with amendment that it does not start until 2016.
 2. Increase in the number of Early Voting sites in larger counties - 400 sq. miles.
 3. Increasing Early Voting to 8 days.
- G. E-mail to Stuart Harvey regarding HB1060, SB542 and HB730.

Kaye Robucci, Director, gave the Board a synopsis on several bills being considered by the State Legislators.

Neil Parrott, Delegate for Sub-District 2B, did speak with our Director before entering these Bills. If need be, maybe referendum is the only way to stop this.

- H. Herald-Mail Article -

The Board was directed to an article posted in "The Herald-Mail Newspaper" regarding Bills SB542/HB730 – the allowance of electioneering on public and private property that is being used as a polling place. This Bill is being considered as "Favorable" in both the House and Senate.

- I. HB224/SB279 Same Day Voter Registration, Amendment filed

The Director reported that an amendment was filed and attached to the Same Day Voter Registration Bill that would make this Bill to become effect in Election Year 2016.

- J. Tracking Bills Report – March 8, 2013

The Board perused the latest report tracking the Bills that effect elections.

1. HB323 Changing the date of the Primary Elections to the first Tuesday in June. Unfavorable – Ways and Means Committee.
2. HB729/SB367 Confidentiality on Referendum signatures, meant to stop the posting of names - of those voters who have signed a petition. Unfavorable - EHEA
3. HB758 Voters not having to wait over 15 minutes to vote – Unfavorable/Withdrawn.

Reports

- A. Director's Meeting, March 12, 2013

The Director gave the Board a report on the phone conference meeting with SBE.

Ross Goldstein, Assistant Administrator, gave a rundown on several Bills.

1. HB1060 Changing the distance of "No Electioneering" zone – this will affect some of our smaller polling places.

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The information gathered from this session will be compiled with information from Lessons Learned meetings from across the State. We will receive a full report once completed.

Old Business:

A. Approval of Revised By-Laws

At last month's Board Meeting, the Revised By-Laws were voted on (Carroll Earp made a motion to amend the aforesaid by-laws; Bruce Field seconded the motion).

Approval is scheduled for this session.

John Benchoff, President, called for discussion. No farther discussion is needed - Unanimously accepted.

B. Lessons Learned Session for our Chief Judges – minutes were sent to every Chief Judge.

C. HB1060 – hearing on Thursday, March 14, 2013 -

Carroll Earp, Board Member, Kaye Robucci, Election Director and Sharon Mackereth, Deputy Director, will be going to Annapolis on Thursday, March 14, 2013. Mr. Earp and Ms. Robucci will be testifying before the Delegation – speaking against HB1060 changing the “No Electioneering” zone from 100ft to 50ft. MAEO and Stuart Harvey, Legislative Committee, MAEO, are against the change, also.

D. HB323 changing the date of the Primary Election to 1st Tuesday in June – Unfavorable.

E. Retirement Party for Nathan Robinson -

Our Director has spoken with Nathan - he is very appreciative but would rather not have a party for his retirement.

F. Budget FY14 -

No information regarding approval of the Budget. Election Board is under General Fund.

New Business

A. New Regional Manager

Visitors are coming on Wednesday, March 13, 2013 - Paul Aumayr , SBE, is coming along with Regional Manager, Shafiq Satterfield, and Kimberly Micklejohn, Regional Field Support Manager. The new regional support team members are State employees. They will be here at approximately 3:30PM for an hour long meeting. Dean Robucci, County Tech, will be attending. The Director invited the Board Members to attend and meet the new Regional Support Team.

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B. Presentation at HCC, April 18, 2013

Ruth Ann Callaham, County Commissioner, has asked our Director, Kaye Robucci, to give a speech at Hagerstown Community College regarding elections to a class of students. Kaye has accepted and will do the presentation on April 18, 2013.

C. Early Voting Site

The new Washington County Library is being considered as an Early Voting polling place. The Board perused a set of drawings for the new library. The Director has talked with Jim Sterling, Director of Facilities, for the County. Mr. Sterling suggested the new library and sent a set of floor plans.

The conference rooms are on the 2nd and 3rd floors and that would be a major issue. Even though the rooms are accessible we would prefer to be on ground level.

Another possibility is the Board of Education building on Commonwealth Ave. They are looking to move to a larger facility. That would leave that building open. It would be great if we had the opportunity to get the whole building. We could move our whole operation into one building.

Convene into Board of Canvassers

At 3:43PM Bruce Field made a motion to adjourn this regular Board meeting and to convene into a meeting of the Board of Canvassers for the 2012 Presidential General Election; Tammy Downin seconded the motion. Unanimously approved.

Return to Regular Meeting

At 3:50PM the monthly meeting of the Board of Elections re-convened; Tammy Downin made motion to re-convene the regular Board Meeting; Bill Blazes seconded the motion. Unanimously approved.

Members Remarks

None

Scheduling of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Washington County Board of Elections will be held on April 9, 2013 at 2:00PM. The location is the Washington County Board of Elections office at 35 W. Washington St. Rm. 101, Hagerstown, MD.

Distributed Information

2014 State Calendar

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Adjournment:

There being no further business to come before the Board at this time, Carroll Earp made a motion to adjourn at 3:53PM; Bill Blazes seconded the motion. Unanimously approved.

Compiled by Sharon C. Mackereth
Deputy Director, I

Respectfully Submitted,



John Benchoff, Board President

4/9/13
Date



Tammy Downin, Secretary

4/9/13
Date