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Election Judge News

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Hello! Here is the latest information from the Washington County Board of Elections for August, 2021.

NFB Lawsuit

The National Federation of the Blind (NFB) filed a lawsuit against the State Board of Elections (SBE), claiming discrimination in the use of the Ballot Marking Devices (BMD).

One of the plaintiffs in the lawsuit was the only person who used the BMD at his precinct on Election Day and claimed that, as a result, his ballot was no longer anonymous.

What NFB asked for in the lawsuit was to require all voters to use the BMD in future elections, so that all voters would have the same ballot.

A settlement was reached on August 3rd that will require the following:

- At least 50% of polling places will have at least 2 BMDs.
- The 25% of the polling places that are the farthest distance from the BMD storage facility will have at least 2 BMDs.
- All Early Voting Centers will have at least 3 and can have up to 6 BMDs.
- A minimum of 10 voters must use the BMD at each polling place.
- NFB will create a training video, in conjunction with

SBE, on the operation of the BMD, which Local Board's may use in training election judges.

So, expect to see more BMDs at your polling place in 2022 and beyond. But as you may recall from the 2020 election, getting 10 people to use them on Election Day won't be a problem!

2022 Election

Continuing to keep you informed on how you can get involved in 2022:

- **Polling Places**—all 49 polling places will be back in 2022! If you are a veteran election worker who worked in 2018 or earlier, you will have the opportunity to work at your previous polling place. For those of you who were new in 2020, you haven't worked in a traditional polling place yet! So we will place you in the closest possible polling place to your home.
- **Early Voting**—because of the requirement for more Early Voting Centers, this means more opportunity for election workers to work Early Voting. This is a great way to get some real time practice between training and Election Day.
- **Mail-In Ballots**—for at least the next two elections, every registered voter will receive a Mail-In Ballot application in the

mail prior to each election. Also, voters have the option to be placed on a permanent absentee list, so that they will automatically receive a Mail-In Ballot every election. This means that Mail-In Ballots will continue to be a large part of each election. We are lobbying the General Assembly to allow us to open and count Mail-In Ballots as we get them in, in order to stay on top of the quantity we will be receiving. This is where you come in, because we will need help processing these ballots.

- **Drop Boxes**—Mail-In Ballot Drop Boxes are here to stay. We will have at least four drop boxes throughout the county, and they will need to be emptied two to three times a day, seven days a week, leading up to Election Day. We could use your help with this process as well. Not only do you get paid for your time, but we pay your mileage expenses as well!

Stay tuned for how to get involved in these and other opportunities.



The Baltimore Checkerspot Butterfly.



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Did August have an identity crisis?

We like to throw little factoids at you in each newsletter about cool and interesting things about the month in which we publish.

February has President's Day and Black History Month, July has Independence Day, etc.

But what about August? We were scratching our heads. The only thing we could come up with is it's oppressively hot, and the kids have to end their summer vacation and go back to school (not to mention the poor teachers!).

And who could forget that Mt. Vesuvius erupted on August 24, 79AD, burying thousands of Pompeians in lava, or that the King of Rock and Roll, Elvis Presley died on August 16, 1977? Not exactly things to celebrate!



So we did a little digging and found out some things we didn't know about August:

August was once the sixth month of the year in the ten month Roman calendar, and it was called "Sextilis," meaning sixth month. It became the eight month when King Numa Pompilius added January and February.

August (or Sextilis) also had different numbers of days throughout history.

When Pompilius added January and February, he reduced Sextilis' number of days to 29. Then Julius Ceasar introduced the Julian calendar, and the month has had 31 days ever since. But the month had one more change.

In 8 BC, the name was changed to Augustus, in honor of Caesar Augustus. So now we know where the name August came from!

Another interesting fact is that no other month of the year begins on the same day as August, except in a leap year, when February begins on the same day. Other months share the same first day in a year, but not August. It's true, you can look it up!

August 5th is National Underwear Day. We hope you celebrated by wearing some (preferably clean!).

On August 6, 1782, the first official sandwich was created when the Earl of Sandwich asked for a dish that included meat between two pieces of bread. Little wonder, then, that August is National Sandwich Month in the US.

So there you go; put your best skivvies on, grab a sandwich, and celebrate August with us!

Source: www.thefactsite.com/august-facts/

Training Center

From the Election Judge Training Manual, Chapter 1:

I.16 Removal of an Election Judge

On election day, you represent the Washington County Board of Elections. Each person who enters the polling place deserves your respect and polite service. Always act in a professional way and keep a positive attitude. Support and help voters, even when things get difficult.

The Board of Elections staff shall immediately investigate all complaints about the fitness, qualification, or performance of an election judge.

They shall also investigate all reports of harassment, sexual harassment, threatening behavior, or behavior that compromises the integrity and security of the election process.

The Board of Elections shall remove any election judge whom they decide is unfit, incompetent, or whose behavior is considered inappropriate or unprofessional. If you are removed from being an election judge, you may lose your wage and lose future chances to be an election judge.

Trivia Question

As we fend off ants, flies and mosquitoes this summer, an appropriate trivia question is what is Maryland's official state insect? (Hint: We gave away the answer on page 1 of this newsletter!)

Answer below:



The Washington Monument, atop South Mountain in Boonsboro.



Flags flying outside the Washington County Administrative Building at 100 W. Washington Street, Hagerstown.