



Election Judge News

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Which body part is the most reliable? Well, you can always count on your fingers!

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April 14th, 2023

Welcome to the newsletter for April 2023! We hope you've submitted your tax returns, because the deadline is looming!

There has been a lot of activity in the last month that directly affects our election judges, so we'll spend the majority of this newsletter detailing the changes. But first, an announcement.

New Leadership

After 31 years with the Washington County Board of Elections and 14 years as its director, Kaye Robucci is retiring, effective July 1, 2023.

Barry Jackson was hired as the new director, effective April 5, 2023. Here is the press release the Board of Elections submitted to the local media:

(April 5, 2023) The Washington County Board of Elections announced today that Barry Jackson has been selected to replace retiring Director Kaye Robucci. Ms. Robucci spent 31 years with the Board of Elections, the last 14 as Director. Ms. Robucci's retirement is effective July 1, 2023.

Mr. Jackson was previously the Deputy Election Director, serving under Ms. Robucci since 2016.

"I had the privilege of serving under, and learning from, the best," said Mr. Jackson. "Kaye developed best practices that have been adopted throughout the state. She had a meticulous attention to detail, and she treated everyone she

encountered as if they were her best friend. These are qualities that I can only hope to emulate. She is highly regarded and loved by her colleagues here in the county and around the state."

Mr. Jackson began his career in elections as an election judge in 2008, working the polls on election day. He helped run Early Voting for Washington County, beginning with the first Early Voting in 2010 at the former PNC Bank building in downtown Hagerstown, now part of the Washington County Administrative Complex.

In 2022, Mr. Jackson received his Certified Election Registration Administrator (CERA), a graduate level certification awarded by the National Association of Election Officials (NAEO) and administered by Auburn University. He is currently pursuing his Certified Public Official (CPO) and Certificate in Public Leadership (CPL) through the International Association of Government Officials (iGO) and Pepperdine University.

Prior to his career in elections, Mr. Jackson worked for federal IT systems integrators for 18 years, 14 of which were with Northrop Grumman.

Mr. Jackson is a veteran of Operations Desert Shield/Desert Storm with the United States Marine Corps Reserve and a graduate of Frostburg State University. He and his wife, Deborah, live in Hagerstown. They have 5 children and 2 grandchildren.

Polling Place Changes

At the April 11th meeting, the Board received public comments and voted on recommended polling place changes. The changes are:

Combine Precincts 03002 (Emmanuel United Methodist Church), 03003 (Emma K. Doub Elementary School), and 03004 (Girls, Inc.), and create a new Precinct 03002, voting at the Girls, Inc. Gymnasium.

Combine Precincts 06001 (Boonsboro High School) and 06002 (Boonsboro Middle School), and create Precinct 06000, voting at the Boonsboro High School Gymnasium.

Combine Precincts 10001 (E. Russell Hicks Middle School) and 10004 (Washington County Technical High School), and create a new Precinct 10001, voting at the South Hagerstown High School Gymnasium. Additionally, Precinct 10006 becomes Precinct 10004, voting at the Rockland Woods Elementary Gymnasium.

Combine Precincts 13001 (Maugansville Elementary School) and 13002 (Maugansville Ruritan), and create a new Precinct 13001, voting at the Maugansville Elementary School Gymnasium. Additionally, Precinct 13003 becomes Precinct 13002, voting at the Maugansville Elementary School Gymnasium.

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Election Judge News

Polling Place Changes (Cont.)

Combine Precincts 21001 (Potomac Heights Elementary School), 21002 (North Hagerstown High School), and 21003 (Northern Middle School), and create a new Precinct 21000, voting at the North Hagerstown High School Gymnasium.

Combine Precincts 26001 (Washington County Election Center) and 26004 (Hickory Elementary School), and create a new Precinct 26001, voting at the Washington County Election Center.

Combine Precincts 26002 (Lincolnshire Elementary School) and 26003 (Valley Grace Brethren Church), and create a new Precinct 26002, voting at the Lincolnshire Elementary School Cafeteria.

Some of you, no doubt, have noticed that the polling place you worked at will no longer be used in future elections. And you're probably wondering if you'll be out of a job.

Don't worry! The main reason for combining the polling places is to better utilize our dwindling election judge workforce. You will be assigned somewhere, just not necessarily where you were in 2022 or possibly in the same position you had.

But those things will be worked out between now and 2024, and we will keep you involved in the decision making.

Election Judge Pay

Some good news coming out of the Maryland General Assembly session is that House Bill 1200 passed to the Governor to put into law. Here are the details of the bill:

Puts a minimum payment of \$250 per day for every election judge across the state. So the least any election judge will make during Early Voting or

Election Day is \$250. But it gets better:

Each "returning" election judge gets an additional \$100 per day. So if you're a "returning" election judge, you will get a minimum of \$350 per day for every day of Early Voting and Election Day you work!

We put "returning" in quotations, because it has not yet been defined what "returning" means.

Does it mean you had to have worked in the previous election, or could you have worked in past elections and are just now returning?

Does it mean if you worked in the Primary and are back for the General, you're considered returning?

These are things that need to be answered to know how to apply the \$100.

Last but not least, a minimum amount of \$50 dollars was also set for attending election judge training. We previously paid \$25.

So good news all around regarding election judge compensation. Still some questions to be answered, but overall, we're very pleased!

Legislative Update

The General Assembly adjourned the 445th General Session, and in addition to House Bill 1200, here are the election related bills that passed to the Governor:

House Bill 410— Called the "Election Reform Act," it strengthens requirements for notifying the public about changes that affect them and requires local boards to submit a "Polling Place Plan" to the state board before each election.

Senate Bill 379—allows local boards to open and process mail in ballots before Election Day and gives instruction on which ballot to accept and reject if a voter submits more than one ballot.

Bills that did not pass were House Bill 616/House Bill 1092—competing bills, both reducing the number of Early Voting days: HB616 had Early Voting days from Sunday to Thursday, HB1092 had Early Voting days from Monday to Thursday.

Training Center

Excerpts from Chapter 3— Voters with Disabilities from the Election Judge Training Manual.

3.1 General Guidelines - Voters with Disabilities

- Be polite and respectful.
- Any voter may use the Ballot Marking Device, it is not only for voters with disabilities. Read Instructions for Voters Using the Ballot Marking Device to all voters using the ballot marking device.
- Never ask a voter to provide proof of a disability or about the nature of their disability. A voter's disability may not always be apparent.
- Do not underestimate people with disabilities.
- Do not put a time limit on voting.
- Always speak directly to the voter, not to the voter's helper, companion, or sign language interpreter.
- Ask the voter if you may assist them. If they indicate they need assistance, ask how you may assist them. Never assume you know what assistance they might need or want.

Trivia Question

What is Maryland's official state dog?

Answer below:

