



MINUTES

WASHINGTON COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS
March 8, 2022
17718 Virginia Avenue
Hagerstown, MD 21740
240-313-2050

Present:

Board:

Martin Lumm, Board President
Tammy Downin, Board Vice President
Bill Blazes, Board Secretary
Connie Mozingo, Assistant Board Secretary
Jim Schultheis, Member, (Virtual)
Brian Kane, Board Attorney

Staff:

Kaye Robucci, Election Director II
Barry Jackson, Election Deputy Director II
Cory Green, Election Program Assistant I
Teresa Morningstar, Election Supervisor I

Absent:

Guest:

Peter Perini, Washington County Democratic Central
Committee
Seth Wilson, Washington County Republican Central
Committee
Lisa Shields

President Martin Lumm called the meeting to order at 3:08 at the Washington County Election Center, 17718 Virginia Avenue, Hagerstown, MD 21740. The meeting was held virtually through Google Meet. Jim Schultheis joined the meeting virtually. There was a quorum present.

Approval of Minutes of February 8, 2022:

Changes/Corrections: Tammy Downin requested the following corrections:
Page #4, IV., G., second line – Add “suggested” before motion.
Page #4, VII., C., second line – change to “of” the protected mat.
Page #5, VII., H., second line – Add “suggested” before motion.
Page #8, Section 2. – remove “Bill Blazes” from “Names of members voting aye.”
Tammy Downin moved to accept the minutes, as amended, for February 8, 2022, Bill Blazes seconded, and the motion was carried unanimously.

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Additions/Changes to the Agenda:

None

Correspondence:

- I. Email from Nikki Charlson, SBE, regarding the extension of the candidate filing deadline to March 22, 2022 emailed to the Board on February 11, 2022
- II. Court Challenges to Legislative Redistricting, emailed to Board on February 14, 2022
- III. Motion to Dismiss Petition emailed to the Board on February 17, 2022
- IV. MAEO Letter to SBE Administrator Linda Lamone Regarding Redistricting Timeline, emailed to Board on February 25, 2022
- V. Maryland Matters article, "Election Officials Face Uncertainty, Heavy Workload Amid Redistricting Challenges," emailed to Board on March 1, 2022
- VI. Electronic Registration Information Center (ERIC) FAQ Sheet distributed to the Board.

Reports:

- I. Election Director
 - A. Personnel – N/A
 - B. Meetings:
 1. Online Election Judge Training – Chapters 1 through 4 will be offered as Online Training. The Online Training is being developed by SBE. Progress briefing on March 9, 2022.
 2. Director's Meeting: Next Meeting, March 10, 2022
 - a) Highlights from February Director's Meeting
 - (1) We will participate in the Call Center starting April 4, 2022
 - (2) SBE training on revised election judge forms
 - (3) SBE revising comprehensive audit documentation
 - (4) Election ballots – 17 inch, stubs to be determined
 - (5) Transportation meeting scheduled for Monday, March 14, 2022, to discuss any polling place changes and the schedule for equipment deliveries.
 - C. Correspondence: N/A
 - D. Trainings: N/A
 - E. Legislative Update – Barry Jackson reported on the following election related bills:
 1. HB035 (Palakovich Carr, MoCo) – 50/50 split for voting equipment and other major purchases has passed. Amendment was voted on

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and passed the House. Language added to outlaw vote centers for 2022 and mandate the same amount of polling places used in 2018. Second Amendment added language that states the 2022 Primary Election cannot be delayed later than July 12, 2022. The Second Amendment passed the House.

2. HB113 (Long-Balt Co.) – ID requirement to vote. Hearing on January 25th in Ways and Means Committees, but has not moved out of committee.
 3. HB160 (Boyce-Balt City) – Cannot hold elected office and party office at the same time (except delegate to the national convention). Scheduled for a Ways and Means Committee vote on February 8th, but no vote occurred.
 4. HB327 (Jones-Anne Arundel) – Establishing a minimum daily stipend of \$200 for election judges. Hearing on February 8th in Ways and Means Committee. Elections Subcommittee discussion was scheduled for February 16th but no further information was provided. MAEO supports.
 5. SB163 (Kagan-Montgomery) – Early canvass of mail-in ballots, can begin 8 days prior to Early Voting, but may not canvass during Early Voting. MAEO supports. Passed Senate, moving to the House.
- F. Voter Registration Activities and Statistics:
1. Registration Statistics for February 2022 were distributed to the Board.
- G. Candidate Information:
1. Filing began February 23, 2021. 50 Candidates have filed.
 2. Deadline changed to 9 pm on Tuesday, March 22, 2022
- H. Voting System Activities:
1. Pollbook Acquisition, Vendor is Dem Tech. and the contract was approved by the Board of Public Works.
 2. Received additional Ballot Marking Devices and conducting acceptance testing on them.
 3. Additional Equipment:
 - a) A40 Printers for use with Electronic Pollbooks: 212 due by March.
 - b) Received 5 additional supply carts
- I. Projects:
1. Clean up Street File in preparation for Redistricting.
 2. Finish edits to Election Judge Manual and send to printer
 3. Contact Election Workers about upcoming training classes and online training
 4. Processing Mail-in ballot applications- 4,990 currently
 5. Election Judge Training- requested 4 trainers from the State

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- a) Training times were adjusted to reflect the online training and to focus on additional hands-on training
 6. Continue to recruit Election Workers
 - a) 511 (74%) have responded to work. We need 690.
- II. Attorney: Brian Kane updated the Board on the Judicial Review in the Matter of Seth E. Wilson; Circuit Court for Anne Arundel County will proceed. Brian Kane and Andrea Trento, SBE, filed a response to participate in the hearing. No court date for hearing as yet. Typically, once all the filing is submitted it is about 75 days before the hearing.

Old Business:

- I. Virginia Avenue Update (HVAC Project)
 - A. Early voting room is complete all necessary repairs to room have been completed.
 - B. Workers are removing old ducts and installing new ducts in the warehouse area.
 - C. Quote from Marathon for 8 more cameras sent to county to be included in FY23 budget
- II. 2020 Census and Redistricting – to be addressed with item “V”
- III. Open House – not at this time; revisit the idea in summer
- IV. FY23 Draft Budget - Submitted on January 14, 2022. Kaye Robucci has been working with Deb Dickey with County Budget and Finance to move funds from Lease to Contracted/Purchased Services.
- V. Combine or Consolidate Precincts
 - A. 2020 Census and Redistricting
 1. Barry Jackson presented a detailed PowerPoint Presentation regarding the proposed recommendations for Combining and Consolidating Precincts. Handouts of the presentation were provided to Board members and included active registered voters by precinct, census data and recommended new precinct identification.
 - a. Deadline to present to the State remains March 28, 2022. Special meeting for precinct approval to be determined.
 - b. Update precincts and street assignments in MDVOTERS
 - c. Generate new Voter Notification Card for affected voters in the county.
 - B. Combining and Consolidating
 1. Combining precincts with the same legislative and election district and are adjacent.
 2. Remove inner boundary lines between adjacent precincts and retain the label of the first precinct numerically.

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3. After Board review and approval, update MDVOTERS and send new Voter Notification Cards.
4. Consolidating precincts without a suitable polling location within their district boundaries
 - a. Reduction in number of Election Judges

C. Legislative District 1C recommendations

1. Create and consolidate precinct 02001 (Legislative District 1C) and precinct 02002 (Legislative District 2A), Williamsport High School.
2. Combine precincts 13001/13002, Maugansville Elementary School Gymnasium
 - a. Jim asks about the number of active registered voters compared to election judge staff. Barry and Kaye clarify that there will be additional election judges and equipment to accommodate the potential voter turnout.
3. Precinct 24001 moves from Legislative District 2A to District 1C and becomes precinct 24000.
4. Precinct 26001 moves from Legislative District 2A to District 1C and polling place moves from St. Joseph's Catholic Church Parish Center to Washington County Election Center
5. Combine precincts 26002/26003 into 26002, Lincolnshire Elementary Cafeteria, resulting in less election judges required
 - a. Jim asks for number of total voters and election judge staff after consolidation, concerns of understaffing.
6. Precinct 26004, Hickory Elementary moves to Legislative District 1C and becomes 26003, leaving no gaps in precinct numbers

D. Legislative District 2A recommendations

1. Precinct 27001, Fountaindale Elementary – no change
2. Precinct 27002, previously in Legislative District 2A, but now split between District 2A and 1C, becomes two separate precincts, 27002 (in 2A) and 27003 (in 1C) – consolidate precincts and vote at Paramount Elementary School Cafeteria.
3. Precinct 09000 has no legislative change but has a new polling place, Leitersburg Ruritan Community Center.
4. Combine precincts 07001/07002 to create precinct 07000, Smithsburg Middle School Cafeteria.
 - a. Concerns are raised over the parking availability and enough election judges
 - b. Questions concerning equipment and staffing estimates based on potential voter turnout are raised

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- c. Jim asks about trends towards vote by mail. We estimate 6700 applications will be submitted.
- 5. Precinct 18004 moved from Legislative District 2B to District 2A, allowing for the combining of District 18003/18004 – all voters will vote at Hagerstown Community College ARCC
 - a. Equipment and staffing can be reduced while still being reasonable, even at high traffic times of the day, per Barry and based on voter registration
- 6. Combine precincts 06001/06002 into precinct 06000, Boonsboro High Gymnasium
- 7. Combine precincts 10001/10004 into precinct 10001, South Hagerstown High Gymnasium
- 8. Precinct 10002 is split between Legislative Districts 2A and 1C
 - a. Create precinct 10002 (2A) and precinct 10004 (1C)
 - b. Voters vote at Rockland Woods Elementary School Gymnasium

E. Legislative District 2B recommendations

- 1. Precinct 17001 has revised boundary lines and becomes known as precinct 17000, for consistency
- 2. Create precinct 03002 by combining precincts 03002/03003/03004/03005 that are Legislative District 2B
- 3. Create new precinct 03003, Legislative District 1C, City of Hagerstown new annexations
 - a. Both new precincts 03002 and 03003 will vote at Girls Inc. Gymnasium
 - i. Questions regarding the consolidation of the precincts are raised. Barry and Kaye confirm there are currently no voters in precinct 03003.
 - ii. Additional questions regarding Girls Inc. being able to accommodate the potential voter turnout. Barry explains that our expected voter turnout will be approximately half of the turnout for Girls Inc. 2020, as a polling place.
- 4. Create precinct 25003 by combining previous precinct 25003, now moved from Legislative District 2A to 2B entirely, with previous precinct 25004, which has few voters and is currently in Legislative District 2B as well.
- 5. Create new precinct 21002 by combining previous precincts 21002/21003. Precinct 21002 will vote in North Hagerstown High Gymnasium.
- 6. Create precinct 22003, per new Legislative map, in Legislative District 2A, to vote with precinct 22002 in Pangborn Elementary.

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Discussion:

1. A question is raised with regard to the MD Senate potentially passing legislation requiring the same number of polling places to be used as in 2018. Barry explains that changes may need to be made to meet that requirement.
 2. A question is posed on the definition of "polling places." Can we make consolidated precincts and yet call them two polling places? Barry and Kaye explain that this would not satisfy the proposed new law. We need distinct facilities for each precinct.
 3. Can we combine 4 polling places into the Hagerstown ARCC and close Maranatha? Barry explains that the ARCC facility is not closed during the election and the lobby cannot accommodate more precincts.
 4. Girls Inc. is difficult to curtail electioneering in such a confined space. Board members ask for additional clarification on the rules and possibilities.
 5. Seth Wilson mentions that he disagrees with the idea of vote centers and wonders if it would be easier to find more facilities if the precincts were smaller. He questions the efficiency and realized savings in combining of several precincts to create new larger precincts. Seth raises a question of voter turnout and the percentage of provisional ballots issued in each polling place. He also would like access to the current precinct maps. Barry will research the provisional ballot numbers and the availability of the maps.
 6. The work that goes into the election staffing, equipment, and decision making is appreciated.
- VI. Election Worker Training – Board members were given a copy of the training schedule in the packet. Kaye will also email the schedule.
- VII. 2022 and 2023 MAEO Conferences – both conferences will now be held in FY23.
- A. 2022 conference one-day hybrid may or not be in person September 29th 2022
 - B. 2023 conference May 15-19 Ocean City at the Clarion

New Business:

- I. Election Calendar – still in draft

Members Remarks:

Marty Lumm thanked Tammy Downin for her leadership in the previous meeting.

Scheduling of Next Meeting:

The next regular meeting of the Washington County Board of Elections will be held on Tuesday, April 12, 2022 at 3:00 PM. The location is Washington County Election Center, 17718 Virginia Avenue, Hagerstown, MD; as pursuant to the Bylaws of the Washington County Board of Elections, Article 3, Section 3.3(A) 8. A special meeting to be held on Thursday, March 24, 2022 at 3:00 PM to vote on proposed district and precinct consolidations.

