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Election Judge News

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November 10, 2021

Veterans Day

November 11th is Veterans Day, so we pause to honor all those who served and are currently serving in America's armed forces.

We know there are many of our election judges who are veterans or are currently serving, and we thank you for your service.

Two of our staff members are veterans:

Carl Dayley, our Election Program IT Specialist, is a veteran of the United States Army.

Carl served on active duty from 2008 to 2012. He was stationed with the 524th Military Intelligence Battalion and later the US Army Garrison in South Korea, then with the 1st Infantry Division in Ft. Riley, KS.

Carl reached the rank of Sergeant and was awarded the Army Achievement Medal.



Barry Jackson, our Deputy Election Director, enlisted in the United States Marine Corps Reserve the day before high school graduation and served from 1984 to 1991, reaching the rank of Sergeant.

Barry served with the 8th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Marine Division during Operations Desert Shield/Desert Storm in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait and received the Navy Achievement Medal.



By the way, November 10th is the Marine Corps birthday, as the Corps was founded in Tun's Tavern in Philadelphia on 10 November, 1775. So happy birthday to all our devil dogs out there! Semper Fi and "Oorah!"

Of course, Veterans Day stems from the armistice of World War I, when cessation of hostilities took effect on the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month of 1918.

The next year, President Woodrow Wilson declared November 11th "Armistice Day."

Then, in 1954, President Eisenhower changed the name of the holiday to Veterans Day.

For a while, Veterans Day was celebrated as part of a three day

weekend, like Memorial Day and Labor Day, but it proved too confusing and unpopular, so it was changed back to falling on November 11th each year.

Early Voting Update

November 29th is the deadline for local boards of elections (LBE) to submit their Early Voting Center selections for the 2022 Gubernatorial Elections.

At its October meeting the Washington County Board of Elections approved the Washington County Election Center at 17718 Virginia Avenue, Hagerstown as Early Voting Center 1 (EVC01) and the Washington County Free Library at 100 S. Potomac Street, Hagerstown as Early Voting Center 2 (EVC02).

In the same meeting, the Board also approved the Smithsburg Library as Early Voting Center 3 (EVC03), which required the approval of the Washington County Commissioners and State Board of Elections (SBE). The Commissioners did not approve the third site, so we will only have two Early Voting Centers in 2022.

Still, this doubles your opportunity to work at Early Voting.

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



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Election Judge News

Early Voting Update (cont.)

Just let us know if you're interested in working at either of the two Early Voting Centers.

Election Judge Application

Did you know? Election Judge terms are for two years, beginning 13 weeks before Primary Election Day. So whether you're new or have worked multiple elections, all election judges must fill out a new application.

You should have received the 2022 Election Judge Application in the mail. For those who have already filled out and sent theirs back, thank you!

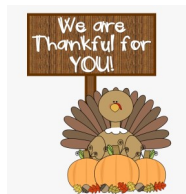
If you did not receive your application in the mail and you wish to work in the 2022 elections, please contact us at washco.elections@maryland.gov or 240-313-2050.

Thanksgiving

We wish everyone a happy and healthy Thanksgiving. At the top of our list of things to be thankful for is our election judges.

We've said it before, and we'll say it again: we literally could not run an election without our dedicated election judges.

We wish we could show our appreciation better than the barely above minimum wage pay you receive, especially after what many of you had to face in the 2020 elections. But please know that we do appreciate you and thank you from the bottom of our hearts.



In Memoriam

We are saddened to report that Mavin Gossard passed away on October 27th after a prolonged illness. She was 79.

Mavin was a mainstay in Washington County Elections since the 1960's. Her father, Marvin Abbott, was a precinct leader for the Republican party. His job was to keep track of who voted on Election Day and contact those who had not yet voted and offer rides to the polling place. Mavin would help her father keep track of the list.

When an opening occurred for an election judge at the Downsville precinct, Mavin took the job. No one's quite sure exactly when that was, because our records are fractured. We do know that Mavin took over as Chief Judge in 1994 and never missed an election until 2020, when her health began to fail.

Mavin and her younger sister, Marilyn Ashcraft, were a consistent presence at the Downsville precinct for decades. It will be odd not to see Mavin there, but Marilyn will be continuing the family tradition in 2022!



Mavin Gossard (foreground) with sister Marilyn Ashcraft (background).

In addition to elections, Mavin was a bus driver for Washington County Public Schools for 55 years, so when she did something, she stuck with it! Mavin's family was also very involved with horse pulling contests in the four state area.

Training Center

From the Election Judge Training Manual, Chapter 1, about voter ID policy:

1.18 General Policies About Voters

1.18.1 Voter ID Policy

- If the voter is marked as "Show ID" in the electronic pollbook, then you should ask the voter to show ID. Otherwise, **do not** ask voters to show ID.
- If a voter offers an ID, you may accept it, but the voter **must** verbally state his or her name, address, and month and day of birth.
- If someone challenges a voter's identity, tell a chief judge immediately.

Trivia Question

Who was the first U.S. President to pardon a turkey?

Answers below:

