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Election Judge News

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COVID-19 Update

On May 17th we received the news we were awaiting for over a year: “Employees are no longer required to wear a face covering regardless of their vaccination status.”

With ever increasing numbers of vaccinations and decreasing positivity rate, we are beginning to see the return to normal.

But will things ever really return to the way they were before 2020, and do we want them to? Are there lessons to be learned from this that we can use to better ourselves?

And we can't help but think of those among us who have lost loved ones to COVID-19. You are in our thoughts and prayers.



Staff members pose with their favorite masks after receiving news that masks would no longer be required. Left to right: Kaye Robucci, Teresa Morningstar, Barry Jackson, Tammi Derr, Dean Robucci, and Carl Dayley.

2022 Election

As we begin our return to “normal,” we turn our attention to the 2022 Gubernatorial Election.

Here are some of the highlights and where 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 new state requirements, we will have at least two, probably three Early Voting Centers in 2022. 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**—in the 2022 election, 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 (the results, of course, would not be released until Election Night). 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!

Tammi Derr, our Election Judge Coordinator, will be contacting you around the beginning of the year to begin placing you in your polling places, and we will give you an opportunity to sign up for any of the other activities mentioned above.

Cascade and Hancock

Speaking of polling places, the superintendent of Washington County Public Schools (WCPS) issued a report to the Board of Education, recommending that Cascade Elementary School and Hancock Middle/Senior High School be closed, and the students bussed to Smithsburg and Clear Spring, respectively. Both of these schools are polling places, so this caught our attention.

The Board of Ed held public hearings on May 25th and 26th,



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Election Judge News

Cascade and Hancock (continued)

allowing public comments on the closing of Cascade and Hancock, respectively.

Director Kaye Robucci spoke at the May 25th hearing, reminding the Board of Ed that Cascade Elementary is a polling place.

On June 1st, the Board of Ed voted against the superintendent's recommendations, meaning Cascade and Hancock will remain open, and we will continue to use them as polling places! So, good news for those of you used to working in Cascade and Hancock.

Cory Green

Please join us in welcoming Cory Green to the Board of Elections staff. Cory is our new Election Program Assistant.

Cory is a life long resident of Washington County and graduate of Smithsburg High School. Cory also has a bachelor's degree from Frostburg State University.

Prior to coming to the Election Board, Cory worked for eight years with the Maryland Department of Social Services.



And we found out after the fact that he's the son-in-law of Keedysville chief judge Patsy Holder!

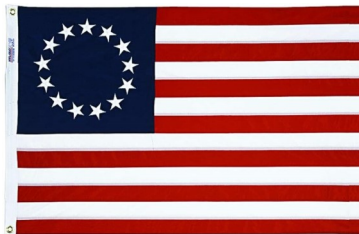
Welcome Cory!

Flag Day

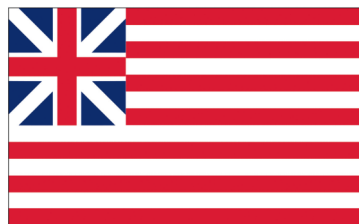
A lot of cool things happen in June: it's the official start of summer; high school graduations are taking place; many of us have wedding anniversaries; but one of our favorite things in June is Flag Day!

On June 14, 1777, Congress resolved: "The flag of the United States shall be thirteen stripes, alternate red and white, with a union of thirteen stars of white on a blue field."

While not a national holiday, Flag Day was first observed on June 14, 1877, the 100th anniversary of the Stars and Stripes, and continues today.



Prior to the Stars and Stripes, however, George Washington commissioned the Grand Union flag on January 1, 1776, and it was the unofficial national flag until the Stars and Stripes. What do you think of it?



There are specific rules for how the flag is to be handled and displayed. To learn more about that, go to military.com/flag-day/us-flag-code.html.

Flag Day source: almanac.com/content/flag-day-celebration-american-flag#

Training Center

A good reminder for election judges from chapter 1 of the Election Judge Manual, regarding making the best of a VERY long day!

1.13 Tips for Election Judges

- Bring a sweater or jacket in case the polling place is cold.
- Bring enough food and drinks to last the entire day.
- Bring any medicine you may need, as you may not leave the polling place to get anything.

Speaking of food, here's hoping that we'll be able to get back to pot lucks at the polling places next year!

Trivia Question

The same year Congress adopted the Stars and Stripes, 1777, Maryland selected its first Governor. Who was it? Answer below:



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