



AGENDA

Washington County Board of Elections December 12, 2023

Board Meeting to be held on Tuesday, December 12, 2023 at **3:00PM**. Meeting will be held in person but may also be attended virtually. Call in information is provided below.

Call Meeting to Order:

Declaration of Quorum Present:

Recess for Closed Session: The meeting will be closed in accordance with Open Meeting Act Procedures, reason (7), To consult with counsel to obtain legal advice on a legal matter.

Reconvene in Open Session (approximately 3:30PM)

Approval of Draft Agenda:

Approval of Draft Minutes:

Correspondence:

None

Reports:

- I. Election Director
- II. Attorney

Unfinished Business:

- I. Early Voting
- II. Polling Place Plan

New Business:

- I. Assignment of Duties to Members of the Local Board, the Election Director and Staff

Members Remarks:

Scheduling of Next Meeting:

Distributed Information:

Future Events:

December 25th – Office Closed

December 28th – Office Closes Early

December 29th – Office Closed

January 8th – 10th – Barry at EAC LLC Conference

January 22nd – 26th – Barry and Teresa at iGO Winter Conference

Executive Session:

Part of the meeting may be closed in accordance with Open Meeting Act Procedures.

Public Participation: Members of the public may address the Board. Pursuant to §3.2B of the Board's bylaws, public participation at a meeting must be pre-scheduled and pre-approved by the President. To request approval to speak at a board meeting, contact Barry Jackson at 240.313.2054 or by Email at barry.jackson@maryland.gov no later than 5 pm the day before the meeting.

Call In Instructions for the Meeting:

Meeting ID

meet.google.com/asr-pggi-hyn

[Join by phone](#)

1 402-921-2248

PIN: 716 540 556#

Director's Report – December 12, 2023

- A. Personnel –
 - 1. Jessica Bobbitt, Election Program Assistant I, starting December 27, 2023.
 - 2. PEPs due January 13, 2024
- B. Meetings:
 - 1. Director's Meetings:
 - a) November 16th in person at SBE
 - (1) Updated Disaster Recovery Plans due early 2024
 - (2) OLA Audit – SBE Press Release
 - (3) CMOS batteries for every pollbook will be replaced for 2024
 - (4) New Pollbook Training, November 28-30.
 - (5) Statewide Testing of New Pollbooks, December 4-8.
 - (6) New Ballot Vendor is Singlepoint. Working on a manifest solution to accurately identify ballots on each pallet.
 - (7) Delegation of Duties of Board Members and Directors/Staff need to be approved and submitted to SBE.
 - (8) New Party Petition sometime in 2024.
 - (9) End of Year List Maintenance on December 28th.
 - (10) Drop Box rain flap stickers
 - b) Next Meeting: Thursday, December 14th, in person at SBE.
- C. Trainings: Barry and Carl New Pollbook training, November 30th.
- D. Legislative Update: Legislative Priorities Discussion
- E. Voter Registration Activities and Statistics:
 - 1. Registration Statistics for November 2023 were distributed to the Board.
 - 2. End of Year List Maintenance – December 28th.
- F. Candidate Filings:
 - 1. Filing for 2024 Presidential Election began on January 19, 2023. Still only one filing so far. (Bill McIntire/Mayor)
- G. Voting System Activities:
 - 1. Statewide New Pollbook Test – December 4th-8th.
 - 2. Equipment charging in early January
- H. Projects:
 - 1. Ballot Drop Box Security Camera Procurement
 - 2. FY25 Budget Preparation

STATE BOARD OF ELECTIONS

P.O. BOX 6486, ANNAPOLIS, MD 21401-0486 PHONE (410) 269-2840

Michael G. Summers, Chairman
William G. Voelp, Vice Chairman
Carlos Ayala
Janet Millenson
Yaakov "Jake" Weissmann



Jared DeMarinis
State Administrator

Katherine Berry
Deputy Administrator

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 4, 2023

Maryland State Board of Elections Administrator Jared DeMarinis Releases Statement in Response to the Office of Legislative Audits Findings

ANNAPOLIS, MD – The Maryland State Board of Elections (SBE) Administrator Jared DeMarinis released the following statement in response to the Office of Legislative Audits findings for the period between December 2018 and December 2022.

“The Maryland State Board of Elections appreciates the work of the Office of Legislative Audits (OLA) and has been working with the OLA to respond to and clarify the findings of the legislative audit covering the last four years between 2019 and 2022. What is clear from the audit findings is that Marylanders should have full faith and confidence in the integrity of our elections and voting process.

“SBE is committed to continuous improvement of election administration, and in many cases, issues identified in the audit have already been or will be resolved. SBE is committed to open and transparent election administration, security, and meeting proceedings. SBE has already engaged with major stakeholders and outreach programs for the 2024 election cycle.

“The Maryland State Board of Elections has been and always will be the trusted source for information in preparation of the 2024 election.

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In the Supreme Court of Maryland

December 8, 2023

BRIEFING AND ARGUMENT NOTICE

Re: *Derek Harvey, et al. v. Jared DeMarinis, in his official capacity as the State Administrator of Elections, et al.*
No. 26, September Term, 2023

Dear Counsel:

The Circuit Court for Anne Arundel County has transmitted the notice of appeal filed in that court by Derek Harvey and others. The appeal has been docketed as Number 26 of the September 2023 Term. Pursuant to § 12-203(b), the briefing and argument schedule are being expedited.

This case is set for argument on Monday, February 5, 2024.

The brief of the Appellant and the record extract shall be filed on or before Friday, December 29, 2023. The brief of the Appellee shall be filed on or before Friday, January 19, 2024. Appellant's reply brief, if any, must be filed on or before Monday, January 29, 2024. The parties' briefs and the record extract shall comply with Maryland Rules 8-112, 8-501, 8-503, and 8-504 and be filed through the MDEC system in accordance with Maryland Rules 8-502, 20-403, 20-404, and 20-406.¹

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Gregory Hilton".

Gregory Hilton, Clerk

¹ Pursuant to Rule 20-406, on the first business day following the electronic filing, the required eight paper copies of the briefs and record extract must be either delivered to the Court or be placed in the U.S. Mail or with a third-party commercial carrier for delivery to the Court.



Maryland Association of Election Officials

Representing the Local Election Boards of the State of Maryland

Legislative Committee

Legislative Session 2024 Report:

- Defensive Approach:
 - Focus on discouraging large changes during an election year.
 - Prefer changes to take effect in off years.
- Election Official Protections:
 - Supportive of bills enhancing safety for election officials.
 - Interest from legislators in [Nevada's bipartisan-supported SB 406](#) making harassment of election workers a felony.
- Cleaning up 50/50 Split:
 - Senator Kagan to submit an emergency bill.
 - Monitoring and will report the bill's contents.
- Admin Leave for Primary Election Day:
 - Del. Wilkins is potentially interested in sponsoring a bill.
 - Reflects existing practice for General Election Day.
- \$100 Judge Bonus:
 - Uncertain of effectiveness.
 - Encouraging Local Board of Elections to record and provide feedback for potential adjustments.
- Polling Place Plans:
 - Effectiveness unknown.
 - Encouraging LBEs to record experiences for future adjustments.
- Upcoming:
 - Scheduled meetings with legislative services.
 - Awaiting the start of the session to assess submitted election bills.

Note: The report will be updated as more information becomes available during the legislative session.

ISSUE PAPERS 2024 LEGISLATIVE SESSION



DEPARTMENT OF LEGISLATIVE SERVICES 2023

State Government

Elections

A number of issues surround elections in Maryland. Under recent changes to federal law, the State's presidential election certification deadline is currently very close to a deadline established for states to identify their appointed presidential electors in the electoral college process. Harassment and threatening of election personnel has increased in recent years, prompting efforts to address the problem. Finally, the potential impact of artificial intelligence on elections has raised concern.

Electoral Count Reform Act

The federal Electoral Count Reform Act of 2022 (ECRA) was enacted in December 2022, to address ambiguities in federal law governing the electoral college process that became a focus of attention during the electoral college process that followed the 2020 presidential election. The electoral college process culminates on January 6 following a presidential election, when federal law requires Congress to meet to conduct the official count of electoral votes and declare who is elected President and Vice President of the United States. ECRA made various changes and clarifications to the law to ensure that the President and Vice President are declared elected on January 6 based on the electoral votes cast by electors that (1) are appointed by each state on Election Day in November (through the state's popular vote for President and Vice President) in accordance with the laws of the state enacted prior to Election Day and (2) subsequently cast their votes at the meeting of the state's electors in December in accordance with the laws of the state enacted prior to Election Day.

The National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL) indicated in early 2023 that states may benefit from reviewing their laws relating to presidential electors in light of ECRA, including whether a state's election certification deadline occurs sufficiently in advance of an ECRA deadline for a state to issue a "certificate of ascertainment of appointment of electors" (identifying the state's appointed electors) and transmit it to the Archivist of the United States. ECRA requires the certificate of ascertainment of appointment of electors to be issued no later than six days before the date in December when states' electors meet to cast their electoral votes.

Maryland's certification deadline is very close to the ECRA deadline. In 2024, the State law deadline for the State Board of Canvassers (the Secretary of State, the Comptroller, the Treasurer, the Clerk of the Supreme Court of Maryland, and the Attorney General) to convene and certify the results of the general election is 35 days after the November 5 election (December 10), and State law allows for the board to adjourn for not more than 1 day if a majority of the members of the board is not present. In 2024, under ECRA, the certificate of ascertainment of appointment of electors must be issued by December 11 (6 days before the meeting of electors on December 17), potentially resulting in a very small window of time between when the State's election results are

certified and when the certificate of ascertainment of appointment of electors must be issued and transmitted.

Protections for Election Workers

As described by NCSL, election officials, staff, and poll workers have been subjected to threats, accusations of crime, and leaked private information (“doxing”) at much higher rates than usual in recent years (in Maryland, poll workers are referred to as “election judges”). A 2022 survey by the Elections & Voting Information Center at Reed College found that one in four local election officials had experienced abuse, harassment, or threats in the prior two years as part of their work.

According to NCSL, since 2020, 11 states (California, Colorado, Maine, Minnesota, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Oregon, Vermont, and Washington) have enacted laws specifically addressing protections for election officials and poll workers. Of the 11 states’ laws, NCSL indicates that 8 criminalize intimidation of and/or interference with election workers and 3 allow election officials to be included in the state’s address confidentiality programs.

Based on a review by the Department of Legislative Services of all states’ statutes, and accounting for the 11 states’ recently enacted laws identified by NCSL, there appear to be (1) at least 16 states that have relatively broad prohibitions against harassment, threats, and/or use of force against election officials and/or poll workers; (2) at least 9 other states, and the District of Columbia, that have relatively broad prohibitions against harassment, threats, and/or use of force against government officials in general; (3) at least 5 states that allow election officials to become part of a program that keeps the officials’ addresses and other personal identifying information confidential (in most cases only if they are subject to a threat); and (4) at least 4 states that prohibit publishing personal identifying information of election officials and/or their family members online with harmful intent.

During the 2023 legislative session in Maryland, House Bill 951 was introduced, but not enacted, that would have (1) modified an existing prohibition against interference with an election official in the performance of official duties to specifically include interference by threat, coercion, or intimidation; (2) prohibited publishing online and with harmful intent personal information regarding an election official or the official’s immediate family; and (3) allowed for an election worker’s personal information to be removed from the State Department of Assessments and Taxation’s single-family residential real property valuation database under circumstances of an imminent and serious threat to the election worker or the worker’s immediate family.

At the federal level, a task force formed by the U.S. Department of Justice in 2021 to address threats against election officials and others associated with the electoral process announced in August 2023 that it had charged 14 cases and secured nine convictions. Several of the task force’s recent convictions, which were for threats against Arizona and Georgia officials, have been pursuant to a federal law that prohibits sending a threat through an interstate communication.

The Impact of Artificial Intelligence on Elections

Concern has been raised about the impact artificial intelligence (AI) can have on elections, particularly its use in campaigning, including political advertising, and its potential use in spreading misinformation about the election process. The concern is prompting state and federal legislative efforts to address the potential impact, including the introduction of the Protect Elections from Deceptive AI Act (S.2770) in Congress in September, that would prohibit a person, political committee, or other entity from knowingly distributing materially deceptive AI-generated audio or visual media of a candidate for federal office with the intent of influencing an election or soliciting funds.

Maryland law regulating political advertising (or “campaign material”) does not explicitly address the use of AI-generated audio or visual media. However, the State Board of Elections adopted regulations in 2022 that require a campaign that uses a “deep fake” (which is very similar to materially deceptive AI-generated audio or visual media) in campaign material to clearly indicate before and after the deep fake content that the content does not reflect a true recording of an action, sound, or image that occurred in reality. “Deep fake” is defined as an audio or video recording that appears to constitute a true recording of an action, sound, a vocalization, or an image, but (1) did not occur in the manner presented by the recording in reality and (2) was generated with the assistance of computer software to create apparently authentic images, vocalizations, or recordings.

Maryland law also does not explicitly address the potential use of AI in spreading misinformation about the election process, but the law does prohibit a person from willfully and knowingly influencing or attempting to influence through the use of fraud, a voter’s decision whether to go to the polls to vote or vote by other lawful means.

Assignment of Local Board of Elections' Duties to Members of the Local Board, the Election Director and Staff

This table shows the duties of the local board of elections and shows which duties are the responsibility of the members of the local board of elections and which are either delegated to the Election Director or are administrative, ministerial functions performed by the Election Director or staff. These duties associated with the members of the local boards of elections generally require personal participation and final decision making of board members, although local board staff will likely assist in performing these duties. Any duties that are delegated to the Election Director or staff should be delegated in an open meeting and captured in the meeting's minutes.

Citation EL = Election Law Article GP = General Provisions SPP = State Personnel & Pensions Article	Duties of the Local Board of Elections	Responsible Party	
		LBE Board Members	Election Dir./Staff
EL §1-303.1(c) & (d)	<i>Baltimore City only:</i> Provide staff to collect election materials from ballot box at Baltimore City's centralized booking facility, distribute to materials to appropriate local boards, and on or before January 1 of each year, submit to specific legislative committees a report with data related to this box		✓
EL §2-104(b)(1)	Attend State Board's biennial meeting (held in odd-numbered years)	✓	✓
EL §2-202(b)(1)	Oversee the conduct of all elections	✓	✓
EL §2-202(b)(2)	Appoint an election director to manage office and staff	✓	
EL §2-202(b)(3)	Maintain an office and be open for business as provided by §2-302(b) of the Election Law Article		✓
EL §2-202(b)(3)	Provide for supplies and equipment necessary for the proper and efficient conduct of voter registration and election, including supplies and equipment required by the State Board and office and polling place equipment supplies		✓
EL §2-202(b)(4)	Subject to SBE's approval for conformity with State laws, regulations and procedures, adopt regulations	✓	
EL §2-202(b)(5) ¹	Perform the canvass of the election (serving as the local board of canvassers) and certify the results of each election conducted by the local board.	✓	
EL §2-202(b)(6)	Establish and alter boundaries and number of precincts in accordance with Election Law Article, §2-303	✓	
EL §2-202(b)(6); EL §10-101	Provide a suitable polling place for each precinct		✓
EL §2-202(b)(6)	Assign voters to precincts		✓
EL §2-202(b)(7) ²	Give voters information about the election process		✓
EL §2-202(b)(8)	Conduct hearings and render determinations as allowed by law		✓
EL §2-202(b)(9)	Refer appropriate matters for prosecution and assist with prosecution	✓	✓
EL §2-202(b)(10) EL §3-505(c)	Maintain and dispose of its records in accordance with the State Board's record retention plan		✓

¹ EL §11-301 - 11-303 and §11-401 also include duties related to canvassing and certification requirements.

² The following provisions of the Election Law Article include duties related to providing voters with information about the election process: EL §2-301(c)(1); EL §7-105; EL §8-102; EL §9-214; EL §10-301.1(f); and EL §10-306

Citation	Duties of the Local Board of Elections	Responsible Party	
		LBE Board Members	Election Dir./Staff
EL §2-202(b)(1)(1)	Administer voter registration and absentee voting for residents of nursing homes and assisted living facilities		✓
EL §2-202(c)(1)	<i>Garrett County only:</i> Evaluate the population of the county commissioner districts to determine whether the districts are of substantially equal population		✓
EL §2-202(c)(2)	<i>Garrett County only:</i> Recommend to the Garrett County Delegation to the General Assembly any adjustments of the boundaries of those districts that are necessary to maintain districts of substantially equal population.		✓
EL §2-202	Appoint or retain counsel (except for Baltimore City)	✓	
EL §2-206(1)	Appoint employees of the local board		✓
EL §2-106(2)	Train election judges		✓
EL §2-206(3)	Give notice of elections		✓
EL §2-206(4); EL §10-102(c)	If asked, provide elderly voters or voters with disabilities an alternate polling place		✓
EL §2-206(5); EL §3-301(c)	Mail voter notification cards		✓
EL §2-206(6) ³	Receive certificates of candidacy (includes withdrawal of candidacy filings) for local offices		✓
EL §2-206(7) ⁴	Verify petitions		✓
EL §2-206(8)	With the local board, conduct the canvass following an election	✓	✓
EL §2-206(9) ⁵	Process and reject absentee ballot applications		✓
EL §2-302(b)(2)	Be available as needed on election day and during the canvass	✓	
EL §2-303(a)(1)(i)	Create and alter boundaries for precincts in the county except during the period beginning 13 weeks before a primary election through the general election and in accordance with State Board regulations	✓	
EL §2-303(a)(1)(ii)	Designate the location for polling places in any election district, ward, or precinct in the county		✓
EL §2-303(a)(1)(iii)	Combine or abolish precincts	✓	
EL §2-303(a)(2)(i)	Establish a separate precinct on campus or within ½ mile of the campus to specifically serve a public or private institution of higher education if the local board determines that at least 500 students, faculty, and staff who attend or work at the institution are registered voters in the precinct in which the institution is located.	✓	✓
EL §2-303(d)	Provide State Administrator with description of new precinct boundaries		✓

³ EL §5-302(c) and EL §5-503(a) also include duties related to certificates of candidacy.

⁴ EL §6-205(a) and EL §6-206 - §6-208 also include duties related to receiving, processing and certifying petitions.

⁵ EL §9-302 and 9-306 also include duties related to processing absentee ballot applications.

Citation	Duties of the Local Board of Elections	Responsible Party	
		LBE Board Members	Election Dir./Staff
EL §2-303(f)	Determine whether an emergency exists. If so, create a new precinct or change a precinct boundary or polling place and submit request to State Board	✓	
EL §2-303(h)	Maintain a list of individuals and organizations interested in being notified about polling place changes and give notice before a local board considers polling place changes		✓
EL §2-303.1	Submit to State Board a polling place plan and if the initial plan is rejected, submit a revised plan	✓	✓
EL §3-301(a)	Determine whether a voter registration applicant is qualified to be a registered voters and if qualified, enter into the statewide voter registration list		✓
EL §3-303(c); EL §3-502	Process timely name, address, and party affiliation changes		✓
EL §3-304(b)	Promptly process in the statewide voter registration system changes of name or address submit by registered voters		✓
EL §3-501; EL §3-502(e); EL §3-504(c)	After following required steps, remove from the statewide voter registration list voters for authorized reasons		✓
EL §3-502(b), (c)	Perform required steps and send confirmation notice when receive information about voter's registration in another county or state		✓
EL §3-502(d) EL §3-601.1	Make corrections to voter's record in statewide voter registration list		✓
EL §3-504(b)(4)	Make arrangements to receive change of address information from an entity approved by the State Board		✓
EL §5-705(b)(2)	Issue a certificate of nomination to each candidate who qualifies for the nomination		✓
EL §6-202(b)	Determine sufficiency of any summary of a local law or charter amendment that is contained in a petition and explain any determination of insufficiency		✓
EL §6-210(a), (b)	If emergency circumstances interfere with the electoral process and the Governor has not declared a state of emergency, petition a circuit court – after conferring with the State Board – to take action	✓	
EL §8-103(b)	Maintain a system to account for and maintain control over the ballots		✓
EL §9-216(a)	Provide requesting voters with a mail-in ballot ⁶		✓
EL §9-306	Maintain a full record of provisional voting		✓
EL §9-402	For each precinct, designate a polling place that meets certain requirements		✓
EL §10-101	Recruit, assign, train, and pay appointed election judges	✓	
EL §10-201 ⁷			✓

⁶ The State Board provides most voters requesting a mail-in ballot with their ballots. The local board staff provides mail-in ballots for in-person requests, ballots for residents of nursing homes and assisted living facilities, and ballots requested after a specific date before each election.

⁷ The following provisions of the Election Law Article include duties related to election judges: EL §10-205 – 206; EL §10-305; and EL §10-314(a).

Citation	Duties of the Local Board of Elections	Responsible Party	
		LBE Board Members	Election Dir./Staff
EL §10-203	Appoint election judges based on election director's recommendation	✓	
EL §10-205	Pay election judges at least the minimum compensation for training and service		✓
EL §10-207	Upon receiving complaint about an election judge, promptly investigate and remove any election judge who is unfit or incompetent	✓	✓
EL §10-301.1	Identify and recommend to the local board members locations for that county's early voting centers		✓
EL §10-301.1	Approve early voting centers in that county	✓	
EL §10-302	Deliver supplies and equipment to each voting location		✓
EL §10-307(a)	Be available as needed on election day	✓	
EL §10-307(b)	Provide way for voting locations to communicate with LBE office		✓
EL §10-311(a)(1)(ii)	Designate voters registered in the county as challengers or watchers	✓	
EL §10-312(d)	Determine whether ballot from challenged voter should be accepted	✓	
EL §11-302(a)(1) & (b)	Convene to canvass mail-in ballots and canvass according to State law, regulations, and guidance	✓	✓
EL §11-302(b)(1)(ii)	Seek a waiver of the requirement to canvassing of mail-in ballots before election day	✓	
EL §11-302(a)(2) & (d)(3)	Review each mail-in ballot envelope for a signed oath and if there no signature, contact voter		✓
EL §11-302(a)(3)	Record the receipt of each mail-in ballot within specified timeframe		✓
EL §11-302(e)	At the end of each day of canvassing on or after election day, prepare and release a report of unofficial returns of the mail-in ballot tabulation	✓	✓
EL §11-303	Convene to canvass provisional ballots and canvass according to State law, regulations, and guidance	✓	✓
EL §11-309	Perform manual audit of voted ballots		✓
EL §11-402	Prepare a statement of election results and declare who is elected or nominated for local contests	✓	
EL §12-106(a)	Conduct recounts	✓	
SPP §7-502(a)	Perform written performance appraisal of Election Director using State PEP form every July and January	✓	
SPP Titles 9, 11, & 12	Follow requirements of the State Personnel and Pensions Article and any applicable regulations or merit system requirements in all matters related to the Election Director's leave, discipline, or termination	✓	
SPP §1-101(k); SPP §11-109(c)	Act as (Board President), or consult with (the other Board members), the head of the principal unit for the purposes of appeals and grievances filed under the State Personnel and Pensions Article	✓	
SPP §7-502(a)	Perform written performance appraisal of staff members every July and January		✓
SPP Titles 9, 11, & 12	Follow requirements of the State Personnel and Pensions Article and any applicable regulations or merit system requirements in all matters related to the staff members' leave, discipline, or termination		✓
GP §3-213	Designate at least one board member to be trained in the Open Meetings Act	✓	
	Follow county processes for developing and submitting budget, paying invoices, submitting reimbursements, etc.		✓
	Administer oath to new employees (within 45 days of employment) (see below for language)	✓	

Citation	Duties of the Local Board of Elections	Responsible Party	
		LBE Board Members	Election Dir./Staff
EL = Election Law Article GP = General Provisions SPP = State Personnel & Pensions Article			
	Prepare and present at local board meetings reports on achievement of goals, objectives, and projects		✓
	Monitor budget expenditures		✓
	Plan agenda for meetings of the local board of elections	✓	✓
	Take minutes at meetings of the local board of elections and submit to SBE approved minutes		✓
	Adopt minutes of local board of elections	✓	
	File ethics forms yearly	✓	✓

Oath for election judges and staff (Art. 1, Sec. 9 of the Maryland Constitution)

I,, do swear, (or affirm, as the case may be,) that I will support the Constitution of the United States; and that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to the State of Maryland, and support the Constitution and Laws thereof; and that I will, to the best of my skill and judgment, diligently and faithfully, without partiality or prejudice, execute the office of, according to the Constitution and Laws of this State

Note: The oath required by Article I, § 9 of the Constitution of Maryland includes the following language: “I,, do swear (or affirm, as the case may be) that I will support the Constitution of the United States. . .” (Emphasis added) There is no legal distinction between “swearing” and “affirming.” Generally, an individual who does not believe in a higher religious being opts to “affirm,” while an individual who believes in a higher being opts to “swear.” The choice to “swear” or “affirm” is made by the individual taking the oath. Local board members, as well as local board employees who swear in election judges, should be mindful of the distinction and use the language preferred by the individual taking the oath.

SIGNATURES

Member Date

Member Date

Member Date

Member Date

Member Date

Election Director Date

Witness, Board Counsel Date

Witness Date

State of Maryland

Ethics and Standards for Election Officials and Employees

Introduction

Honest, accurate and efficient elections are essential in a democracy. Marylanders can take pride in our State's history of meeting the highest standards in the conduct of our elections. Our election officials not only seek to comply with all requirements of law but establish personal standards of conduct reflecting the highest ethical goals.

By law, members of the local boards of elections must be selected from persons affiliated with the two major political parties in their counties. Members are often expected to be active in both partisan and non-partisan political affairs. However, there are appropriate and inappropriate times and places for such political activity. Election officials must exercise the authority vested in them independent of partisan pressures.

These ethics standards generally apply to members of the Boards of Elections, Board Attorneys, Election Directors, and staff members, including part-time employees and election judges. These guidelines may not be explicitly contained in the law but reflect a universal common sense practice.

1. Election officials, when performing in that capacity, must place their public duties ahead of partisan political considerations.

The primary responsibility of election officials is to conduct fair, accurate and impartial elections. The exercise of judgment by election officials must not be compromised by partisan influences.

2. An election official should not advance the cause of any candidate or issue at the Board of Elections' offices, at any early voting center or polling place, or while performing official duties.

An election official, while at the offices of the Board of Elections or any voting location or while performing election-related duties, should not wear a badge or similar item supporting a candidate or issue, circulate a petition, conduct party business, or engage in any other activity which might lead others to believe the election official was favoring a political party, candidate, or issue.

Election officials should avoid parking in places reserved for election officials or voters in a vehicle with bumper stickers or signs supporting particular candidates, parties or issues.

It is not appropriate for an election official to be identified as such in an endorsement of a candidate or issue (e.g., "endorsed by John Doe, Board of Elections Chairman").

3. Election officials must avoid conflicts of interest and should avoid even the appearance of conflicts.

A Board member, Election Director, or staff member whose duties include the certification of the validity and sufficiency of petitions should not circulate candidate or issue petitions.

An election official should not serve as committee treasurer for a candidate, party or ballot issue if the official is responsible for reviewing the financial statements filed at the Board of Elections or exercises direct supervisory authority over those employees responsible for reviewing them.

An election official can legally sign a petition but may decide against signing to avoid the appearance of impropriety.

A member of a Board of Elections should avoid circulating any petition. If Board members circulate petitions or otherwise have interest in matters coming before the Board that may require them to recuse themselves later, the Board would be unable to act.

4. No political party, candidate or issue committee should receive benefits from election officials unless those benefits are available upon the same terms to all political parties, candidates, or issue committees.

It would be inappropriate to provide one entity free voter lists, maps, labels, copying or other services without making the same supplies or services equally available to all similarly situated entities.

Subject to the Board's by-laws, an election official, acting in his or her individual capacity, may make contributions to candidates, parties, and issue campaigns of their choice.

5. Election officials must be cognizant of and observe Maryland's Public Ethics Law (General Provisions Article, Title 5) and related statutes that govern them as public officials and employees.

Boards of Elections should take steps to ensure that staff members and employees of the Board are aware of and comply with the Public Ethics law and related statutes.

6. Election officials should be cognizant of and comply with State laws and regulations concerning nepotism.

Family members of members of the Board of Elections are not prohibited from being hired by the Board. However, a Board member should not participate in hiring or any other personnel action regarding a family member - whether as a full-time employee, part-time employee, or election judge, may not recommend, discuss, deliberate, or otherwise use the authority, influence or power and prestige of their position to secure the employment by the Board of a family member, and should not supervise their family members. The employment of family members of members of the Board should follow the same procedures used for all other employment.

Family members of a candidate should generally not serve as election judges within the district in which the candidate is seeking election.

If a family member of an election official is a candidate, the election official should not participate in any official activity involving that candidate's race, including the certification of candidates, counting of ballots, official canvasses, recounts, protests, contests, etc.

7. Election officials should recuse themselves from matters involving their clients or business associates.

For example, a member of a Board of Elections who is a lawyer should not participate in election-related matters involving other lawyers in their firm or clients of other lawyers in the law firm.

8. Subject to the statutory prohibitions listed below, when not engaged in their duties and when not at the offices of the Board of Elections, election officials have the same rights as any other citizen to freely express political views, so long as they do not identify themselves as an election official when expressing those views.

However, regular and substitute members of the local boards of elections, Election Directors, attorneys to and employees of the local boards, and election judges cannot:

- a. Hold or be a candidate for any elective public or political party office or any other office created under the Constitution or laws of Maryland;
- b. Use the individual's official authority for the purpose of influencing or affecting the result of an election; or
- c. Take an active part in political management or any political campaign related to any candidate or any matter that is subject to an election regulated by the Election Law Article. *See* Election Law Article, Section 2-301.

An election judge may generally engage in the activities of a political campaign, except when performing official duties during early voting or on election day. An election judge cannot serve as a campaign manager for a candidate or as the treasurer for a campaign finance entity. *See* Election Law Article, Sections 2-301(b)(2) and 10-202.

9. Election officials should maintain professional competency in the performance of their duties and be familiar with all appropriate State law and regulations.



Barry Jackson -SBE- <barry.jackson@maryland.gov>

Thanks for your service to our community

1 message

Tom & Paula The Senior Itinerants <corkscrewtt@gmail.com>

Tue, Dec 12, 2023 at 6:15 AM

To: barry.jackson@maryland.gov

Barry,

I just wanted to thank the board at public comments tonight . If you could please forward this email to the board. I will not be attending tonight's meeting.

Dear Board of Electors,

I extend my heartfelt gratitude to each of you for your unwavering dedication to Washington County. Your meticulous approach in assessing every new early voting site across our county reflects a commitment to ensuring the majority of our residents have access to early voting opportunities.

Please do not let the past comments from the gallery discourage you. Your tireless service is immensely appreciated and recognized.

All the best,
Tom Thorsen
Hagerstown, MD

Monthly Statistical Report

Last Transaction Date From: 11/01/2023 To: 11/30/2023

ADDITIONS TO COUNTY REGISTRATION

METHOD	DEM	REP	LIB	UNA	OTHERS	TOTAL	EXACT	DUPES
By Mail	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	0
Confirmation Notice	0	1	0	1	0	2	2	0
ERIC Report	42	30	0	34	1	107	107	0
In Person	2	0	0	0	0	2	2	0
Motor Vehicle Administration	121	97	3	143	5	369	369	2
Online Voter Registration	4	2	0	6	0	12	12	0
Online Voter Update	1	0	0	1	0	2	2	0
Social Security Administration	1	1	0	3	0	5	5	0
State Designated Agencies	2	1	0	7	0	10	10	0
USPS Sticker	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	1
Volunteers	9	1	1	4	1	16	16	0
Voter Notification Card	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	1
TOTAL	184	133	4	200	7	528	528	4

SUBTRACTIONS FROM COUNTY ACTIVE STATUS

REASON	DEM	REP	LIB	UNA	OTHERS	TOTAL
Confirmation Mail Process-NVRA	134	174	4	122	11	445
Death Notice	32	31	1	12	2	78
Death Notices Other than DHMH	1	1	0	1	0	3
Moved Out of State	1	8	0	1	0	10
Voter Request	0	1	0	0	0	1
Duplicate/Merged	0	0	0	0	0	0
County Transfer Out	-56	-26	-1	-32	-2	-117
TOTAL	224	241	6	168	15	654

AFFILIATION CHANGES

CHANGE	DEM	REP	LIB	UNA	OTHERS	TOTAL
From	48	34	1	32	5	120
To	26	41	3	43	7	120
TOTAL	-22	7	2	11	2	0

Monthly Statistical Report

Last Transaction Date From: 11/01/2023 To: 11/30/2023

CURRENT ACTIVE REGISTRATION

ACTIVITY	DEM	REP	LIB	UNA	OTHERS	TOTAL
BEGINNING OF REPORT	31121	44112	645	23127	1140	100145
ADDITIONS (+)	184	133	4	200	7	528
REINSTATED (+)	9	2	0	11	0	22
CANCELLED (-)	-33	-40	-1	-13	-2	-89
COUNTY TRANSFER OUT (-)	-56	-26	-1	-32	-2	-117
AFFILIATION CHANGES (+ OR -)	-22	7	2	11	2	0
* INACTIVATED (-)	-135	-175	-4	-123	-11	-448
* REACTIVATED (+)	19	15	0	20	0	54
END OF REPORT TOTALS	31087	44028	645	23201	1134	100095

Last Transaction Date From: 11/01/2023 To: 11/30/2023

**INACTIVE REGISTRATION
 SUBTRACTIONS FROM COUNTY INACTIVE STATUS**

REASON	DEM	REP	LIB	UNA	OTHERS	TOTAL
Confirmation Notice	0	0	0	1	0	1
Death Notice	4	7	0	0	0	11
Jury Notice	1	0	0	0	0	1
Motor Vehicle Administration	21	15	0	16	0	52
Moved Out of State	19	28	0	21	1	69
Duplicate/Merged	0	0	0	0	0	0
County Transfer Out	-7	-3	0	-2	0	-12
TOTAL	52	53	0	40	1	146

CURRENT INACTIVE REGISTRATION

ACTIVITY	DEM	REP	LIB	UNA	OTHERS	TOTAL
BEGINNING OF REPORT	3529	3692	110	3046	159	10536
* INACTIVATED (+)	135	175	4	123	11	448
*REACTIVATED (-)	-22	-15	0	-17	0	-54
COUNTY TRANSFER OUT (-)	-7	-3	0	-2	0	-12
AFFILIATION CHANGES (+ OR -)	0	0	0	0	0	0
CANCELLED FROM INACTIVE (-)	-23	-35	0	-21	-1	-80
PENDING FROM INACTIVE (-)	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL INACTIVE	3612	3814	114	3129	169	10838

**TOTAL REGISTRATION RECORDS
 ACTIVE AND INACTIVE REGISTRATION**

ACTIVITY	DEM	REP	LIB	UNA	OTHERS	TOTAL
ACTIVE REGISTRATION	31087	44028	645	23201	1134	100095
INACTIVE REGISTRATION	3612	3814	114	3129	169	10838
TOTAL RECORDS	34699	47842	759	26330	1303	110933

Address Changes Within Jurisdiction 286
 Address Changes Statewide 23672 Confirmation Mailings Sent
 Name Changes 297 Confirmation Responses 18

Board of Elections: Washington
User Name: Jackson, Barry E

Monthly Statistical Report

Date: 12/12/2023
Report No.: VR-013

Last Transaction Date From: 11/01/2023 To: 11/30/2023

Number of current Statewide voter registration application on hand _____
Signature of person who prepared the report _____

Number of NVRA Agency voter registration Applications on hand _____

Date report completed _____

Other = Those individuals designating affiliation with a party that is not established under Maryland Law.

Unaffiliated = those individuals declining to affiliate with a party.