



AGENDA

Washington County Board of Elections March 12, 2024

Board Meeting to be held on Tuesday, March 12, 2024 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/Pledge of Allegiance:

Declaration of Quorum Present:

Record Those Present:

Swearing in of Board of Canvassers (Kevin Tucker, Clerk of the Circuit Court)

Recess for Closed Session: The meeting will be closed in accordance with Open Meeting Act Procedures, reason (13) comply with a specific constitutional, statutory, or judicially imposed requirement that prevents public disclosures about a particular proceeding or 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. SBE Requested Revisions to By-Laws

New Business:

- I. Draft Budget
- II. Board Member Election Schedule

Members Remarks:

Scheduling of Next Meeting:

Distributed Information:

Future Events:

Election Judge Training, beginning March 14th
UOCAVA ballots mailed out March 30th
Regular Mail In Ballots mailed, week of April 1st

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:

Join with Google Meet

meet.google.com/ome-zdtd-gpn

Join by phone

1 224-900-6969

PIN: 507 083 653 #

Director's Report – March 12, 2023

A. Personnel – N/A

B. Meetings:

1. Director's Meetings:

a) Highlights from February 15th meeting:

- (1) No update regarding RICO case.
- (2) New Party – No Labels Maryland.
- (3) Several PIA requests
- (4) New CMOS batteries were distributed to LBEs and have been integrated into pollbooks.
- (5) Cradlepoints to be update in March. Still awaiting a third Cradlepoint for third EV site.
- (6) Ballot preparation. All ballots have been proofed and approved.
- (7) New pollbooks-Path forward being discussed with all stakeholders.
- (8) New voting system-RFP development underway.
- (9) Provisional ballot applications-delivery scheduled for 4/4
- (10) Get By-Laws revisions in ASAP
- (11) Inventory: 6 LBEs are at 100%, Washington is one of them!

b) Next Meeting: Thursday, March 14, 2024, virtual

2. Trainings: Election Judge Training begins March 14th with Check In Judges and Voting Judges. 539 confirmed for 2024, need a minimum of 540, would like 670. Met with SBE provided trainers on February 28th.

C. Legislative Update:

1. Today is the deadline for each chamber's committees to report their own bills

2. March 18th is deadline for bill crossover to opposite chamber

3. Sine Die is April 8th

4. Bill Status:

- a) HB0014 (Atterbury) – departmental bill, authorizing LBEs to commandeer public buildings for Early Voting. 2nd reading passed w/amendments
- b) SB0029 (Kagan) – Special Elections to fill a vacancy, conducted by mail. Ways and Means hearing 3/19.
- c) HB0257/SB0099 (Qi/Kagan) – would allow Unaffiliated voters to vote a party ballot during Early Voting. Concerns about increase in provisional ballots. No update since 2/6
- d) HB0040/SB0523 (Qi/Washington) – requires a risk limiting audit (RLA) be performed before certification of each election. MAEO supports it, only if other audits are eliminated in lieu of the RLA. No update

- e) HB0436 (Fair) – Changes the minimum age of registration to 15 years, 9 months No update
- f) HB0585/SB0480 (Jones et al (including Grossman)/Ferguson et al (including Corderman and McKay) – would make it illegal to threaten an election official, punishable up to 3 years imprisonment and/or \$2,500 fine. No update
- g) SB417/HB449 (Hayes/Jones) – State administrator must provide a performance evaluation, at least annually, to the local board. Local board must confer with state administrator when appointing a director. Changes “may” to “shall” when listing duties of local election director. Committee hearing on 2/21, no further update
- h) HB700 (Jones) – requires county governments to provide administrative leave to its employees who work as election judges. Would allow high school students to both get paid and receive service-learning credit. Ways and Means hearing on 2/13, no further update.
- i) HB1303 (Grossman) – requires counties to pay board members \$100/day for canvasses, \$350/day for election day, and \$100/day for recounts. Ways and Means hearing on 2/27, no further update

D. Voter Registration Activities and Statistics:

- 1. Registration Statistics for February 2023 and Mail in Ballot statistics were distributed to the Board.

E. Candidate Filings: N/A

F. Voting System Activities:

- 1. Received files for Logic and Accuracy testing, scheduled for 4/9.
- 2. Curtis Surratt working on polling place/chief judge supplies

G. Projects:

- 1. Ballot Drop Box Security Camera Procurement awarded to Securitas
- 2. Election Judge Manuals were delivered 3/8.



HB1303/813928/1

AMENDMENTS
PREPARED
BY THE
DEPT. OF LEGISLATIVE
SERVICES

21 FEB 24
15:01:08

BY: Delegate Grossman
(To be offered in the Ways and Means Committee)

AMENDMENTS TO HOUSE BILL 1303
(First Reading File Bill)

AMENDMENT NO. 1

On page 1, in line 3, after the first “of” insert “altering the minimum annual compensation for members of certain local boards of elections;”; and in lines 3 and 4, strike “of elections”.

AMENDMENT NO. 2

On page 2, strike beginning with the first “the” in line 3 down through “Article” in line 4 and substitute “\$600”; and strike beginning with the first “the” in line 25 down through “County” in line 26 and substitute “\$600”.

On page 3, in line 10, strike “the amount set by the County Commissioners” and substitute “\$600”.

HOUSE BILL 1303

G1

4lr2800

By: **Delegates Grossman and Kaufman**

Introduced and read first time: February 9, 2024

Assigned to: Ways and Means

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Election Law – Local Boards of Elections – Compensation**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring that regular and substitute members of local boards of
4 elections be paid certain amounts per day served for the canvass, election day, and
5 in connection with a contested election; requiring a county to pay a regular member
6 a certain amount if the amount of compensation paid during a fiscal year for service
7 during the canvass, election day, and in connection with a contested election is less
8 than a certain minimum annual amount; and generally relating to compensation for
9 local board of elections members.

10 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
11 Article – Election Law
12 Section 2–204
13 Annotated Code of Maryland
14 (2022 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)

15 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
16 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

17 **Article – Election Law**

18 2–204.

19 (a) **(1)** [Each] **SUBJECT TO SUBSECTIONS (B) AND (C) OF THIS SECTION,**
20 **EACH** regular member of a local board shall receive the salary and reimbursement of
21 expenses provided in the county budget[, but in no event may the annual].

22 **(2) THE COUNTY BUDGET MAY PROVIDE FOR A GREATER AMOUNT OF**
23 **COMPENSATION THAN THE MINIMUM AMOUNT REQUIRED UNDER THIS SECTION.**

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 **(B) THE compensation PAID EACH YEAR TO A REGULAR MEMBER MAY NOT** be
2 less than the following **MINIMUM** amounts:

3 (1) in Allegany County, the amount set by the County Commissioners
4 under Title 28, Subtitle 1 of the Local Government Article;

5 (2) in Anne Arundel County, \$5,000 for the president and \$4,500 for other
6 regular members;

7 (3) in Baltimore City, \$11,000 for the president and \$10,000 for other
8 regular members;

9 (4) in Baltimore County, \$4,000 for the president and \$3,000 for other
10 regular members;

11 (5) in Calvert County, \$3,000 and reimbursement for expenses in the
12 performance of their duties;

13 (6) in Caroline County, \$3,250 for the president, \$3,000 for other regular
14 members, and reimbursement for expenses incurred in the performance of election duties
15 in accordance with the Standard State Travel Regulations;

16 (7) in Carroll County, \$3,000;

17 (8) in Cecil County, \$1,250 for the president, \$1,000 for other regular
18 members, and reimbursement for actual expenses incurred in the performance of election
19 activities which occur outside the county;

20 (9) in Charles County, \$800;

21 (10) in Dorchester County, \$3,000 and expenses as authorized by the County
22 Commissioners;

23 (11) in Frederick County, \$5,500 for the president and \$5,000 for other
24 regular members;

25 (12) in Garrett County, the amount set by the County Commissioners under
26 Chapter 91 of the Public Local Laws of Garrett County;

27 (13) in Harford County, \$2,000 for the president and \$1,700 for other regular
28 members;

29 (14) in Howard County, \$2,800 for the president and \$2,000 for other regular
30 members;

31 (15) in Kent County, \$1,500 for the president and \$1,500 for other regular
32 members;

1 (16) in Montgomery County, \$5,000 for the president and \$4,500 for other
2 regular members;

3 (17) in Prince George's County, \$5,000 for the president and \$4,500 for other
4 regular members;

5 (18) in Queen Anne's County, \$1,500 for the president and \$1,200 for other
6 regular members;

7 (19) in St. Mary's County, \$3,000;

8 (20) in Somerset County, \$1,000;

9 (21) in Talbot County, \$600;

10 (22) in Washington County, the amount set by the County Commissioners;

11 (23) in Wicomico County, \$2,400 for the president and \$1,800 for other
12 regular members; and

13 (24) in Worcester County, \$1,500 for the president and \$1,200 for other
14 regular members.

15 **(C) (1) (I) FOR EACH DAY OF THE CANVASS, AS DEFINED IN § 11-101**
16 **OF THIS ARTICLE, ON WHICH A REGULAR OR SUBSTITUTE MEMBER SERVES, THE**
17 **REGULAR OR SUBSTITUTE MEMBER SHALL BE PAID \$100 PER DAY.**

18 **(II) FOR EACH ELECTION DAY ON WHICH A REGULAR OR**
19 **SUBSTITUTE MEMBER SERVES, THE REGULAR OR SUBSTITUTE MEMBER SHALL BE**
20 **PAID \$350 PER DAY.**

21 **(III) FOR EACH DAY ON WHICH A REGULAR OR SUBSTITUTE**
22 **MEMBER SERVES IN CONNECTION WITH A CONTESTED ELECTION, AS DEFINED**
23 **UNDER § 12-301 OF THIS ARTICLE, THE REGULAR SUBSTITUTE OR REGULAR**
24 **MEMBER SHALL BE PAID \$100 PER DAY.**

25 **(2) IF, AT THE END OF A FISCAL YEAR, THE AMOUNT OF**
26 **COMPENSATION PAID TO A REGULAR MEMBER UNDER PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS**
27 **SUBSECTION DURING THE FISCAL YEAR IS LESS THAN THE MINIMUM ANNUAL**
28 **AMOUNT REQUIRED UNDER SUBSECTION (B) OF THIS SECTION, THE COUNTY SHALL**
29 **PAY TO THE REGULAR MEMBER THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE AMOUNT PAID**
30 **UNDER PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION AND THE MINIMUM ANNUAL AMOUNT**
31 **REQUIRED UNDER SUBSECTION (B) OF THIS SECTION.**

HOUSE BILL 1303

1 **[(b)] (D)** (1) [Consistent with] **SUBJECT TO** paragraph (2) of this subsection
2 **AND SUBSECTION (C) OF THIS SECTION**, each substitute member shall be compensated
3 for each day of service as provided in the county budget.

4 (2) A substitute member shall be compensated at a rate of at least \$25 for
5 each meeting of the local board that the substitute member attends.

6 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That, in accordance with Article
7 III, § 35 of the Maryland Constitution, this Act may not be construed to extend or apply to
8 the salary or compensation of a member of a local board of elections while serving in a term
9 of office beginning before the effective date of this Act, but the provisions of this Act
10 concerning the salary or compensation of a member of a local board of elections shall take
11 effect at the beginning of the next following term of office. This limitation does not apply to
12 an individual appointed or elected after the effective date of this Act to fill out an unexpired
13 term.

14 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
15 October 1, 2024.

FY25 Proposed Budget					
		FY24	FY25	Increase or	Explanation
Election Board Budget		Approved	Proposed	Decrease	Increase/Decrease
500005	Wages Part Time	400,200	480,115	79,915	Increase in election judge pay
500010	Wages-Overtime	1,200	1,500	300	Increase on workload of part time employees
500100	FICA	30,620	36,744	6,124	All election judges put on payroll
500135	Pension-State	0	4,930	4,930	
500140	Workers Comp	5,000	4,642	-358	
500155	Personnel Request	88,732	271,259	182,527	Requested three full time positions
Total Wages and Benefits		525,752	799,190	273,438	
505010	Advertising	3,500	3,705	205	
505050	Dues & Subscriptions	1,360	1,375	15	
505070	Food & Supplies	3,000	3,595	595	Increase due to hosting statewide meetings
505120	Licenses & Certifications	40	40	0	
505130	Small Office Equipment	900	8,800	7,900	Additional document scanners and label makers for new employees, new tabber machine
505140	Office Supplies	12,860	13,104	244	
505160	Personal Mileage	9,050	15,973	6,923	Based on FY23 actuals plus increase for drop boxes and increased travel for director
505170	Postage	56,980	68,979	11,999	Increase in Mail In Ballots and postage rate
505180	Printing	52,040	34,482	-17,558	No election judge manuals required in general election
505190	Professional Fees	10,000	14,000	4,000	Board Counsel fees for work outside scope.
505230	Travel Expenses	13,840	29,412	15,572	Increase for 3 additional employees plus 100% participation at MAEO conference
515000	Contracted/Purchased Services	1,484,630	1,741,631	257,001	Significant increase in SBE billing.
515180	Software	1,060	25,390	24,330	Integra Project Management Software
520000	Training	10,500	6,949	-3,551	Adjusted for actual expenses
520040	SeminarConventions	4,430	8,868	4,438	Increase due to 3 additional employees
526040	Equipment Maintenance	1,590	1,590	0	
535000	Rentals	13,190	13,489	299	
535055	Lease Payments	150,100	149,840	-260	Copy machine added, doubled number of color copies, Year 2 Maintenance of ballot sorter.
592040	Promotional Expenses	0	500	500	Added line item for logo'd giveaway items
Total Operating Expenses		1,829,070	2,141,222	312,152	
599999	Controllable Assets	18,980	0	-18,980	(22) ULINE work tables for warehouse and (50) desktop powerstrips for election judge training.
600600	Computer Software Equipment	0	0	0	Signature verification software, if required (HB22)
Capital Outlay		2,373,802	2,940,412	566,610	

2024 Presidential Election

Board Members' Required Attendance

Primary Election

Date(s)	Event
	Swearing in of Board of Canvassers at 3/12/2024 regular board meeting.
	Verification of polling place supplies 4/17/2024 (PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT ONLY)
	Mail In Ballot Canvass 1 Begins (9:00am - 8:00pm (approx)). Board review of referred 4/22/2024 ballots begins at 2:00pm.
	Mail In Ballot Canvass 1 continues (9:00am - 8:00pm (approx)). Board review of referred 4/26/2024 ballots begins at 2:00pm.
5/2/2024 - 5/9/2024	Early Voting (7:00am - 8:00pm)
	(Tentative) Mail In Ballot Canvass 1 continues (9:00am - 8:00pm (approx)). Board review of referred ballots begins at 5/10/2024 2:00pm.
	Chief Judge Equipment and Supply Pickup. (not required, but board members have 5/11/2024 traditionally helped)
	5/14/2024 Election Day, 5:30am - 12:00am
	5/16/2024 Mail In Ballot Canvass 2 Begins
	(Tentative) Mail In Ballot Canvass 2 5/20/2024 Continues
	5/22/2024 Provisional/Mail In Ballot Canvass 2
	(Tentative) Mail In Ballot Canvass 2 5/23/2024 Continues
	5/24/2024 Mail In Ballot Canvass 2/Certification
Week of 5/27/2024	Possible Recount

2024 Presidential Election

Board Members' Required Attendance

General Election

Date(s)	Event
9/10/2024	Swearing in of Board of Canvassers at regular board meeting.
Week of 10/14/2024	Mail In Ballot Canvass 1 Begins. Board will determine how many and what days to canvass that week.
10/24/2024 - 10/31/2024	Early Voting (7:00am - 8:00pm)
10/30/2024	Verification of polling place supplies (PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT ONLY)
11/2/2024	Chief Judge Equipment and Supply Pickup. (not required but board members have traditionally helped)
11/5/2024	Election Day, 5:30am - 12:00am
11/7/2024	Mail In Ballot Canvass 2 Begins
11/12/2024	(Tentative) Mail In Ballot Canvass 2 Continues
11/13/2024	Provisional/Mail In Ballot Canvass 2
11/14/2024	(Tentative) Mail In Ballot Canvass 2 Continues
11/15/2024	Mail In Ballot Canvass 2/Certification
Week of 11/18/2024	Possible Recount

April 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17 Verification of EV and ED Supplies (Pres. and VP only) 5:00pm	18	19	20
21	22 MIB Canvass 1 Begins (9:00am - 8:00pm approx.) 2:00pm Board Review of referred ballots	23	24	25	26 MIB Canvass 1 continues (9:00am - 8:00pm approx.) 2:00pm Board Review of referred ballots	27
28	29	30				

May 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2 Early Voting Day 1 (7:00am-8:00pm)	3 Early Voting Day 2 (7:00am-8:00pm)	4 Early Voting Day 3 (7:00am-8:00pm)
5 Early Voting Day 4 (7:00am-8:00pm)	6 Early Voting Day 5 (7:00am-8:00pm)	7 Early Voting Day 6 (7:00am-8:00pm)	8 Early Voting Day 7 (7:00am-8:00pm)	9 Early Voting Day 8 (7:00am-8:00pm)	10 MIB Canvass 1 continues (9:00am - 8:00pm approx.) 2:00pm Board Review of referred ballots	11 Chief Judge Supply Pickup (9:00am - 12:00pm)
12	13	14 Election Day (5:30am - 12:00am)	15	16 MIB Canvass 2 begins (9:00am - 8:00pm approx.) 2:00pm Board Review of referred ballots	17	18
19	20 MIB Canvass 2 begins (9:00am - 8:00pm approx.) 2:00pm Board Review of referred ballots	21	22 Provisional/MIB Canvass 2 (9:00am - 8:00pm approx.) 2:00pm Board Review of referred ballots	23 MIB Canvass 2 continues (9:00am - 8:00pm approx.) 2:00pm Board Review of referred ballots	24 MIB Canvass 2 begins (10:00am - 12:00pm approx.) 4:00pm Board Certification of Primary Election	25
26	27 Possible Recount	28 Possible Recount	29	30	31	



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

Washington County Announces Early Voting Locations for 2024 Primary Election

1 message

Washington County Government <pr@washco-md.net>

Wed, Feb 28, 2024 at 2:01 PM

Reply-To: pr@washco-md.net

To: barry.jackson@maryland.gov



100 W. Washington Street, Suite 2600
Hagerstown, MD 21740 | 240.313.2380

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT:

Danielle Weaver, Director

Phone: 240-313-2380

Email: dweaver@washco-md.net

Jonathan Byrd, Public Relations Coordinator

Phone: 240-313-2382

Email: jbyrd@washco-md.net

**WASHINGTON COUNTY ANNOUNCES EARLY VOTING
LOCATIONS FOR 2024 PRIMARY ELECTION**



Washington County
M A R Y L A N D

Washington County Announces Early Voting Locations for 2024 Primary Election

HAGERSTOWN, MD (February 28, 2024) – [The Washington County Board of Elections](#) is pleased to announce the early voting locations for the upcoming 2024 Primary Election. Early voting will take place from Thursday, May 2nd through Thursday, May 9th, between 7:00 AM to 8:00 PM.

Voters in Washington County will have the opportunity to cast their ballots at three convenient Early Voting Centers located throughout the county (visit our website to view our Interactive Elections Map - <https://www.washco-md.net/gis-home/gis-digital-spatial-data-maps/>):

- **Washington County Election Center**, 17718 Virginia Avenue, Hagerstown, MD 21740
- **Washington County Free Library**, Smithsburg Branch, 66 W. Water St, Smithsburg, MD 21783
- **American Legion Clopper-Michael Post 10**, 710 N. Main St., Boonsboro, MD 21713

Early voting provides residents with the opportunity to participate in the electoral process at their convenience, ensuring that every voice is heard. The Washington County Board of Elections encourages all eligible voters to take advantage of the early voting period to make their voices heard in the democratic process.

Any citizens who need to register to vote or update their voter registration information can do so by visiting the following links:

- **Register to Vote:** <https://voterservices.elections.maryland.gov/OnlineVoterRegistration/InstructionsStep1>
- **Update Your Registration:** <https://voterservices.elections.maryland.gov/onlinevoterupdate/InstructionsStep1>

For more information about early voting locations and the upcoming elections, please visit the Washington County Board of Elections website at <https://www.washco-mdelections.org/election-headquarters> or contact the Board of Elections at washco.elections@maryland.gov or call 240-313-2050.

###

Visit our website



Washington County Government | 100 West Washington Street, Hagerstown, MD 21740

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LOCAL

County's early voting sites this year will be in Hagerstown, Boonsboro and ... Smithsburg

Tamela Baker The Herald-Mail

Published 11:40 a.m. ET Feb. 28, 2024

There won't be an early voting center in Hancock this year, but there will be one in Smithsburg.

If you missed the Hancock early voting center saga, or if you've lost track, here's a recap:

Last year, the Washington County Board of Elections recommended the board headquarters on Virginia Avenue and the Hancock Town Hall as its two required early voting center sites for this year's election. A third alternative, authorized by the county commissioners, was the American Legion in Boonsboro.

Last fall, the Maryland State Board of Elections approved the Virginia Avenue and Boonsboro sites but rejected the Hancock site, contending too few (about 3,100) voters would have access to it.

Washington County Commissioner Derek Harvey led an effort to overturn the decision in court, which was rejected by an Anne Arundel County Circuit Court judge (the state Board of Elections office is in Annapolis). Harvey and company appealed the case to the Supreme Court of Maryland, which referred the case to mediation.

Last week, the parties agreed to place the second required early voting center at ... the Smithsburg branch of the Washington County Free Library.

Hancock out? Location of early voting site in Washington County still being determined

So ... how did we get from Hancock to Smithsburg?

Early in the discussions with the state Elections Board, a number of city officials sought to have the second center at the library's Fletcher Branch in downtown Hagerstown, which had

been an early voting center in the 2022 midterm election.

But county officials complained that it was too close to the Washington County Election Center on Virginia Avenue, and Elections Director Barry Jackson reported that only a fraction of the county's early voters had used the library site, while most had come to Virginia Avenue.

"They're only about a mile and a half away from each other," he said. "They almost overlap completely."

Hence the Hancock proposal.

But in the mediation process, the parties sought a compromise location between Hancock and Hagerstown, and couldn't find one that was suitable.

"After the mediation, the staff ... recommended the Smithsburg library as our second early voting site and our local board approved it by a 3-to-2 vote," Jackson said. "And then it was submitted to the state board, and two days later on Thursday state board unanimously approved it as our second early voting site. And so that's kind of where we are now."

"I agreed with the local board's original decision to provide a voting site in Hancock," said Harvey, the lead plaintiff in the suit. "Unfortunately the state did not support that. And the local board was limited to sites that were also not in the west. So it was, choosing one that added the most access — and the local board discovered that it was Smithsburg.

"Maugansville and Fairplay overlapped extensively with the Virginia Avenue site, and so Smithsburg was the one choice on the list that made the most sense," said Harvey, a Smithsburg area resident.

Even though it's a little close to Boonsboro, "it still added more people," Harvey said, but he added, "I'm really not pleased with it because the goal should have been to get people that have to drive the farthest, that don't have access, don't have public transportation available to them and is a traditionally poor part of the county, access to an early voting site. And we did not achieve that."

"I'm disappointed in the final outcome, honestly," said Washington County Commissioner Wayne Keefer, a resident of Hancock. "I kind of question whether it was ever about providing access to early voting for Hancock residents ... was the process ever about bringing better access to an early voting site to Hancock residents."

Keefer said he believes the goal wasn't about Hancock, but keeping a second early voting site out of Hagerstown.

The county commissioners had joined the suit after it was filed. But when three of them voted Tuesday to pay \$15,000 in legal fees to attorney Adam Greivell, a member of the Washington County Republican Central Committee who represented Harvey and the other plaintiffs in the suit, Keefer balked.

"I do appreciate Adam's work," he said, "but is it still true that none of the other plaintiffs have contributed any funding? Do we know? My concern is when this was brought to us, the group was seeking additional plaintiffs at no cost ... I think if we weren't the original plaintiffs and the original plaintiffs aren't contributing to the legal costs, I don't know why county government has to."

Harvey abstained from the vote. "The point that our (county) attorney made was that this was, most of the work that was done by the county was actually previously done by the attorney for the plaintiffs," he said, "so it took a heavy load off of our attorneys in that process."

"I just think if the lead plaintiff isn't contributing, I don't think county government should," Keefer replied.

State Supreme Court refers Hancock early voting center appeal to mediation

Back to Smithsburg — are there advantages to the site?

"Some of the benefits of the Smithsburg library is that it is kind of close in toward Hagerstown and Boonsboro, so that if either of those early voting sites get overwhelmed, it's a fairly short drive to Smithsburg to go to that site," Jackson said.

"Also, it's on a county commuter bus line, right on Water Street. And it meets all the criteria and requirements of an early voting site. So we're, excited to be there. The library system has been very cooperative and just willing to help in any way they can."

Jackson said the three early voting sites will be used for both the Maryland primaries in May and the General Election this fall.

Early voting for the primary elections begins May 2 and ends May 9; the election date is May 14. Early voting for the General Election runs from Oct. 24 through Oct. 31. Election Day is

Nov. 5.

Appeal of Hancock early voting center rejection scheduled to be heard in February

A judge ruled against a Hancock early voting site. County commissioner plans to appeal

Circuit Court for Anne Arundel County
Case No. C-02-CV-23-002315
Argued: February 5, 2024

IN THE SUPREME COURT

OF MARYLAND

No. 26

September Term, 2023

DEREK HARVEY, ET AL.

v.

JARED DEMARINIS, IN HIS OFFICIAL
CAPACITY AS THE STATE
ADMINISTRATOR OF ELECTIONS,
ET AL.

Fader, C.J.,
Watts,
Hotten,
Booth,
Biran,
Gould,
Eaves,

JJ.

ORDER

Filed: February 28, 2024

Pursuant to the Maryland Uniform Electronic Legal
Materials Act (§§ 10-1601 et seq. of the State
Government Article) this document is authentic.



2024.02.28
10:58:52
-05'00'

Gregory Hilton, Clerk

DEREK HARVEY, ET AL.

v.

JARED DEMARINIS, IN HIS
OFFICIAL CAPACITY AS THE
STATE ADMINISTRATOR OF
ELECTIONS, ET AL.

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IN THE
SUPREME COURT
OF MARYLAND
No. 26
September Term, 2023

ORDER

Upon consideration of the filings by Derek Harvey, et al., Appellants, and Jared DeMarinis, in his official capacity as the State Administrator of Elections, et al., Appellees, oral argument conducted in the above-captioned case on February 5, 2024, and the subsequently filed “Conditional, Joint Motion to Consolidate, Vacate, and Remand for Dismissal,”

Whereas, on November 8, 2023, in the Circuit Court for Anne Arundel County, Appellants filed an amended emergency petition challenging the Maryland State Board of Elections’ decision not to approve the placement of an early voting center in the Hancock Town Hall in Washington County, setting forth four counts, seeking: (I) judicial (injunctive) relief under Md. Code Ann., Elec. Law (2003, 2022 Repl. Vol.) (“EL”) § 12-202 (Judicial Challenges); (II) voiding of the State Board’s act under Md. Code Ann., Gen. Prov. (2014, 2019 Repl. Vol.) (“GP”) § 3-401 (Enforcement in

General), part of the Open Meetings Act, GP §§ 3-101 to 3-501; (III) declaratory judgment; and (IV) a common-law writ of mandamus,¹

Whereas, in Count I of the amended petition, Appellants contended that the State Board's review and lack of approval of the Hancock location violated applicable provisions of the Election Law Article and Code of Maryland Regulations,

Whereas, on November 12, 2023, Appellees filed a motion to dismiss the amended petition or in the alternative for summary judgment, seeking judgment with respect to all counts,

Whereas, on November 22, 2023, Appellants filed an opposition to the motion to dismiss and/or for summary judgment, and a motion for summary judgment, seeking judgment in their favor on each count of the amended petition,

Whereas, on November 27, 2023, Appellants filed a second amended petition, naming the Board of County Commissioners for Washington County (the "Commissioners") as an additional petitioner for Counts II, III, and IV, and on November 28, 2023, Appellees filed a motion to strike the second amended petition,

Whereas, on November 29, 2023, after a hearing conducted on November 14 and 29, 2023, the Circuit Court for Anne Arundel County, ruling from the Bench, denied Appellees' motion to strike the second amended petition and granted Appellees' motion for summary judgment on all counts in the second amended petition,

¹On November 6, 2023, Appellants had filed in the Circuit Court for Anne Arundel County a one-count emergency petition seeking injunctive relief under EL § 12-202(a)(1).

Whereas, on December 1, 2023, two appeals were noted from the circuit court's ruling: (1) Appellants noted an appeal of the circuit court's decision as to Count I to this Court under EL § 12-203(a)(3); and (2) Appellants noted an appeal of the circuit court's decision as to Counts II, III, and IV to the Appellate Court of Maryland; and on December 18, 2023, the Commissioners noted an appeal to the Appellate Court,

Whereas, both appeals to the Appellate Court of Maryland were consolidated as Derek Harvey, et al v. Jared DeMarinis, et al, No. 1917, Sept. Term, 2023 (Md. App. Ct.),

Whereas, on February 5, 2024, after oral argument in the case, this Court issued an order directing the parties to engage in mediation with a judge-mediator to be designated by the Court and to notify this Court in writing no later than Tuesday, February 20, 2024, as to whether the parties had reached or would be able to reach an agreement resolving the appeal,

Whereas, on February 20, 2024, the parties notified this Court that they had appeared before the designated judge-mediator, the Honorable Robert N. McDonald, and had reached a mutually-agreeable framework for resolving the appeals pending before this Court and the Appellate Court of Maryland,

Whereas, on February 26, 2024, the parties jointly filed in this case the "Conditional, Joint Motion to Consolidate, Vacate, and Remand for Dismissal," notifying this Court that they had reached a settlement agreement, which included the parties jointly filing in this Court a petition for writ of certiorari with respect to Derek Harvey, et al v. Jared DeMarinis, et al, No. 1917, Sept. Term, 2023 (Md. App. Ct.) and a joint motion

requesting that, in the event that a writ of certiorari were issued, the Court consolidate the case with the appeal currently pending in this Court, vacate the judgment of the Circuit Court for Anne Arundel County, and remand the case to the circuit court with instruction to dismiss the underlying complaint (the second amended petition) with prejudice, as moot,

Whereas, on February 26, 2024, pursuant to the settlement agreement, the parties jointly filed in this Court in Pet. No. 370, Sept. Term, 2023, a petition for writ of certiorari with respect to Derek Harvey, et al v. Jared DeMarinis, et al, No. 1917, Sept. Term, 2023 (Md. App. Ct.),

Whereas, on February 28, 2024, this Court issued a writ of certiorari with respect to Derek Harvey, et al v. Jared DeMarinis, et al, Pet. No. 370, Sept. Term, 2023 (Md.), and the case is now identified as Derek Harvey, et al v. Jared DeMarinis, et al, No. 33, Sept. Term, 2023,

Now, therefore, it is this 28th day of February 2024,

ORDERED, by the Supreme Court of Maryland, that No. 33 and this case are consolidated; and it is further

ORDERED, that, based on the agreement of the parties, without a determination with respect to the merits having been made, the November 29, 2023 grant of summary judgment by the Circuit Court for Anne Arundel County as to all counts of the second amended petition in Case No. C-02-CV-23-002315 is VACATED; and it is further

ORDERED, that based on the agreement of the parties, the consolidated cases, Nos. 26 and 33, are remanded to the Circuit Court for Anne Arundel County with instruction

that the second amended petition in Case No. C-02-CV-23-002315 be dismissed with prejudice, as moot; and it is further

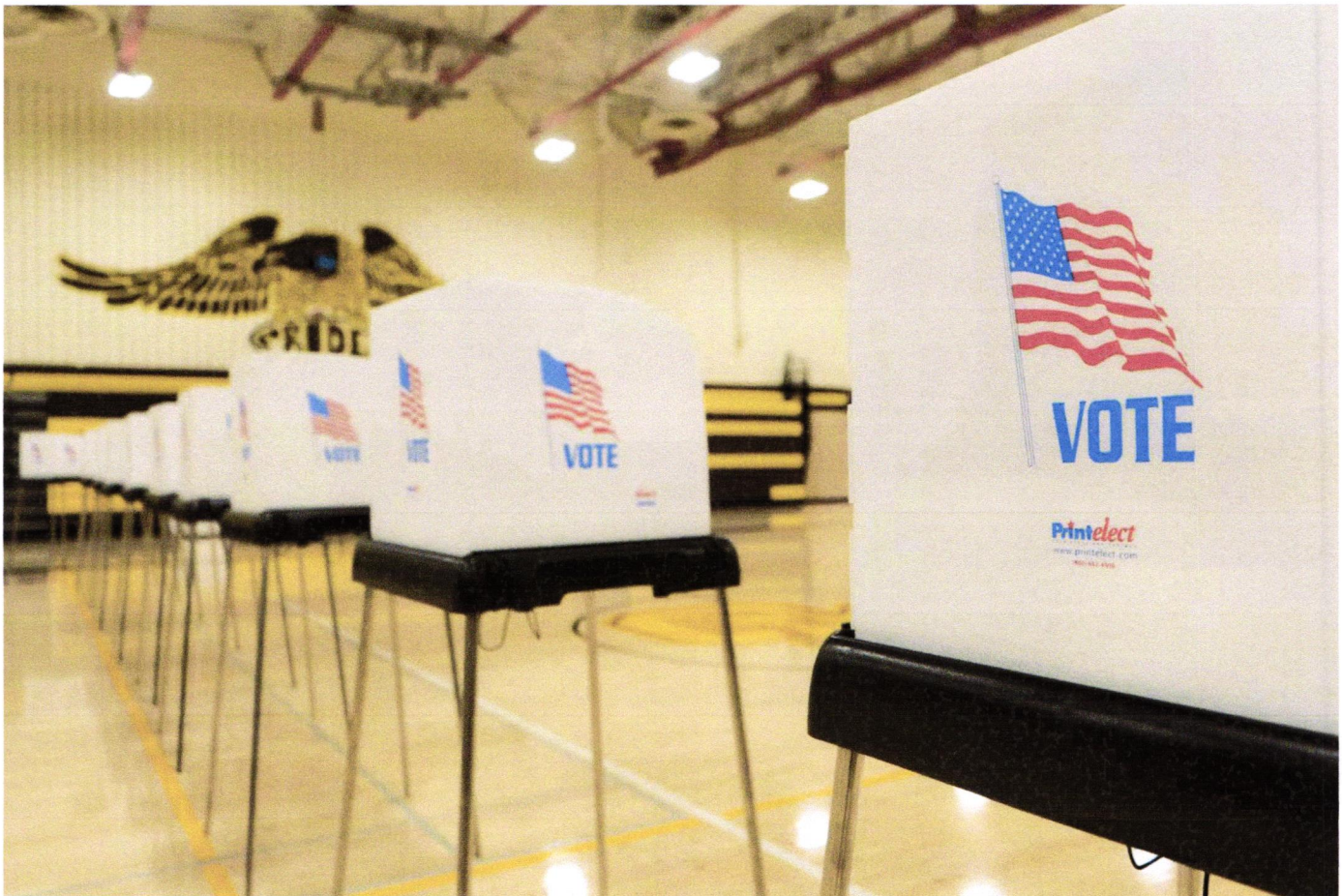
ORDERED, that costs are to be divided equally between the parties.

/s/ Matthew J. Fader
Chief Justice

A group plans to challenge election boards nationwide. Maryland's is the first.

Brenda Wintrode

3/7/2024 3:21 p.m. EST



Paper ballot voting booths at Owings Mills High School in Baltimore County. (Taneen Momeni/The Baltimore Banner)

A group questioning the validity of state voting systems and election procedures across the country is asking a federal court to rule Maryland's election board is out of compliance with state and federal elections laws.

The lawsuit, filed by Maryland Election Integrity LLC and Missouri-based United Sovereign Americans, is the first of many suits United Sovereign

Americans is planning nationwide, according to a spokesperson.

The 34-page complaint filed in U.S. District Court in Maryland listed various claims, including that the elections board failed to keep accurate voter rolls, used voting machines with error rates beyond the legal threshold and denied the plaintiff's requests for election reports through Maryland's public information laws.

In their filing, the plaintiffs asked the court to keep the state board of elections from certifying elections until their claims have been satisfied, among a long list of other requests.

"The Defendant has lost control of the voting system," the groups said in court documents.

The Maryland State Board of Elections deferred questions about the case to the Office of the Attorney General and a spokesperson declined to comment.

attempting to stop the certification process. Though they failed, powerful allies of former President Donald Trump filed dozens of lawsuits in courts across the country to try to overturn the 2020 election results in his favor.

“This lawsuit appears to be yet another attempt to sow distrust in our free and fair elections,” said Chioma Chukwu, deputy executive director for American Oversight, a government transparency watchdog. “Baseless claims about voting machines and election fraud don’t just cause headaches for election workers, who have been under unprecedented pressure. They also have been used to call into question the results of free and fair elections, and to undermine our democracy.”

Joanne Antoine, executive director of Common Cause Maryland, a nonprofit that advocates for government transparency, democracy and free and fair elections, said Maryland’s elections are considered a national model.

“We have some of the most secure elections in the country,” she said. “We are the gold standard.”

Instances of voting errors are “rare,” she said, and typically result from voter confusion.

Several post-election reviews [have found no evidence of systematic voter fraud](#). A November audit [faulted the Maryland State Board of Elections](#) for a yearlong delay in reporting a small number of people who voted more than once or attempted to vote more than once during the 2020 election — something auditors attributed to staff turnover. The auditors also urged the election board to improve its processes for identifying deceased or duplicate voters.

Maryland Election Integrity LLC is represented by Ed Hartman III. The lawsuit describes his clients’ organization, which was established in January 2024, as “Maryland voters and interested citizens with standing.”

A Sovereign Americans spokesperson said Kate Sullivan was leading the Maryland group’s lawsuit.

State records show a Charles S. Strauch of South Carolina filed to form the LLC. His son, Charlie Strauch, said he was “instructed by the lawyers” not to speak to a reporter.

During a 20-minute interview, Hartman struggled to explain his clients’ concerns and the remedy they seek and directed a reporter to read the court document. Hartman also failed to cite specific problems with Maryland’s elections. The lawyer said that United Sovereign Americans is helping groups, like his clients, across the country file similar suits.

Hartman has sued the state board of elections before. The Annapolis attorney represented former delegate and unsuccessful Republican candidate for governor Dan Cox when Cox filed a suit against elections officials because he wanted to stop them from confidentially counting mail-in ballots that arrived ahead of Election Day. Cox appealed his case to the U. S. Supreme Court and [was denied](#).

United Sovereign Americans, described on their website as “an organization of citizen volunteers working to ensure valid Constitutional elections that are fair, accurate and trustworthy,” say they have been “irreparably harmed” by Maryland’s voting systems and their claims “indicate imminent and inevitable litigation,” according to the request.

In a video linked on the group’s website, co-founder and CEO Marly Hornik said her journey into “election integrity” began in August 2021 after starting the New York Citizens Audit. The nonprofit sought to scrutinize New York’s general election results against the voter rolls during the pandemic, she said.

The organization sent volunteers claiming to be election officials door to door to tell people they had committed voter fraud, [according to Spectrum News](#), prompting the New York Attorney General to send them a cease and desist notice in September 2023 because they were intimidating and deceiving voters.

Hornik has been to Maryland at least twice in recent months [to speak with Towson-based Patriot Club of America](#).

During [her presentation in November](#) she explained her drive to teach citizens around the country about elections procedures because just working in New York would leave other states “vulnerable” in the 2024 presidential election. The group’s website says they will “help you and train you to create valid claims under the law, and hold election officials directly responsible for misconduct.”

Hornik told the Maryland crowd that her New York group found “anomalies” and “millions and millions of crimes” in the voter rolls.

Messages to Sullivan and the Patriot Club of America’s president were not immediately returned.

Brenda Wintrode

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Brenda Wintrode covers state government, agencies and politics. Before joining The Baltimore Banner, Wintrode wrote an award winning series of long form investigations for Wisconsin Watch.



MORE FROM BRENDA WINTRODE

State House lockdown latest example in political swatting trend

Mar 06, 2024

State House complex will add an emergency text alert system later this year

Mar 01, 2024

Monthly Statistical Report

Last Transaction Date From: 02/01/2024 To: 02/29/2024

ADDITIONS TO COUNTY REGISTRATION

METHOD	DEM	REP	NLM	LIB	UNA	OTHERS	TOTAL	EXACT	DUPES
Absentee Ballot Application	1	0	0	0	0	0	1		4
By Mail	1	2	0	0	1	0	4		1
Comptroller of Maryland	1	0	0	0	0	0	1		0
Confirmation Notice	1	0	0	0	0	0	1		1
ERIC Report	0	0	0	0	0	1	1		0
In Person	3	0	0	0	1	0	4		0
Motor Vehicle Administration	120	108	0	6	155	4	393		6
NVRA by Mail	0	0	0	0	2	0	2		0
Online Mail In Request	1	0	0	0	0	0	1		0
Online Voter Registration	3	5	1	1	2	0	12		0
Online Voter Update	0	0	0	0	1	0	1		1
Social Security Administration	3	3	0	0	4	0	10		0
State Designated Agencies	4	3	0	0	4	0	11		0
USPS Sticker	5	4	0	0	2	0	11		6
Voter Notification Card	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		2
TOTAL	143	125	1	7	172	5	453		21

SUBTRACTIONS FROM COUNTY ACTIVE STATUS

REASON	DEM	REP	NLM	LIB	UNA	OTHERS	TOTAL
Confirmation Mail Process-NVRA	143	133	0	1	14	1	292
Criminal Conviction/Infamous Crime	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Death Notice	39	52	0	1	12	0	104
Death Notices Other than DHMH	14	8	0	0	0	0	22
Moved Out of State	11	5	0	0	1	1	18
Non-Citizen	2	0	0	0	0	0	2
PCC-Potential Criminal Conviction	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Returned VNC	0	0	0	0	2	1	3
Voter Request	2	1	0	0	0	0	3
Duplicate/Merged	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
County Transfer Out	-45	-26	0	-3	-19	-3	-96
TOTAL	257	225	0	5	50	6	543

Monthly Statistical Report

Last Transaction Date From: 02/01/2024 To: 02/29/2024

AFFILIATION CHANGES

CHANGE	DEM	REP	NLM	LIB	UNA	OTHERS	TOTAL
From	100	57	0	4	58	10	229
To	29	87	0	5	84	24	229
TOTAL	-71	30	0	1	26	14	0

CURRENT ACTIVE REGISTRATION

ACTIVITY	DEM	REP	NLM	LIB	UNA	OTHERS	TOTAL
BEGINNING OF REPORT	30984	44088	0	642	23461	1151	100326
ADDITIONS (+)	143	125	1	7	172	5	453
REINSTATED (+)	6	10	0	1	9	1	27
CANCELLED (-)	-55	-58	0	-1	-16	-2	-132
COUNTY TRANSFER OUT (-)	-45	-26	0	-3	-19	-3	-96
AFFILIATION CHANGES (+ OR -)	-71	30	0	1	26	14	0
* INACTIVATED (-)	-157	-141	0	-1	-15	-1	-315
* REACTIVATED (+)	18	22	0	0	14	2	56
END OF REPORT TOTALS	30823	44050	1	646	23632	1167	100319

Monthly Statistical Report

Last Transaction Date From: 02/01/2024 To: 02/29/2024

INACTIVE REGISTRATION SUBTRACTIONS FROM COUNTY INACTIVE STATUS

REASON	DEM	REP	NLM	LIB	UNA	OTHERS	TOTAL
Absentee Ballot Application	1	0	0	0	1	0	2
Confirmation Notice	1	1	0	0	0	0	2
Correction	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Death Notice	9	6	0	0	1	0	16
Motor Vehicle Administration	16	20	0	0	11	1	48
Moved Out of State	10	9	0	0	4	0	23
Non-Citizen	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Online Voter Registration	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
State Designated Agencies	0	2	0	0	0	0	2
Duplicate/Merged	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
County Transfer Out	-7	-1	0	0	-4	0	-12
TOTAL	45	40	0	0	22	1	108

CURRENT INACTIVE REGISTRATION

ACTIVITY	DEM	REP	NLM	LIB	UNA	OTHERS	TOTAL
BEGINNING OF REPORT	3633	3887	0	114	3171	172	10977
* INACTIVATED (+)	157	141	0	1	15	1	315
*REACTIVATED (-)	-19	-23	0	0	-13	-1	-56
COUNTY TRANSFER OUT (-)	-7	-1	0	0	-4	0	-12
AFFILIATION CHANGES (+ OR -)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
CANCELLED FROM INACTIVE (-)	-21	-17	0	-1	-6	0	-45
PENDING FROM INACTIVE (-)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL INACTIVE	3743	3987	0	114	3163	172	11179

TOTAL REGISTRATION RECORDS ACTIVE AND INACTIVE REGISTRATION

ACTIVITY	DEM	REP	NLM	LIB	UNA	OTHERS	TOTAL
ACTIVE REGISTRATION	30823	44050	1	646	23632	1167	100319
INACTIVE REGISTRATION	3743	3987	0	114	3163	172	11179

Monthly Statistical Report

Last Transaction Date From: 02/01/2024 To: 02/29/2024

TOTAL RECORDS	34566	48037	1	760	26795	1339	111498
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Address Changes Within Jurisdiction	<u>362</u>		
Address Changes Statewide	<u>25656</u>	Confirmation Mailings Sent	<u>783</u>
Name Changes	<u>464</u>	Confirmation Responses	<u>22</u>
Number of current Statewide voter registration application on hand	<u> </u>	Number of NVRA Agency voter registration Applications on hand	<u> </u>
Signature of person who prepared the report	<u> </u>	Date report completed	<u> </u>
Other = Those individuals designating affiliation with a party that is not established under Maryland Law.	<u> </u>	Unaffiliated = those individuals declining to affiliate with a party.	<u> </u>

Ballot Application Statistics

Elections : 05/14/2024 - 2024 PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY ELECTION

Party	Ballot Issue Method	Absentee Application Source	Count
DEMOCRATIC			
	Faxed	Internet	1
	Mailed	By Mail	3826
	Mailed	Email	3
	Mailed	Fax	4
	Mailed	In Person	94
	Mailed	Internet	1446
	Web Delivery	By Mail	56
	Web Delivery	Email	3
	Web Delivery	Fax	2
	Web Delivery	In Person	7
	Web Delivery	Internet	392
SubTotal:			5834
REPUBLICAN			
	Agent	Agent	1
	Mailed	Ballot Drop Box	1
	Mailed	By Mail	2928
	Mailed	Email	2
	Mailed	Fax	2
	Mailed	In Person	48
	Mailed	Internet	772
	Web Delivery	By Mail	37
	Web Delivery	Fax	1
	Web Delivery	In Person	1
	Web Delivery	Internet	185
SubTotal:			3978
NO LABELS MARYLAND			
	Mailed	Internet	1
SubTotal:			1
LIBERTARIAN			
	Mailed	By Mail	16
	Mailed	Internet	18
	Web Delivery	Internet	3
SubTotal:			37
UNAFFILIATED			
	Mailed	Ballot Drop Box	1
	Mailed	By Mail	867
	Mailed	Email	2
	Mailed	In Person	12
	Mailed	Internet	490

Ballot Application Statistics

Elections : 05/14/2024 - 2024 PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY ELECTION

Party	Ballot Issue Method	Absentee Application Source	Count
UNAFFILIATED			
	Web Delivery	By Mail	20
	Web Delivery	In Person	2
	Web Delivery	Internet	164
SubTotal:			1558
OTHER PARTIES			
	Mailed	By Mail	18
	Mailed	Internet	8
	Web Delivery	Internet	3
SubTotal:			29
OTHERS - BREAD AND ROSES			
	Mailed	Internet	1
SubTotal:			1
OTHERS - GREEN			
	Mailed	By Mail	6
	Mailed	Internet	2
	Web Delivery	Internet	3
SubTotal:			11
OTHERS - INDEPENDENT			
	Mailed	By Mail	22
	Mailed	Internet	7
	Web Delivery	By Mail	1
	Web Delivery	Internet	1
SubTotal:			31
OTHERS - WORKING CLASS PARTY			
	Mailed	By Mail	12
	Mailed	Internet	1
SubTotal:			13
Grand Total :			11493