



Election Judge News

Board of Elections Staff Points of Contact

- Barry Jackson
Director
240-313-2054
barry.jackson@maryland.gov
- Teresa Morningstar
Deputy Director
240-313-2052
teresa.morningstar1@maryland.gov
- Cory Green
Election Program Supervisor I
240-313-2055
corya.green@maryland.gov
- Carl Dayley
Election Program IT Specialist
240-313-2067
carl.dayley@maryland.gov
- Sarah Hall
Election Program Specialist I
240-313-2056
sarah.hall@maryland.gov

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“The secret to success is doing what you enjoy doing. If you don’t enjoy it, get out, do what you want to do.” - Ben Chlebnikow

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Office Promotions

Congratulations Teresa Morningstar!

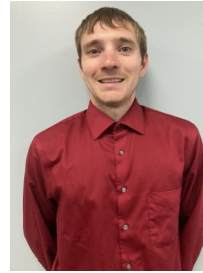


Teresa Morningstar was hired as the new Deputy Director, effective July 26, 2023. Teresa has been a dedicated member of the Washington County Board of Elections staff since 2015. She has most recently served as Election Program Supervisor; heading up the mail-in ballot process, coordinating the municipal elections and the elections for nursing homes, as well as performing the daily tasks that keep our elections running smoothly. She is CERA certified and is enrolled in an iGo program for professional leadership.

Teresa is an animal lover, foodie, and outdoor enthusiast who loves to travel anywhere. She enjoys spending time with her family, friends, and, of course, her granddog! When she’s not working, you can find Teresa outdoors exploring new adventures. Teresa has been white water rafting and skydiving! Teresa truly lives by one of her favorite Albert Einstein quotes, “Only those who attempt the absurd can achieve the impossible.”

Yet another congratulations is

in order for our office staff!
Congratulations to Cory Green!



Cory was hired as the new Election Program Supervisor that had been vacated by Teresa

Morningstar.

Cory has 8 years of experience working for Social Services and was hired as an Election Program Assistant just 2 years ago. He has quickly become an invaluable member of the Board of Elections team! As the new Election Program Supervisor, Cory will assume the mail-in ballot processing duties, manage the drop box teams, train the new office staff, and supervise the daily office tasks.

Cory and his wife live in Keedysville, with their busy 4 year old daughter, and their cat. When he’s not in the office, Cory enjoys spending time outdoors with his daughter. They can be found exploring a local park, biking, or gardening. Cory is never far from his outdoor grill and is always willing to catch up on Notre Dame football!

Early Vote Centers

With the 2024 election cycle nearly upon us, I’m sure all of you will be interested to learn that a decision has been made on the Early Voting Center locations!

On September 19, the Washington County Board of Elections held a vote session to select Early Voting Center locations for the 2024 election cycle. The two

sites approved by the Board are:

Washington County Election Center

17718 Virginia Ave.

Hagerstown, MD 21740

Hancock Town Hall

126 W. High St.

Hancock, MD 21750

A third optional site and an alternate site were also approved. The third optional site will only be used if it is approved by the County Commissioners and the State Board of Elections, because a third site is not required yet for the amount of registered voters in Washington County. The alternate site will only be used if either of the first two sites selected become unavailable.

The third, optional, site selected:

Boonsboro American Legion

710 N. Main St

Boonsboro, MD 21713

And the alternate site approved:

Maugansville Ruritan Club

18007 Maugans Ave

Hagerstown, MD 21740

Training Center

Excerpts from Chapter 3– Voters with Disabilities and Cross- Cultural Communication

3.5 Voters Who Cannot Sign any Form(s)

- Do not assume a voter cannot sign his or her own name.



Washington County, MD
BOARD OF ELECTIONS

17718 Virginia Avenue
Hagerstown, MD 21740

Phone: 240-313-2050
Fax: 240-313-2062
Email:

washco.elections@maryland.gov

www.washco-mdelections.org

Questions or comments about the Election Judge News? Contact the editor, Sarah Hall

Phone: 240-313-2056

Email: sarah.hall@maryland.gov

2024 Presidential Primary Election

Early Voting:

May 2-9, 2024 7AM-8PM

Election Day:

May 14, 2024 7AM-8PM

2024 Presidential General Election

Early Voting:

October 24-31, 2024
7AM-8PM

Election Day:

November 5, 2024 7AM-8PM



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Training Center (Cont.)

- * Follow regular check-in procedures and tell the voter when a signature is required. Let the voter tell you if he or she cannot sign his or her name.
- * When assisting a blind or low vision voter with signing, place the tip of a pen at the beginning of the signature line and inform the voter you have done so. Then allow the voter to take control of the pen, rather than guiding the voter's hand to the signature line.
- If a voter cannot sign his or her voter authority card, Voter Update Form, or any other form(s), ask the voter to make an "X" or similar mark on the signature line. This mark can be used as that person's signature.
- When a voter is unable to make a mark, write the following statements on the back of the form the voter should sign:
 - * On the voter authority card: "This voter is qualified to vote but is unable to sign his or her name."
 - * On all other forms except the voter authority card: "This voter is unable to sign his or her name."
 - * Sign your name and write the date under the statement.

Historically Notable!

Many of you probably remember from classes in school learning that Francis Scott Key wrote the Star Spangled Banner after watching explosions light up the night while imprisoned on a British ship. But did you remember that this British bombardment was over the Baltimore harbor during the Battle of Baltimore?!

On September 12, 1814, the War of

1812 raged on and the British made the decision to lead an assault on the port of Baltimore, the third largest city at the time. They expected the attack to be swift and the victory to be decisive! Baltimore surprised them! Having worked on the city's defenses for more than a year, Fort McHenry sat south of the harbor entrance and ready to defend. Brigadier General John Stricker led 3,200 militia against the British attacking soldiers. The American soldiers fought all day, but without a victor by nightfall, the British stopped the attack for the night and Stricker retreated to inside the city.

The morning of September 13 marked the beginning of a 25- hour British bombardment of Fort McHenry. The bombardment campaign, although devastating, was unsuccessful and the British realized they would need the help of naval cannons to ultimately take Baltimore.

A large defensive chain of scuttled ships blocking the British from positioning their ships close enough, along with an artillery response led by Major George Armistead, proved the harbor to be too well defended. The American soldiers had prevailed! The American flag was still seen flying over Fort McHenry and the British abandoned the fight.

The Americans unwillingness to be defeated during the bombardment of the Baltimore harbor, and the resilience of the American flag, inspired Francis Scott Key to write the poem "Defence of Fort M'Henry." His poem would later become the lyrics for the U.S. National Anthem.



War of 1812 and the Star-Spangled Banner, courtesy of the Historical Society of Pennsylvania

Election Judge Birthday!

On August 17, one of our fellow election judges, Ben Chlebnikow, celebrated his 104th birthday!

Born in 1919, Ben grew up during the Great Depression and was 25 when he served as a technician for the last year of World War II. He continued his service to country and community many years later by becoming an election judge.

Already into his 80s, Ben became a chief judge at Washington County Technical High School for the 2002 elections. He continued to serve as chief judge through the 2018 elections, at 99!

His interesting stories of surviving cold Great Depression winters, the death of his mother at a very young age, and his time serving in the 177th Field Artillery Battalion during World War II can be found in an August 28, 2023 article of the Herald Mail.

Job Opening

For those interested, we are hiring another full time position in our office, the Election Program Assistant . This was Cory Green's position before he was promoted to Election Program Supervisor! The Election Program Assistant is the face that customers see when they come in the lobby. They will assist customers at the counter, answer the phone, process voter registrations, and other duties in the voter registration database. If you are interested, you can search on the website, jobapscloud.com/MD.

Search on the keyword, Election Program Assistant I. The job for Washington County should pop up.

Trivia Question

What was Francis Scott Key's occupation at the time he wrote the national anthem?

Answer below: