



Carroll County Board of Elections



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Carroll County Board of Elections Board Minutes February 19, 2025

Present

Board

Samuel Foster, President, in person

Karen Donaldson, Vice-President, in person

Mitch Edelman, Member, in person

Ben Watson, Member, in person

Jay Gullo, Attorney, virtual

Staff

Erin Perrone, Election Director, in person

Mia Faber, Election Program Supervisor, virtual

Christine Winer, Election Program Specialist II, virtual

Public

Corynne Courpas, Carroll County Democratic Central Committee

Absent

Jay Gullo, Board Counsel

Call to Order & Declaration of Quorum

Mr. Foster called the meeting to order at 10:01 am and declared a quorum was present.

Welcome

Mr. Foster welcomed Ms. Courpas who was in attendance.

Additions to the Agenda

Mr. Foster asked if any there were any additions to the agenda. There were no additions to the agenda.

Approval of Minutes

The Board approved the minutes from the January 15, 2025, meeting on a motion from Mr. Edelman seconded by Mr. Watson. The motion carried unanimously.

Correspondence

Mr. Foster asked if there were any correspondence to share. Ms. Perrone stated that there was no correspondence to share at this time.

Attorney Report

There was no attorney report.

Election Director's Report

Public Information Requests

Ms. Perrone stated that there were no new requests since the January meeting.

Important Meetings and Events

- February 18th – MAEO Meeting
- February 19th – Manual Audit
- February 20th – Erin & Jen – SBE/LBE Collaboration Meeting
- March 18th – MAEO meeting

Candidate Filing – 2026 Gubernatorial Election

- Opens Tuesday, February 25, 2025
- Deadline to file is Tuesday, February 24, 2026, at 9 pm
- Candidate Filing Refresher Training with SBE staff
- Encourage candidates to make an appointment via the website, but will accept candidate filings on a walk-in basis

2026 Gubernatorial Elections

- Primary Advanced Deadline to Register – Tuesday, June 9, 2026
- Primary Early Voting – Thursday, June 18 through Thursday, June 25, 2026
- Primary Election – Tuesday, June 30, 2026
- General Advanced Deadline to Register – Tuesday, October 13, 2026
- General Early Voting – Thursday, October 22 through Thursday, October 29, 2026
- General Election – Tuesday, November 3, 2026

Voter Registration

- Monthly statistical reports are available on our website. The link to the reports is <https://elections.carrollcountymd.gov/monthlyStats.aspx>.
- Day to day electronic batches and processing mail

IT/Warehouse

- Post Election Maintenance (PEM) has been completed on the pollbooks and met the 2/24/25 deadline established by SBE
- PEM on the scanning units and the ballot marking devices will begin

Personnel

- Performance Evaluation Plan (PEPs) were completed on all of the staff and submitted to the Human Resources Division at SBE
- Ms. Perrone's PEP was also completed by the Board President

Budget/County

- FY26 Budget – additional requests to the budget were submitted to the budget analysis and in a holding period for now.

- New building update – demolition and remodeling has begun on both the warehouse and office buildings. Ms. Perrone and Ms. Bartholow attend biweekly meetings with County staff and the construction company.

Legislation

Ms. Perrone directed the board members to the separate handout that highlights election bills that were introduced into the General Assembly.

The bills highlighted in green are the bills that MAEO supported. Those bills include:

- HB0041/SB0267 – *Election Law – Petitions for the Formation of a New Political Party – Process* – This is a departmental bill introduced by the State Board of Elections (SBE). It clarifies the deadlines for new political parties to submit a petition to SBE.
- HB0199/SB0257 – *Election Law – Notice to Permanent Absentee Voters* – This bill is a departmental bill introduced by SBE. It determines the timing in which notices to permanent mail-in voters must be mailed.
- HB0274/SB0259 – *Election Law – Local Boards of Elections – Election Plan Requirements* – This is a departmental bill introduced by SBE. It will require local boards to submit one comprehensive plan prior to each primary election. The plan will include ballot drop box locations, early voting centers, and polling place locations. This bill also removes the reference to the 2018 elections.
- HB0075/SB0262 – *Election Law – Special Elections* – This is a departmental bill introduced by SBE. It applies to special elections in Prince George's County.
- HB0586/SB0534 – *Election Law – Election Judges – Compensation* – This bill would allow local boards to not pay election judges the \$50 required payment for attending training if the election judge does not serve their assignment during early voting or election day. Currently, local boards are required to pay election judges \$50 for attending training whether they serve during early voting or on election day. In addition, this bill would allow high school students who are eligible to serve as an election judge to earn service-learning credits in addition to being compensated.
- HB0308 – *Election Law – Chief Election Judges – Party Affiliation* – This bill requires that chief judges be registered with a majority party and the minority party to the extent practicable. One chief judge must be registered with the majority party and the other chief judge must be registered with the minority party 45 days prior to the start of early voting. After the 45 days, then an election judge who registered unaffiliated or another third-party may serve as a chief judge. In addition, MAEO would like to suggest an amendment to the bill that would allow local boards to hire election judges, including chief judges, according to party affiliation that resembles the voter registration party breakdown. The amendment may not be introduced during this session, however, MAEO looks forward to working with the bill's sponsor to look at these statistics in the future.

The bills highlighted in yellow are bills that MAEO offered information only testimony and if passed, would have a fiscal impact. The bills that Ms. Perrone reviewed are:

- HB0317 – *Election Law – Curbside Voting – Pilot Program* – This bill would required three local boards (one small, one medium, and one large jurisdiction) to offer

curbside voting.

- HB0412/SB0337 – *Elections – Local Boards of Elections and Boards of Canvassers – Open Meeting Requirements (Local Boards of Elections Transparency Act)* – This bill would require the livestreaming of monthly meetings held by the local boards. Ms. Perrone stated that these meetings are already livestreamed, but they would have to be recorded and posted onto the website. In addition, this bill would also require the canvasses to be livestreamed.
- SB0018 – *Election Law – Early Voting – Number of Days* – This bill would reduce the number of early voting days from 8 days to 5 days.

The bill highlighted in pink is a bill that would change the administration of the 2026 primary election. Ms. Perrone reviewed the bill.

- HB0945/SB0645 – *Election Law – Gubernatorial Primary Election – Date* – This bill would move the date of the 2026 primary election one week earlier, from June 30th to June 23rd. One of the reasons why this is being considered is because if the primary election would be held on June 30th, the holiday Juneteenth and Father's Day would fall during early voting. However, if the primary election is moved to June 23rd, then the certification and mail-in ballot canvass II would be held on Monday, July 6th because Friday, July 3rd is a holiday since July 4th is on Saturday. Open meetings are not allowed to be held on holidays.

MAEO

- Maryland Association of Election Officials
- Conference Information – Sunday, May 4th through Friday, May 9th at the Grand Hotel in Ocean City
- SBE Biennial – Sunday, May 4th and Monday, May 5th. Board members and counsel are required to attend the biennial. If you cannot attend, you must ask for an exemption from the State Administrator.
- MAEO Days – Tuesday, May 6th through Thursday, May 8th. There will be general sessions, but a lot of it is geared toward elections staff, not the Board.
- Local Board Committee – Ms. Perrone stated that a new MAEO committee was formed called the Local Board Committee. This committee will comprise of just board members from the 24 jurisdictions. Guy Mickley, Election Director in Howard County, will be the moderator of this committee. This is an opportunity for board members to discuss topics without the presence of election staff. The President and Vice-President of the Howard County Board of Elections will assist in these meetings as well.

2025 Board Meetings

- March 19, 2025 – Ms. Perrone stated that she will be available virtually for the March meeting. After a discussion, Mr. Watson motioned to cancel the meeting in March with the consideration of no emergency actions. Ms. Donaldson seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.
- April 16, 2025
- May 21, 2025

- June 18, 2025
- July 16, 2025
- August 20, 2025
- September 17, 2025
- October 15, 2025
- November 19, 2025
- December 17, 2025

Unfinished Business

There is no unfinished business.

New Business

Mr. Foster stated that the departure of Ms. Coley from the board means that the Secretary position is vacant. He nominated Mr. Edelman fill the vacancy. Ms. Donaldson made a motion to appoint Mr. Edelman as the Secretary, seconded by Mr. Watson. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Foster notified the board that Mr. Gullo's contact will have to be reviewed in the coming months.

Mr. Foster asked Ms. Courpas to provide an update on the search of a new board member. Ms. Courpas stated that since Ms. Coley's resignation on January 31, 2025, the Carroll County Democratic Central Committee submitted 3 names to the Governor's Appointment Office. The next step is to wait for the Governor to appoint someone.

Disclosure of Campaign Contributions

There are currently no campaign contributions to share.

Date of Next Meeting

The next scheduled meeting is Wednesday, April 16, 2025, at 10 am.

Adjournment

The motion for adjournment was made at 10:41 am by Mr. Watson. Mr. Edelman seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.