



# Carroll County Board of Elections



300 S. Center Street, Room 212, Westminster, MD 21158

**Mailing Address:** PO Box 3191, Westminster, MD 21158

**Phone:** (410) 386-2080

**Email:** ccboe@carrollcountymd.gov

**Website:** elections.carrollcountymd.gov

## Carroll County Board of Elections Board Minutes April 16, 2025

### **Present**

#### *Board*

Samuel Foster, President, in person

Mitch Edelman, Secretary, in person

Gina Miller, Member, in person

Ben Watson, Member, in person

Jay Gullo, Attorney, virtual

#### *Staff*

Erin Perrone, Election Director, in person

Jennifer Bartholow, Deputy Director, in person

Mia Faber, Election Program Supervisor, virtual

Isaac Nogueron, Election Program Specialist II, virtual

Christine Winer, Election Program Specialist II, virtual

#### *Public*

Cheryl Steinbacher, League of Woman Voters, Carroll County

### **Absent**

Karen Donaldson, Vice-President

### **Call to Order & Declaration of Quorum**

Mr. Foster called the meeting to order at 10:00 am and declared a quorum was present.

### **Welcome**

Mr. Foster welcomed new board member, Ms. Gina Miller, and Ms. Steinbacher 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 February 19, 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 were several pieces of correspondence to share. Ms. Perrone shared copies of the Executive Order "Preserving and Protecting the Integrity of American Elections" from President

Trump. She also included copies of the “Fact Sheet: President Donald J. Trump Protects the Integrity of American Elections” from the White House. Additionally, copies of the statement from Jared DeMarinis, Maryland State Board of Elections Administrator, regarding the Executive Order.

### **Attorney Report**

Mr. Gullo discussed a lawsuit that SBE was involved in. The results require our office to allow public access to voter’s information. The paperwork will be reworded, and the requestor is not required to disclose a reason for their request.

### **Election Director’s Report**

#### ***Public Information Requests***

Ms. Perrone stated that there was one request from Seth Miller. This was submitted to the State Board of Elections. Mr. Miller submitted the request on March 24, 2025, and asked for “all candidates running for Judge of the Circuit Court for the past 10 years.” SBE fulfilled the request on April 4, 2025.

### **Important Meetings and Events**

- February 20<sup>th</sup> – Erin & Jen – SBE/LBE Collaboration Meeting
- February 28<sup>th</sup> – Multiple Staff – Mail-in Voting Lessons Learned with SBE
- March 5<sup>th</sup> – Erin & Jen – New Building Progress Meeting
- March 18<sup>th</sup> – Virtual MAEO Meeting
- March 19<sup>th</sup> – Erin & Jen – New Building Progress Meeting
- March 20<sup>th</sup> – Erin & Jen – SBE/LBE Collaboration Meeting
- April 2<sup>nd</sup> – Erin & Jen – New Building Progress Meeting
- April 8<sup>th</sup> – Erin, Ed & Isaac – Drop Box Lock Solution at SBE’s Central Warehouse
- April 15<sup>th</sup> – Virtual MAEO Meeting
- April 16<sup>th</sup> – Erin & Jen – New Building Progress Meeting
- April 18<sup>th</sup> – Telework Day – County Buildings are Closed – Good Friday
- April 30<sup>th</sup> – Erin & Jen – New Building Progress Meeting
- May 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> – SBE Biennial – Ocean City
- May 5<sup>th</sup> – City of Taneytown Municipal Election
- May 6<sup>th</sup> – May 9<sup>th</sup> – MAEO Conference – Ocean City
- May 6<sup>th</sup> – Town of Mt Airy and Sykesville Municipal Elections
- May 13<sup>th</sup> – City of Westminster and Town of Hampstead, New Windsor & Union Bridge Municipal Elections
- May 14<sup>th</sup> – Erin & Jen – New Building Progress Meeting
- May 20<sup>th</sup> – Town of Manchester Municipal Election

### **Candidate Filing – 2026 Gubernatorial Election**

- Deadline to file is Tuesday, February 24, 2026, at 9 pm
- Refresher Training with SBE
- Encourage candidates to make an appointment via our website

- Candidates who have filed can be found on SBE's website  
[https://elections.maryland.gov/elections/2026/Primary\\_candidates/index.html](https://elections.maryland.gov/elections/2026/Primary_candidates/index.html)

## **2026 Gubernatorial Elections**

- Primary Advanced Deadline to Register – Tuesday, June 2, 2026
- Primary Early Voting – Thursday, June 11 through Thursday, June 18, 2026
- Primary Election – Tuesday, June 23, 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>.
- Ms. Perrone pointed out that the number of Unaffiliated & Other registered voters in Carroll County has surpassed the number of Democratic registered voters. These numbers could affect the hiring of election judges.
- Day to day electronic batches and processing mail

<b>As of 3/31/25</b>	<b>DEM</b>	<b>REP</b>	<b>UNA &amp; OTHER</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
<b>Active Voters</b>	33,189	64,849	33,409	131,447
<b>Inactive Voters</b>	1,182	2,287	1,460	4,929
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>34,371</b>	<b>67,136</b>	<b>34,869</b>	<b>136,376</b>

## **IT/Warehouse**

- Completed Post Election Maintenance (PEM) on pollbooks, scanners and ballot marking devices
- Storing voted ballots from the 24PG
- Starting to shrink wrap all the voting equipment and pollbooks for the office move
- Starting to pack supplies and items for the office move

## **Personnel**

- Nothing to report

## **Budget/County**

- FY26 Budget – in the approval process. Spotify was not approved.
- New building update - Ms. Perrone and Ms. Bartholow attend biweekly meetings with County staff and the construction company. Anticipating completion in June. We will be required to use a state preferred moving company.

## **Legislation**

Ms. Perrone directed the board members to the separate handout that highlights election bills that were passed by the General Assembly, and she reviewed each bill.

**Legislation Passed 2025 General Assembly:**

- 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. Effective Date: 7/1/2025 – The deadline is changed from August 1<sup>st</sup> to July 1<sup>st</sup> for Third Party Petitions.
- HB0199/SB0257 – *Election Law – Notice to Permanent Absentee Voters* – This bill is a departmental bill introduced by SBE. Effective Date: 7/1/2025 -Requires SBE to contact permanent mail-in voters at least 120 days before each election with a notification to remind the voter that they are getting a mail-in ballot and should include instructions how the voter can cancel the permanent mail-in ballot.
- HB0412/SB0337 – *Elections – Local Boards of Elections and Boards of Canvassers – Open Meeting Requirements (Local Boards of Elections Transparency Act)* –Effective Date: 6/1/2025 – Requires livestreaming the monthly board meetings.
- HB0426/SB0313 – *Postelection Tabulation Audits – Risk Limiting Audits* – Effective Date 6/1/2025 – Requires local boards to perform a Risk Limiting Audit prior to State certification after each primary and general election.
- HB0983/SB0685 – *Local Boards of Elections – Language Related Assistance* – Effective Date: 10/1/2025 – This gives SBE the right to require LBE's to translate forms and other voting materials into other languages.
- HB0274/SB0259 – *Election Law – Local Boards of Elections – Election Plan Requirements* – This is a departmental bill introduced by SBE. Effective Date: 7/1/2025 - Allows local boards to submit one plan prior to each primary election. The plan will include ballot drop box locations, early voting centers, and polling place locations. This bill also eliminates 2018 as the baseline number of polling places.
- HB0945/SB0645 – *Election Law – Gubernatorial Primary Election – Date* – Effective: 10/1/2025 – Changes the date of the gubernatorial primary election from the last Tuesday of June to the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday in June. The date of the 2026 Gubernatorial Election will be Tuesday, June 23, 2026.
- HB0322/SB0088 – *State Administrator of Elections – Municipals Elections – emergency (Muni elections)* – This is an emergency departmental bill introduced by SBE. Effective Date: Emergency – This allows SBE to enter MOUs with municipalities who use the State's voting equipment.
- HB0839/SB0543 – *Provisional Ballots – Nonpartisan Board of Education Contests aka Partial Ballot Acceptance* – Effective Date: 10/1/2025 – Local boards must now count any nonpartisan contests for provisional voters who vote the wrong party ballot during a primary election. In the past, a voter who voted the wrong party's ballot in a primary election would be rejected. This bill now makes us partially count the voter's ballot for the nonpartisan contest. This means that our "in-part" provisional ballots will increase, and our rejected ballots will decrease.
- SB0308 – *Election Law – Chief Election Judges – Party Affiliation* – Effective Date: 10/1/2025 – Local boards must assign a Democratic and Republican chief judge to each polling place, to the extent practicable, 45 days prior to election day.
- HB0586/SB0534 – *Election Law – Election Judges – Compensation* – Effective Date – 10/1/2025 – Local boards are not required to pay the \$50 training pay to individuals

who do not show up to serve as an election judge.

***Bills that did not pass:***

- HB0317 – *Election Law – Curbside Voting – Pilot Program* – This bill would require three local boards (one small, one medium, and one large jurisdiction) to offer curbside voting.
- SB0018 – *Election Law – Early Voting – Number of Days* – This bill would reduce the number of early voting days from 8 days to 5 days.

**Maryland Association of Election Officials (MAEO)**

- Conference information – Sunday, May 4<sup>th</sup> to Friday, May 9<sup>th</sup> at the Grand Hotel in Ocean City. Ms. Perrone provided copies of the tentative agenda and conference information.
- SBE Biennial – Sunday, May 4<sup>th</sup> and Monday, May 5<sup>th</sup>. Board members and counsel are required to attend the biennial. If you cannot attend, you must ask for an exemption from the State Administrator. Mr. Gullo has received an exemption as he will be attending to municipal elections on the same date.
- MAEO Days – Tuesday, May 6<sup>th</sup> through Thursday, May 8<sup>th</sup>. There will be general sessions, but a lot of it is geared toward elections staff, not the Board.

**2025 Board Meetings**

- 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 reminded the board that Mr. Gullo's contract needed to be discussed. Mr. Gullo stated that he has been the attorney for the Carroll County Board of Elections for 6 years. Mr. Gullo is a resident of Carroll County and has provided a copy of the *Carroll County Board of Elections Legal Services Agreement with Board Counsel* for review. Mr. Foster invited Mr. Gullo to continue as the counsel for the CCBOE. Mr. Gullo accepted, and the required paperwork will be processed.

Mr. Foster attended the Local Board Committee Meeting for MAEO on March 10, 2025. He shared with the board that there were around 10 people that attended in person and the rest were virtual. He provided notes from the meeting and learned that most of the boards are doing the same processes. The committee will meet quarterly.

**Disclosure of Campaign Contributions**

There are currently no campaign contributions to share.

**Date of Next Meeting**

The next scheduled meeting is Wednesday, June 18, 2025, at 10 am.

**Adjournment and Closed Session**

The motion for adjournment was made at 11:08 am by Mr. Watson. Ms. Miller seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Mr. Gullo proposed that the Board go into closed session to discuss confidential voters.

Closed Meeting: This part of the meeting will be closed in accordance with Open Meetings Act, Title 10, Subtitle 5, Section 3-305(b)(2) to protect the privacy or reputation of individuals with respect to a matter that is not related to public business.