



Carroll County Board of Elections



300 South Center Street, Room 212 Westminster, MD 21157-5366

410-386-2080

MD RELAY: Call 711 or 800-735-2258 (TTY)

Toll Free: 1-888-302-8978

ccboe@carrollcountymd.gov

elections.carrollcountymd.gov

FAX: 410-876-3925

Carroll County Board of Elections Board Minutes April 20, 2022

Present

Board

Griffith Manahan, President, in person

Samuel Foster, Vice-President, by telephone

John Woodley, Secretary, by virtual

Carol Coley, in person

Harvey Tegeler, in person

Jay Gullo, Attorney, in person

Staff

Katherine Berry, Election Director, in person

Erin Perrone, Deputy Director, in person

Jennifer Bartholow, Election Program Supervisor I, in person

Kimberly Bullock-Jones, Election Program Supervisor II, by phone

Members of the Public

Mitch Edelman, Carroll County Democratic Central Committee, in person

Darryl Varnum, Citizen, in person

Call to Order & Declaration of Quorum

Mr. Manahan called the meeting to order at 10:06 am and declared that a quorum was present.

Welcome

Mr. Manahan welcomed those in attendance.

Public Comments

Two members of the public were in attendance. Mr. Varnum thanked the Board for the opportunity to address them. He expressed his interest in understanding the election process in Carroll County and his concern regarding the anomalies reported by Seth Keshel. Mr. Varnum stated that his background in cybersecurity in the government sector would help him explain to friends and family, and on social media, that the audits performed after an election would help address the report by Mr. Keshel. Mr. Manahan reminded Mr. Varnum that the public is welcome to observe the canvasses and emphasized that no other Board is more concerned about fair and free elections than the Carroll County Board of Elections and ballots submitted by eligible voters will be counted. Mr. Edelman had no comments.

Closed Meeting

Mr. Manahan requested a motion to close the public meeting at 10:10 am in accordance with the Open Meetings Act under General Provisions Article §3-305(b)(7), which permits closing a meeting to consult with counsel to obtain legal advice. Ms. Coley made a motion to convene in closed session, and Mr. Tegeler seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The closed session began at 10:12 am. Ms. Coley, Mr. Foster, Mr. Manahan, Mr. Tegeler, and Mr. Woodley attended the closed meeting. In addition to the board members, Ms. Berry, Ms. Perrone and Mr. Gullo attended the closed meeting.

Mr. Gullo provided legal advice on the implications of *SB158 – Voting Systems Cost, Polling Places-Requirements*, the implications of the May 3 deadline to complete redistricting, and *HB222 – Correctional Facilities-Voter Registration and Voting*. No actions were taken.

Mr. Woodley made a motion to adjourn the closed meeting, and Ms. Coley seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The closed meeting adjourned at 11:10 am. The open meeting convened at 11:16 a.m.

Attorney Report

Mr. Gullo stated that direction from the Board is needed. Mr. Tegeler made a motion to direct counsel to draft a letter addressed to the State Board of Elections (SBE) stating that the Board is proceeding with the polling place plan approved during the March meeting of the Board. Ms. Coley seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

Additions to the Agenda

Mr. Manahan asked if any there were any additions to the agenda. No additions were added to the agenda.

Approval of Minutes

The Board approved the minutes from the March 9, 2022 meeting on a motion from Mr. Tegeler, seconded by Mr. Woodley. The motion carried unanimously.

Correspondence

Ms. Berry reported that no new correspondence has been received.

Election Director's Report

Important Meetings

A list of meetings was included on the report.

Voter Registration

Ms. Berry reported that the monthly statistical reports have been posted to the office's website. The reports can be found at <https://elections.carrollcountymd.gov/FactsAndFigures.aspx>. Updated reports will not be posted until the redistricting process is complete.

Mail-in Voting

Ms. Berry stated that approximately 10,000 mail-in ballot applications have been processed. Over half of those applications requested to be on the permanent mail-in ballot list. All nonpartisan voters will be receiving an application. Mail-in ballots are expected to be mailed to overseas and military voters around June 4 to comply with the federal MOVE Act.

Ms. Berry reported that *SB163 – Ballots-Processing and Reporting Procedures* passed this session of the General Assembly, so the first mail-in ballot canvass may be July 1 or July 5. State regulations require the Board to be present for the entirety of the mail-in ballot canvass.

Candidate Filings

Ms. Berry reported that the deadline for candidates to file for any office for the 2022 Gubernatorial Primary Election has passed. There was a total of 58 filings over the past 14 months. There will be three ballot styles per precinct in the primary election. Every nonpartisan voter will have a ballot that includes only the Board of Education contest. There are a total of 153 ballot styles. Sample ballots are expected to be mailed to all voters in late June.

Election Judges

Ms. Berry stated that the *Election Judges' Manual* has been approved by SBE, posted to the website, and is currently being printed. Election judge training will be a hybrid model, and training classes will begin in May and end about a week before early voting starts. The election judge recruitment staff are working quickly to fill all vacant positions.

Ms. Berry reported that the Carroll Media Center is excited to be a partner to help disseminate election information and assist with recruiting election judges.

Ms. Bartholow stated that recruitment efforts are still ongoing. Now that the court cases have been settled and the date of the primary has been determined, recruiting efforts can continue and assigning election judges to polling places may begin. Mr. Manahan asked Ms. Bartholow to compile a chart to show the minimum number of election judges for each polling place to run successfully and the number of election judges assigned to each polling place.

IT/Warehouse

Ms. Berry reported that staff will begin relabeling and allocating equipment and supplies following the final approval of the new precincts and polling places. Logic and accuracy testing for the ballots used by the vendor who mails ballots to voters may begin on May 24. In response to a question, Ms. Berry confirmed that all scanning units are tested prior to deployment. During the logic and accuracy testing, the scanning unit is in a testing mode, not in election mode. Once the testing is complete, the results from logic and accuracy are cleared and the scanning unit is set to election mode, sealed, and is not open again until the morning of election day. No voting equipment is connected to the internet.

Redistricting

Ms. Berry stated that SBE has set a deadline of May 3 to complete the redistricting process so that ballot production can begin. The redistricting process includes making updates to voter records in the statewide voter registration database and proofing those updates to make sure voters are in the correct districts. A process that typically takes six months is now condensed into two weeks. Nine staff members took five weeks to check all address points because of the new County Commissioner district lines. Ms. Berry emphasized that the deadline of May 3 will not be met because of the manual process it takes to make sure voters will be voting for the correct candidates in their correct districts. Voter notification cards will be sent to all voters when redistricting is complete.

Legislation

Ms. Berry included a chart to show the bills that passed during this session of the General Assembly.

SB0158 (HB0035)	Election Law - Voting Systems Costs, Polling Places, and Primary Election Date - Requirements
SB641	Carroll County - County Commissioner Districts - Redistricting Plan
SJ0002/HJ0002	Legislative Districting Plan of 2022
SB1012	Congressional Redistricting Plan
HB17	Campaign Finance - Recurring Contributions and Donations - Requirements
SB239	Election Law - Campaign Finance - Protection of Contributor
SB0500/HB0683	Anne Arundel County - Republican Party Central Committee - Elections
HB328/SB907	Elections - Polling Place Location Restrictions - Repeal
HB375/SB269	Open Meetings Act - Application and Enhanced Requirements (Maryland State Agency Transparency Act of 2022)
HB289/SB270	Somerset County – Elections – County Commissioners Districts and Board of Education Candidate Filings
HB1473	Prince George's County - School Board Districts - Redistricting Plan PG 507-22
SB15/HB0340	Election Law Campaign Finance - Enforcement
SB163	Election Law - Ballots - Processing and Reporting Procedures
HB862	Election Law - Ballot Canvassing - Multiple Ballots Cast by an Individual
SB0101/HB291	Election Law - Contested Elections
HB246	Open Meetings Act - Notices, Closed Sessions, and Minutes - Retention Periods, Online Posting, and Public Inspection
SB952	Frederick County - Board of Education - Vacancies

Ms. Berry reviewed some of the bills.

- *SB163 – Election Law – Ballots – Processing and Reporting Procedures and HB862 – Election Law – Ballot Canvassing – Multiple Ballots Cast by an Individual* allows the mail-in ballot canvass to begin eight days prior to the start of the first day of early voting. It also allows the curing process of oath signatures to begin the moment an unsigned ballot envelope is received by the office. Finally, this bill allows the tabulation of mail-in ballot votes cast during the primary election but does not allow tabulation for the general election. Not being allowed to tabulate the votes cast in the general election will propose equipment challenges that can be discussed later. It also allows the first legally sufficient ballot submitted by a voter to be counted instead of rejecting both ballots. Previously, if a voter submitted two ballots (mail-in ballot and a provisional ballot), Election Law stated that both ballots had to be rejected. This bill mandates precinct level reporting which is available since there are precinct-based ballots.
- *SB0101/HB291 – Election Law – Contested Elections* changes the percentage of when an automatic recount occurs.

Personnel & Budget

Ms. Berry reported that the FY23 budget will be finalized soon. The new electronic pollbooks will be paid in the next few months through the county's capital budget plan. Discussions regarding space needs for the office and warehouse continue in the commissioner and budget offices. Interviews for the vacant position are being held this week. Once a selection is made, the new staff member may start on May 4.

Ms. Berry thanked the candidates and elected officials in Carroll County for their support and patience with the long redistricting process.

Next Board Meeting and Important Dates for Your Calendar

Ms. Berry reviewed the dates of future Board meetings and dates for the primary election.

- May 18, 2022 – Board Meeting
- June 15, 2022 – Board Meeting
- August 17, 2022 – Board Meeting
- September 14, 2022 – Board Meeting
- October 5, 2022 – Board Meeting
- December 7, 2022 – Board Meeting

2022 Primary Election Dates

- July 7 – 14, 2022 - Primary Early Voting – Board will visit one center to do polling place evaluations
- July 19, 2022 – Primary Election Day – Board will visit polling places to do polling place evaluations
- July 1 and July 5, 2022 – tentative Mail-in Ballot Canvass – quorum of the Board (possible Attorney) must be present

- July 21 and July 29, 2022 – Mail-in Ballot Canvass – dates set in Election Law – quorum of the Board and Attorney must be present – Board decisions done at this time
- July 27, 2022 – Provisional Ballot Canvass – quorum of the Board and Attorney must be present

Unfinished Business

Mr. Manahan asked if the high school interns could give a status report of their voter outreach program. Ms. Berry stated that an update will be provided at the May meeting.

New Business

There was no new business.

Disclosure of Campaign Contributions

Ms. Coley reported a campaign contribution of \$50.00 to Jamie Raskin, \$50.00 to Aaron A. Scanlan, and \$50.00 to Amanda Jozkowski. Mr. Tegeler reported a campaign contribution of \$25.00 to Andy Harris and \$20.00 to Neil Parrot.

Date of Next Meeting

The next board meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 18, 2022 at 10:00 a.m.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned on a motion by Ms. Coley, seconded by Mr. Tegeler at 12:04 pm. The motion passed unanimously.