



Carroll County Board of Elections



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Carroll County Board of Elections Board Minutes September 14, 2022

Present

Board

Griffith Manahan, President, in person
Samuel Foster, Vice-President, in person
John Woodley, Secretary, in person
Carol Coley, in person
Harvey Tegeler, in person
Jay Gullo, Attorney, by virtual

Staff

Katherine Berry, Election Director, in person
Erin Perrone, Deputy Director, in person
Jennifer Bartholow, Election Program Specialist I, by virtual

Public

Cheryl Steinbacher, Co-chair, League of Women Voters, Carroll County

Call to Order & Declaration of Quorum

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

Welcome

Mr. Manahan welcomed those in attendance.

Additions to the Agenda

Mr. Manahan asked if any there were any additions to the agenda. There were not additions added to the agenda.

Approval of Minutes

The Board approved the minutes from the August 17, 2022 meeting on a motion from Ms. Coley, seconded by Mr. Foster. The motion carried unanimously.

Public Comments

Cheryl Steinbacher, the Co-chair of the League of Women Voters (LWV) of Carroll County, introduced herself. She has lived in Maryland for seven years and recently retired. Ms. Steinbacher is in attendance to observe and learn about elections in Carroll County. She stated that LWV will be assembling a voting guide for Carroll County voters and will be

available on the Vote 411 website in addition to a limited number of print copies available at libraries.

Correspondence

Ms. Berry reported that the PIA template approved at the August meeting is now available on our website.

Four requests were received asking for the CVR data from the 2020 Presidential General Election. The PIA requests were forwarded to the State Board of Elections (SBE) to be fulfilled. A discussion ensued between various board members regarding SBE's response to the PIA request that the data could not be timestamped. There are concerns about what is really going on inside the scanning units because once the ballot is scanned, there is no direct tie to the ballot. In addition, there is less confidence in the results because the data is not timestamped.

Attorney Report

Mr. Gullo reported on the directive from the August board meeting regarding voting irregularities and candidate filing misinformation. A subpoena was received, and documentation will be provided to the Office of the Carroll County State's Attorney for the voting irregularities (double voters) that occurred in the 2022 primary election.

The Office of the Carroll County State's Attorney is not going to pursue the candidate filing misinformation because they feel it is a conflict of interest. It was suggested to contact the Attorney General's Office or the State Prosecutor.

Mr. Manahan suggested that Mr. Gullo and Ms. Berry to draft a response to those concerned citizens who brought the matter to the board's attention.

Mr. Tegeler suggested that the same letter and documentation also be sent to the incoming State's Attorney for Carroll County and the Sheriff's Department.

Mr. Gullo stated that the next step would be send a letter to the Attorney General's Office, State Prosecutor, the incoming State's Attorney for Carroll County and the Sheriff's Department.

Election Director's Report

Correspondence

A list of correspondence was included on the report.

Important Meetings

A list of meetings was included on the report. Ms. Berry reviewed some of the important meetings that were held or will be held in the future.

- September 6 – Emergency State Board Meeting – Early Voting approval – SBE approved the relocation of the early voting center from the North Carroll Senior Center to the North Carroll High School Library Complex. Ms. Berry reported that

the County IT will be able to install a security camera for 24/7 surveillance of the drop box.

- September 9 – ETC Meeting – Kim, Ed, Riley – A portion of the new electronic pollbooks should be delivered at the end of the year. SBE released a Request for Information (RFI) for a new voting system to be used in the 2024 elections. Mr. Manahan stated his concern of the ballot from a ballot marking device not matching the standard hand marked ballot. It was requested that input from the local boards be giving to SBE.
- September 19 – Facilities Renovation Meeting – Office renovations to heighten security will be funded through a grant that the county received for election security.
- September 22 – MAEO Conference – Board members who are attending the MAEO Conference can meet staff at the office to carpool.
- September 29 – Ways & Means Briefing – Polling Places – The Ways & Means Committee asked for information regarding the consolidation of polling places. Ms. Berry will participate in the briefing.

Voter Registration

Ms. Berry reported that the monthly statistical reports are available on the website. The link to the report is <https://elections.carrollcountymd.gov/monthlyStats.aspx>.

Staff were busy processing ERIC reports and they were completed by the deadline of September 9th.

The close of registration for the general election is Tuesday, October 18th.

Ballots & Mail-in Voting

Ms. Berry stated that the ballot drop boxes will be delivered the week of September 26th. The ballot drop box pickup schedules will be emailed when they are delivered.

Ballot proofing and the approval of the ballot order has been completed. There are 50 ballot styles for the general election.

Mail-in ballots for overseas and military voters are to be sent by Saturday, September 24th to meet the federal UOCAVA deadline. Mail-in ballots for domestic voters should be sent the end of September or beginning of October.

Emergency litigation to canvass ballots prior to the start of early voting is ongoing. The trial is supposed to begin on September 20th. Another litigation case requires to keep all documentation from the 2020 Presidential General Election including ballots, forms, mail-in ballot envelopes, and reports until further notice. Carroll County was not served in that litigation. Voting materials from the 2020 Presidential Primary Election has been disposed as required by the 22-month retention schedule.

SBE will be sending notifications to all voters who asked to be on the permanent mail-in ballot list prior to each election. The correspondence confirms the status and instructs the voter how to ask to be removed from the permanent mail-in ballot list.

Election Judges & Polling Places

Ms. Berry stated that election judge training will begin in late-September. Chief judges, provisional/check-in judges and election field support will be required to attend training in-person. There are approximately 200 vacancies.

State employees who serve as election judges during early voting and on election day will earn up to 16 hours of administrative leave. County employees who serve as election judges on election day will earn 8 hours of administrative leave.

A partnership with McDaniel College to have eligible students serve as election judges and students to be an intern in the office is in its beginning stages.

The Sheriff's Department will continue the security plan as it was implemented in the 2022 primary election.

A payroll discrepancy was discovered with some of the election judges who served during the 2022 primary election. Currently, the scope of those affected is being identified, and discussions with County HR and Finance are occurring to resolve the discrepancy. This was caused by human error and new processes will be implemented for the general election.

IT/Warehouse

Ms. Berry reported that Logic & Accuracy (L&A) Testing will begin in late-September. Specifically, it should start September 26th if test decks are received.

The transportation carts and election judge supplies are being packed.

Volunteers will be needed for transporting the voting equipment for election day. The tentative dates that transportation will occur are November 3rd and 4th. Once the number of trucks and routes are confirmed, Ms. Berry will notify the board.

Personnel & Budget

Ms. Berry reported that preparation for the budget will begin in October. It was suggested that any budget proposals be submitted to Ms. Berry as soon as possible.

Beginning next week, the office will welcome a Liberty High School student to be an intern. The intern will help with administrative tasks.

2022 Board Meeting Schedule

Ms. Berry reviewed the dates of future Board meetings.

- October 5, 2022

- December 7, 2022

2022 General Election Dates

- October 27 – November 3, 2022 – Early Voting
- November 8 – Election Day
- November 10 and 18, 2022 – Mail-in Ballot Canvass
- November 16, 2022 – Provisional Ballot Canvass

Unfinished Business

Ms. Coley made a motion to introduce the by-law amendment, adopt or pass the amendment at the October 5th meeting and to submit the amendment to SBE. Mr. Woodley seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

New Business

Heather DeWees, the Clerk of the Circuit Court for Carroll County, administered and recorded the oath of each member of the Board of Canvassers for the 2022 Gubernatorial General Election.

Disclosure of Campaign Contributions

Mr. Tegeler reported a campaign contribution of \$50.00 to Michael Anthony Peroutka.

Date of Next Meeting

The next board meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 5th, 2022 at 10:00 a.m.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned on a motion by Mr. Foster, seconded by Mr. Tegeler at 11:26 am. The motion passed unanimously.