



Carroll County Board of Elections



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Carroll County Board of Elections Board Minutes October 13, 2021

Present

Board

Griffith Manahan, President, by virtual

Samuel Foster, Vice-President

John Woodley, Secretary

Carol Coley

Harvey Tegeler

Staff

Katherine Berry, Election Director

Erin Perrone, Deputy Director

Jay Gullo, Attorney

Call to Order & Welcome

Mr. Foster called the meeting to order at 10:03 am and declared that a quorum was present.

Welcome

Mr. Foster welcomed those in attendance.

Additions to the Agenda

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

Public Comments

No members of the public were in attendance.

Approval of Minutes

The Board approved the minutes from the September 15, 2021 meeting on a motion from Mr. Woodley, seconded by Mr. Tegeler. The motion carried unanimously.

Correspondence

Ms. Berry stated that a letter was received from a voter questioning the outcome of the 2020 Presidential General Election and recommending a forensic audit be performed. Ms. Berry will respond to the voter.

Attorney Report

Mr. Gullo reported that counsels from other local boards did not believe that the Carroll County Commissioner redistricting proposal would be passed during the Special Session of the General Assembly in December.

Election Director's Report

Important Meetings

A list of meetings was included on the report.

Voter Registration/Absentee

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>.

The State Board of Elections (SBE) has announced that mail-in ballot applications will be mailed to voters starting on February 1, 2022.

Ms. Mary Cramer Wagner, SBE's Director of Voter Registration Division, discussed how eligible Marylanders can register to vote and explained the steps to verify citizenship. There are multiple State agencies who offer voter registration services. Naming some of the agencies, they include the Motor Vehicle Administration (MVA), the Department of Human Services (DHS), Maryland Health Benefit Exchange (MHBE), and Maryland Mobility & Paratransit Transportation. Maryland has automatic voter registration, and a person must "opt out" of registering to vote or updating voter registration information. For example, someone who goes to the MVA to renew his license must tell the MVA that he does not want to register to vote or update his voter registration information. Otherwise, the information will automatically be sent to the local election office.

Ms. Wagner stated that a non-citizen is permitted to get a driver's license or an identification card at the MVA, however, that person is not offered the option to register to vote. The legislation did not pass citizenship verification, but a person's oath signature verifies the qualifications to register to vote such as citizenship, age, and felon status.

Ms. Wagner receives notification of anyone who is a non-citizen and registered to vote. The information is then forwarded to the Office of the State Prosecutor (OSP). SBE does not have the statutory right to investigate a person's citizenship status. Once information is given to the OPS, it is the duty of the OSP to investigate. Ms. Wagner stated that no prosecutions have been executed for non-citizens registering to vote to the best of her knowledge.

Ms. Wagner stated that the documentation provided to get a "Real ID" at the MVA may prove citizenship, but that question should be answered by someone at the MVA.

IT/Warehouse

Ms. Berry reported that the warehouse staff will be helping SBE with testing the new pollbook printers.

Preparation for the mock election is ongoing. Most of the exercise will occur in early November. The mock election activities include proofing and printing ballots, logic & accuracy, scanning ballots, checking in voters, same day registration, and uploading results. The mock election is a great training opportunity for staff.

SBE has selected a vendor for the new electronic pollbooks, but the new solution will not be available for the 2022 elections because of the programming timeline. The new solution will be used in the 2024 elections.

Redistricting

Ms. Berry stated that the Commissioner Redistricting Committee has chosen "Map A." This plan moves several precincts into different commissioner districts and splits a portion of Sandymount Elementary and Mechanicsville Elementary. New precincts may be formed, or voters will be combined with an existing precinct.

There are proposed "final" Congressional and Senatorial maps by the Maryland Redistricting Commission and proposed House district maps. The proposed Congressional map will put Carroll County into one district. The Senatorial map will split some of the southern precincts into a different district than the rest of the county. The House map creates single member districts. Single member districts will create several new precincts or combine voters into existing precincts. The House map does not appear to follow precinct lines like the Senatorial map.

If the proposed maps are accepted, every voter will get a new voter notification card because at least one district will change for every precinct. Alternatives to printing and mailing voter notification cards in-house are being researched.

Polling Places/Election Judges

Ms. Berry reported that Ms. Jennifer Bartholow sent a recruitment survey to over 600 people who was an election judge in the 2018 and 2020 elections. Currently, about 250 people have expressed interest in being an election judge in 2022. Approximately 14 past election judges stated that they will not return for the 2022 elections because of medical reasons, "time to retire", safety concerns, or loss of belief in the election process.

An updated early voting center map that includes only "active" registered voters was provided. The requirement of 80% of voters residing within 5 miles of one of the proposed early voting centers will not be met.

Voter Education and Election Security

Ms. Berry encouraged everyone to refer to SBE's website (elections.maryland.gov) for updated information regarding election security in Maryland. The laws and regulations passed by SBE will continue to be followed. The certified election results on SBE's website should be used to "fact check" articles, media releases, or citations given in articles.

SBE is in the process of creating a link on their website to explain the procedures of maintaining the voter registration rolls. The link will include references to Maryland Election Laws and regulations that must be followed before removing someone from the voter registration database.

Ms. Berry provided copies of the results from the manual audit and the Clear Ballot audit. The manual audit was performed in January 2021 and the Clear Ballot audit was performed after election day and before the election was certified. The results of the two audits show that the precinct that was manually audited has the same results as the Clear Ballot audit. No other audits are permitted to be performed unless stated in Maryland Election Law.

Personnel & Budget

Ms. Berry introduced our newest staff member, Olivia Smith.

Next week, staff will be participating in a team building exercise and communications training hosted by the Carroll Community College.

Ms. Berry stated that she will be attending the Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) Winter Conference in December on behalf of the Maryland Association of Election Officials (MAEO).

Updates are being made to the office's website and social media platforms. The goal is to make the website more user-friendly and to make our social media more engaging.

The capital project requests have been submitted to include safety measures and a new building or space to lease. New building construction is being considered but would not be available for at least 5 years. A building lease within Westminster is being reviewed to meet our needs and requirements. A lease would allow a quicker move, but it would have to occur before the end of the year.

Next Board Meeting and Important Dates for Your Calendar

Ms. Berry reviewed the dates of future Board meetings and tentative dates for next year's elections.

- November 17, 2021 – Board Meeting
- December 15, 2021 – Board Meeting
- January 19, 2022 – Board Meeting
- February 16, 2022 – Board Meeting
- March 16, 2022 – Board Meeting
- April 20, 2022 – Board Meeting

- May 18, 2022 – Board Meeting
- June 15, 2022 – Board Meeting

*2022 Election Dates – *TENTATIVE**

- June 16-23, 2022 – Primary Early Voting
- June 28, 2022 – Primary Election Day
- June 30 and July 8, 2022 – Absentee Ballot Canvass
- July 6, 2022 – Provisional Ballot Canvass
- October 27 – November 3, 2022 – General Early Voting
- November 8, 2022 – General Election Day
- November 10 and 18, 2022 – Absentee Ballot Canvass
- November 16, 2022 – Provisional Ballot Canvass

Unfinished Business

There was no unfinished business.

New Business

Ms. Berry reviewed the proposed Commissioner Redistricting Plan in the Election Director's Report.

Disclosure of Campaign Contributions

There were no campaign contributions.

Date of Next Meeting

The next board meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 17, 2021 at 10:00 a.m.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned on a motion by Ms. Coley, seconded by Mr. Manahan at 11:01 am. The motion passed unanimously.