



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

October 7, 2020

Present:

Board

Griffith Manahan, President

John Woodley, Secretary

Laura O'Callaghan, Vice President

Samuel Foster

Harvey Tegeler

Staff

Katherine Berry, Election Director

Paula Troxell, Deputy Director

Jay Gullo, Attorney

Call to Order & Welcome:

Mr. Manahan, President, called the meeting to order at 10:00a.m. A quorum was present.

Approval of Minutes:

The Board approved the open minutes from the September 16, 2020 meeting, as amended, on a motion from Ms. O'Callaghan, seconded by Mr. Woodley. The motion carried unanimously.

The Board approved the closed minutes from the August 19, 2020 meeting, on a motion from Mr. Tegeler, seconded by Mr. Foster. The motion carried unanimously.

The Board approved to seal the closed session minutes from the August 19, 2020 meeting, on a motion from Mr. Tegeler, seconded by Mr. Woodley. The motion carried unanimously.

Attorney Report:

Mr. Gullo reported that the attorneys had their first call and two more calls are scheduled. There was an exception added to the "Ballot Drop Box Retrieval Procedures" that states that local board members do not need to have a criminal background check.

Mr. Gullo explained that updates were made to the "Signatures on Oaths and Other Canvassing Guidance" document. He read the update included in the document "the voter initials or signs the ballot but it looks like the voter changed their mind or made a mistake (e.g., crossed or placed an "X" through one oval and filled in another oval). If the board determines that the initials or signature is to

authenticate the change, accept. This is a reasonable conclusion in light of the changed selections.” Mr. Gullo believes that it still will come down to voter intent.

Mr. Gullo reported that mask procedures were defined and released by SBE. “No mask no inside voting”.

Ms. Berry requested direction from the board for voters that make a mistake on their ballot and request a new ballot. Can the staff instruct the voter to correct the ballot and place their initials on the ballot or should the staff continue to reissue the ballot? A discussion occurred regarding the guidance provided by SBE. The staff will continue to reissue ballots when a voter makes a mistake.

Mr. Gullo is working with Ms. Berry on the canvass plan. He still needs to finalize the “recess” process for the canvass plan.

Mr. Gullo reported that he will not be able to attend the first day of canvass being held on October 17th.

Staff Report:

Announcements & Important Meetings

Ms. Berry provided WTTR with PSAs that they are committed to air. She sent them several verbiage options.

Ms. Berry completed an interview on 105.7 with Carl Delmont. David Garreis, Deputy Director Anne Arundel County and President of MAEO and Gilberto Zelaya, Montgomery county election judge recruiter also participated in the interview. Ms. Berry thanked Mr. Woodley for coordinating the interview with Mr. Delmont.

Carroll Media Center has created an information page on their website for the 2020 general election.

Voter Registration

Ms. Berry reported that sample ballots are being sent to the post office today and should be in voter’s mailboxes beginning Saturday and Tuesday.

The deadline to register to vote is October 13th. Voter registration data will be pulled on October 16th to prepare pollbooks. Ms. Berry reminded the Board that they must be at the drop boxes at 5pm on October 13th because of the registration deadline.

VOTE BY MAIL

The mail in ballot application deadline is October 20th. October 20th is a “hard” deadline date and postmarks are not accepted. Ms. Berry explained that if a voter wants a mail in ballot, they must come to the office to receive a ballot by appointment.

Ms. Berry stated that the vendor is mailing ballots daily. There was an issue with 1,100 ballots not being produced by the vendor correctly. The issue has been corrected and voters should begin to receive their ballots by Friday October 16th.

Ms. Berry reported that voters can drop off their voted ballots with the election judges on election day. These ballots must be put in a sealed yellow bag or in a drop box if the voting location has one. The voter is not allowed to scan their mail in ballot inside of the early voting center or the vote center. Chief judges will oversee this process. Ms. Berry reminded the board that appointments are being made now on a limited basis for voters who want to pick up their ballot.

Ms. Berry provided a brief overview of the canvass plan. The canvass will be conducted in three phases. In phase 1, standard ballots will be opened and reviewed by the canvassing teams. In phase 2, standard ballots will be scanned by the canvassers. In phase 3, web delivered ballots will be opened, reviewed, duplicated and scanned by canvassing teams. The first board decision meeting will be held on October 20th. Canvassing will not occur during early voting but will begin after election day. The canvass schedule was discussed, and revisions were made to the schedule.

Mr. Manahan asked how many vote by mail applications have been received. Ms. Berry said approximately 34,000 applications have been received. The difference between parties for mail in ballot request are narrowing. As an example, 15,000 democrats have requested mail in ballots and 12,000 republicans have requested mail in ballots. Ms. Berry stated that Carroll’s margin of request between parties is closer than other counties.

IT/Warehouse

Early voting equipment delivery will occur on October 23rd and election day will occur on October 29th and possibly October 30th if all the deliveries cannot be completed on the 29th. Ms. Berry asked the Board for assistance with the equipment delivery. She requested that they send her an email with their availability.

The drop box pickups seem to be going well. Ms. Berry asked if anyone had any comments about the drop box pickups. Mr. Manahan said that it is dark at the Swim Club, but they are managing. Ms. Berry explained that she has contacted the Swim Club about turning lights on in the lower parking lot. She has not heard back from them so she will contact them to follow up.

Polling Places & Election Judges

Ben's Rental has been contacted to put a light at the end of the driveway at the Swim Club. The County has offered to transport the light to the Swim Club on October 23rd and then remove the light on November 4th.

As of today, 32 assigned judges have quit and many of them were brand new judges. Election judge positions have been filled with an adequate amount of back up judges.

Provisional/Same Day Registrations in-person training has been completed. Ms. Berry reported that most election judges have completed their virtual training.

Ms. Berry stated that 1 person from the State Medical Corp is being deployed to each early voting center and vote center. They can take temperatures of voters, enforce social distancing and enforce wearing a mask. SBE has released procedures on how to handle voters who have a higher than acceptable temperature. Procedures were distributed for review and discussion. Mr. Gullo stated that outside voting is required but he feels it should not be promoted because it creates issues with monitoring voters outside and pulls a judge out of the polling place. A discussion occurred on taking temperatures and voters not wearing a mask. Mr. Tegeler made a motion that the State Medical Corp will not perform temperature checks, they will check that voters are wearing a mask, they will enforce social distancing and they will serve in an advisory capacity and subordinate to the chief judges; seconded by Mr. Foster. The motion carried unanimously.

75,000 bags with a pen and a "I Voted" sticker have been prepared by volunteers and the office staff for in-person voting.

Ms. Berry explained that one polling place evaluation must be completed during early voting and three evaluations must be completed on election day. She suggested that each Board member could complete one evaluation and she would provide their binders with the assigned location to evaluate on one of the canvass days.

Personnel & Budget

The office was awarded a \$76,536.00 grant from the Center for Tech & Civic Life Grant. Due to an error, Ms. Berry was not sent an invitation to attend the meeting and there were questions regarding how the funding would be used. Ms. Berry is working with the County Administrator and Grant Administrator for completion of acceptance of this award. So far, nearly \$400,000 has been spent on items related to COVID between the primary and general election.

Ms. Berry continues to monitor the Commissioner's meetings for the charter government discussion.

Board Members Political Activities:

Mr. Tegeler donated \$35.00 to Senator Ready.

Unfinished Business:

Ms. Berry will provide an analysis of the staff's overtime for a vote-by-mail election as compared to an in-person election.

New Business:

Mr. Manahan stated that the Board of Canvassers needed to organize for the general election and opened the floor for nominations. Ms. O'Callaghan nominated Mr. Manahan as Chairman and Mr. Woodley as Secretary; seconded by Mr. Foster. The motion carried unanimously.

Scheduling of Next Meeting:

The next board meeting will be determined at a later date.

Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned on a motion by Mr. Tegeler; seconded by Mr. Foster to adjourn the meeting at 12:11 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.