

APPROVED

Tuesday, November 3, 2020
MONTGOMERY COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS MEETING
(BY TELE-CONFERENCE)
18753 N. Frederick Avenue, Suite 212, Gaithersburg, MD 20879

In Attendance:

Board Members

James Shalleck, President (on site)
Nahid Khozeimeh, Vice President
David A. Naimon, Secretary (on site)
Diane Nash Dillon
Elisse Barnes
Jacqueline L. Phillips
Alan Banov

Board Attorney Kevin Karpinski

Staff all Onsite

Margaret Jurgensen, Director
Alysoun McLaughlin, Deputy Director
Christine Rzeszut, Operation Manager
Kera Bumbray, Management and Budget Specialist
Boris Brojkovic, Voter Services Manager
Lisa Merino, Administrative Specialist
Janet Ross, Information Technology Manager

Due to technical issues, there is not audio for this meeting

Convene the Board meeting and Declare a Quorum Present

Mr. Shalleck called the meeting to order and a quorum present at 11:05 a.m.

Election Day Updates

Mr. Karpinski reported that 176,500 Vote By Mail ballots have been processed and scanned to date and that 127,000 early voting ballots processed so far, not including the number of votes expected today, Election Day.

He added that earlier today there was a short interruption with the State Board of Elections connections to local boards that required pollbooks to be rebooted. The issue was identified by Montgomery County and quickly resolved.

Mr. Karpinski stated that there are currently no lines at most of the voting centers, and any wait times have been brief.

Mr. Shalleck inquired if the Department of Justice had been out and about. Mr. Karpinski responded that they had been monitoring activities in Montgomery County with no issues to report.

APPROVED

Board member Update

Mr. Shalleck reported that over the several days of visiting sites he noted no big issues. He reports that there were some small problems with ballot marking devices (BMD) that were brought to his attention, but Ms. McLaughlin resolved them.

Mrs. Khozeimeh also noted some issues with BMD's at Bohrer Park, but they were resolved, noting that everything was going well.

Ms. Jurgensen clarified the BMDs issue, stating that it was allegedly reported that names were flipping when voters used the BMD: When this was brought to the attention of a Chief Judge or Center Manager, the event was recorded in the log and will be investigated more fully after the election. In addition, judges monitoring the BMD's are requesting that the voters carefully review their selections before submitting the ballots. In addition, the judge at the scanner will be asking the voter if the ballot being is marked with the choices they made, giving them an opportunity to review it again. Ms. Jurgensen added that the information regarding the BMD's came second-hand, from voters or party representatives through Mr. Shalleck and Mrs. Khozeimeh.

Ms. Khozeimeh followed up and stated that a voter complained about the name flipping while using the BMD, but the voter was quickly offered a paper ballot and the BMD was taken out of commission. Mr. Shalleck stated that he had received complaints from Wheaton, Germantown, and Bohrer Park, noting the same issue as Ms. Khozeimeh described. He added there had been no recent issues or calls to him regarding the BMD. Ms Jurgensen stated that the BMDs will be reviewed after the election and that the issues had been logged.

Mr. Naimon thanked the Board members for following up on what may had been a machine issue or voter issue. He requested that in the future the entire Board be notified of any issues, big or small.

Mr. Naimon reported having provided information that voters had been receiving web delivery ballots that were not requested. Mr. Karpinski responded that people may forget that they asked for web delivery for the Primary *and* the General Election, which is why they received a ballot for the General "unexpectedly." This also happens with mail ballots. Ms. Jurgensen added that all web delivery ballots have tracking numbers that identify the request; ballots received without a tracking number are presented to the Board of Canvassers for referral.

Mr. Naimon reported that he consistently observed that all voting centers had new and enthusiastic election judges, as well as greater use of BMDs. He added that during his visit at the Marriott Conference Center, he noted that there was no phone service and the election judges cleverly placed themselves close to the door.

Ms. Jurgensen, upon request, will provide election judges information on where they may get free COVID testing.

Ms. Phillips stated that she had received many complimentary phone calls from voters expressing appreciation for judges' professionalism.

Ms. Dillon thanked Ms. McLaughlin and Mr. Karpinski for their prompt responses in resolving

APPROVED

issues. She added that she too received several positive comments while visiting sites.

Mr. Karpinski reminded the Board that some BMD machines date back to 2016, and there are still some functionality issues. Use has increased this General Election, partly because the State now requires each voter to be offered their use, after the National Federation of the Blind sued the State of Maryland to improve access to an alternative to paper ballots. He added that some improvement in functionality and navigation is still sought; it had been expected for 2020, but now seems to be delayed until 2022. Ms. Phillips requested that a discussion of BMDs be placed on the agenda for the coming year.

The Board of Canvassers anticipates certifying the General election results in early December.

Selection of Vote Centers for Audit

Mr. Karpinski stated that the State Board of Elections requires that 5% of the vote centers be selected at random for the required audit. The Board selected 2 of the 40 vote centers to be audited.

Mr. Shalleck selected them; Ms. Merino will disclose them after the close of elections at 8:00p.m.

Adjournment

With nothing further to discuss, Ms. Khozeimeh moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Ms. Dillon and passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,


Lisa Merino
Administrative Specialist II

APPROVED BY THE BOARD:


Jim Shalleck
Board President