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**Meeting Minutes**  
**Monday, February 28, 2022**  
**MONTGOMERY COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS**  
**Virtual Board Meeting via Zoom**

**In Attendance Virtually:**

**Board Members:**

Nahid Khozeimeh, President  
Diane Nash Dillon, Vice President  
David A. Naimon, Secretary  
Amoretta Hoeber  
Dr. Elisse Barnes  
Alexander Vincent  
Alan Banov

**Board Attorney:**

Kevin Karpinski

**Staff:**

Alysoun McLaughlin, Acting Director  
Janet Ross, Acting Deputy Director  
Boris Brajkovic, Voter Services Manager  
Lisa Merino-Dean, Administrative Specialist  
Christine Rzeszut, Operations Manager

Audio video of the meeting may be found on YouTube at the link below: <https://youtu.be/WzOhYFxVOfy>

**Convene Board Meeting and Declare Quorum Present**

Ms. Khozeimeh convened the meeting at 2:40pm.

**Board President Remarks [0:20]**

Ms. Khozeimeh stated that the Chairman of Montgomery County GOP, Mr. Reardon Sullivan, provided a list of individuals who may have been registered to vote in Maryland and North Carolina. In response, Ms. Khozeimeh requested that Mr. Sullivan forward his request to the Board of Elections and stated that his request would be shared with all Board members. In addition, she forwarded the request to the Board Attorney, Kevin Karpinski. Mr. Karpinski has been working with Mr. Boris Brajkovic, Voter Services Manager, to do preliminary work to report to the Board today. Under new business, the staff will give a presentation on voter list maintenance under the National Voter Registration Act and under State Law. Please keep in mind that these are the legal procedures that the Board is required to follow when conducting voter list maintenance, Mr. Brajkovic will then provide a report on his preliminary research.

**[2:42]** Mr. Naimon stated that Bruce Goldensohn, former Mayor of the City of Gaithersburg, and former Board member of the Board of Education, passed away suddenly, and spoke about his achievements. The Board sends their condolences.

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**Additions/Changes to the Agenda [4:25]**

There were no changes made to the agenda.

**Disclosure of Campaign Contributions [4:32]**

Ms. Hoeber disclosed a contribution to attend a fundraiser for Jim Shalleck, candidate for Attorney General. She donated \$150 to attend the event.

**Public Comments**

**[5:54]** Sarah Brown asked to address the Board. She inquired about the purpose of her attendance at the meeting.

Mr. Karpinski stated that the Board members meet every month, following an agenda that gets posted, with the Director's Report being the bulk of it for the purpose of election preparation. The Board members discuss all things pertaining to the election process. The meeting today will be focused on redistricting and a refresher presentation on the list maintenance.

**[7:58]** Diana Conway expressed her concerns about the number of people unable to get into the Zoom meeting because the number of meeting attendees had met the Zoom limit (300), and suggested that the Montgomery County Board of Elections should increase the capacity of attendees for Zoom to ensure all members of the community are able to join in on the meetings without complications. She said she understood the need for clean, solid voter registration lists, but is concerned about the allegations of lack of voting integrity in Montgomery County, and hoped that it was not designed, as she believes it is in some other states, to exclude voters of a particular political or demographic background.

**[10:03]** Mike Jones inquired if the public would be able to make comments after the presentation. Mr. Karpinski responded that the presentation is only a refresher for new Board Members and the public. The Board is not considering changing the list maintenance process. The Montgomery County Board of Elections does not have the authority to change the list maintenance procedures that are in place in this State.

**[14:35]** Somerset Mayor Jeffrey Slavin thanked the staff of the Board of Elections for the way they have made themselves available and their assistance in Somerset with reforming election procedures. He inquired if the agenda should note that action would be taken on the voter list maintenance process.

Mr. Karpinski responded that the voter list maintenance presentation is on the agenda and there will be no action taken on the list maintenance process.

Mr. Naimon asked Mayor Slavin if Somerset allows resident non-citizens to vote, and if it's correct that Somerset uses its own supplemental voter registry for resident non-citizens because non-citizens are not on the county's voter registry. Mayor Slavin confirmed that Mr. Naimon's statement was correct, and said that is one of the topics on which the staff is assisting Somerset.

**[19:22]** Kathy Gugulis, Montgomery County resident, stated that she was dismayed that the Democratic Women's Organization would find fault with the list of improvements that the Montgomery County GOP requested and referred to complaints of voter suppression. She added that she supports the MCGOP Chair's position. She suggested that a MVA representative suggested that two Republicans should

change their party affiliations, and that was voter intimidation. She further suggested that the MVA should not be able to see what individuals are registered as.

**[21:53]** Margaret Monterey expressed her concerns about an insulting situation on behalf of the Democrats in relation to what happened in the 2020 election. As an unaffiliated voter, she believes there is not enough seriousness taken in the matters that the GOP are presenting as it pertains to voter fraud and suppression.

**[24:17]** Raj Gupta expressed his concerns about a particular incident of voter suppression when he said a “board member” suppressed voting on the last day of early voting in 2016 at an Early Voting site in which he was serving as an election judge. Mr. Gupta claimed that a “board member” wanted to have the doors closed before 8:00p.m, stopping voters who were already in line from voting before the 8pm deadline. He said he wrote to the Board that evening about this experience but did not get a response.

**[27:11]** Lisa Kenigsberg stated that voter suppression is not the biggest issue in Maryland. She found that anecdotal stories being told by the public were not a good enough way to present claims of voter fraud. Ms. Kenigsberg would like facts to be presented so that appropriate solutions can be implemented rather than presenting solutions for problems that “do not exist.”

**[29:06]** Richard Johnson expressed that he would like to know how the Board of Elections can implement the procedures in a way that guarantees 100% that not a single legitimate voter is removed from the voting roles.

**[30:31]** Ms. Dillon thanked the public for their comments but suggested that the individuals should refrain from criticizing prior commenters.

**[31:12]** David M. [last name not indicated on his Zoom screen], a chief judge, noted that he and others conducted a non-partisan investigation on anomaly detection of the 2020 election. He added that somehow conducting a deep dive analysis of the election system is considered partisan. He suggested that the Montgomery County Board work on regaining the trust of their voters.

**[34:27]** Andrea Abrams said she’s been an election judge since 2008, and she’s very proud and impressed by how Montgomery County conducts its elections. She noted that no proof was found that there was election fraud present in the 2020 election and shared that it had been disproved in every case in which such claims were brought.

**[36:24]** Holly Cooper wanted clarification about what changes were going to be proposed with the voter rolls.

Mr. Karpinski again stated that there would be no changes to the procedures of list maintenance and that staff was only going to present a refresher about what is being done in Montgomery County.

**[39:09]** Steve Pressman claimed that there is plenty of evidence that there is not real voter fraud. He provided the example of Associated Press reporters going out in six states looking for voter fraud. As a result, they found, out of 25 million votes cast, 475 potential instances of fraud, equaling to .0019% which would not have affected the 2020 election. He has no reason to believe there is voter fraud in Montgomery County and stands by the current procedures of list maintenance.

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**[42:32]** Greg Decker emphasized how bad the voting rolls are. He suggested that mailing out blank ballots to everyone on the voting rolls provides a potential for voter fraud, as individuals do not always live at their address on record.

**[45:26]** Ana Rhea, a Bethesda resident, expressed her “disturbing” experience in the 2020 election when she said she was denied her right to vote. When arriving to her local precinct on Election Day, she had been told that she had already voted and stated that it was untrue and she believed her vote was “stolen.” She wanted the Board to move forward from here and make positive changes for the 2022 election and avoid dwelling on the mishaps of the 2020 election. Board members asked Ms. Rhea to send the details about her experience to the Board.

**[49:01]** Susan Kahn expressed concern with Raj Gupta’s comment about a Board member’s closing the polling place door to voters. She added that transparency is important concerning list maintenance. Ms. Kahn also raised concerns about the accountability the Board members have regarding experiences of alleged voter fraud and suppression. She wanted to ensure that these issues are handled appropriately and addressed to the public about what potential changes would be made rather than them being dismissed.

**Continued after presentation [1:10:17]** David Levin, an election judge for many years, noted that an expensive audit would not be necessary to address the public’s opinions of “voter fraud.” He added that the situation at the MVA mentioned by Ms. Gugulis was not a valid interpretation of voter fraud but instead a case of an employee not following the rules of their job.

#### **Election Director Status Report [52:21]**

Alysoun McLaughlin noted how impressed she was with the number of individuals who joined the meeting. Ms. McLaughlin also emphasized the importance of recruiting election judges at this time as it is the hardest time to get individuals to volunteer for the Gubernatorial Primary Elections. She noted that training begins on March 28<sup>th</sup>. As per the previous meeting, the Board requested information on the County Council redistricting process which can be found [here](#). Following this meeting, updates to the redistricting documents will be made and posted to the website. The full Acting Election Director’s report may be found [here](#).

Mr. Banov added that he would like a time frame of when work enhancements would be done on the building. Ms. Merino-Dean said she would work on getting an estimated date. Following the Director’s Report, Mr. Banov followed up with a suggestion that the website should be updated to reflect the new Acting Director and Acting Deputy, as well as a formal announcement of these personnel changes provided by the Board of Elections. Mr. Banov also said he had submitted written testimony in favor of SB 158. The bill has gone through to the Senate and they are awaiting the final decision. Mr. Banov and Mr. Naimon stated that SB 163 was being under review at the time of the meeting.

#### **Board Attorney’s Report [1:11:13]**

Mr. Karpinski noted that he is working with County Security and the County Attorney to secure all the early voting sites within the County, as well as ensuring there are drop boxes at every high school and other locations with the assurance that security footage of the sites would be accessible. Furthermore, he added that there are two challenges - - Congressional redistricting and state redistricting - - to be decided by two retired Court of Appeals judges. Decisions would be known by early to mid-April once both hearings had been conducted and the judges have ruled.

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## New Business

### Maintenance Presentation [1:15:26]

Mr. Brajkovic gave the List Maintenance presentation that can be found, [here](#).

[1:27:00] Mr. Brajkovic responded to a question that was asked in the chat: What happens if residential confirmation notice is not returned within two weeks? He stated that they will follow the election laws under the terms that if a notice is not returned after two weeks then the voter will be moved from active to inactive. Once a response has been received by the Board, a correction will be issued through the voter's record and the voter status will be changed back to active. In response to a question from Mr. Karpinski, Mr. Brajkovic clarified that "inactive" voters have the same voting rights as "active" voters.

Mr. Karpinski emphasized that 16 and 17 year olds can register to vote, but cannot vote until they are 18 at the time of the election, leaving them in a "pending category" of voters until they are of age. He mentioned that there is a misconception that the County Board of Elections' database allows voters to vote when they are underage or non-citizens.

[1:51:35] Mr. Naimon asked for clarification about what happens to voters who do not respond within the two-week limit of the residential confirmation notice, and whether that's based on federal law, state law, state regulation, or Board policy, and, if they are switched from "active" status to "inactive" status, can the Board of Elections add them back to "active" status?

Mr. Brajkovic stated that once the two-week deadline has passed and they have received indication that the voter is still active with a signature and date, they are able to establish the voter into active status with their signature and date as proof. He emphasized that no voter loses their right to vote but is instead put in an inactive status until their potential documentation is changed or submitted. Mr. Karpinski believed this to be a state regulation but will look further into it. Mr. Banov confirmed that the 2-week notice was under the MD Election Code Section 3-504(c)(2).

[2:00:00] Margo Betsy's daughter, Turquoise, addressed the Board and made a suggestion in regard to the two weeks' notice when election mail is sent out. She suggested that there should be verbiage on the envelope for an individual to indicate that they have moved so there is more clarification about why a voter may allow themselves to be put in an "inactive voter" status once a two-week period has gone by.

Mr. Brajkovic thanked her for the suggestion and added that the mail service can send it back to the Board if an individual includes the verbiage "return to sender" but they will still consider the idea of putting a specific option box on the physical envelope.

## Committees

### Outreach [1:45:48]

Dr. Zelaya spoke on the media proposal for FY22, located [here](#). He thanked Dr. Barnes and Mr. Vincent for their efforts in facilitating the spreadsheet. Dr. Zelaya proposed to increase the outreach to the public this year with the incorporation of additional media outlets. He would like to keep the same procedures in place while increasing the expansion of language accesses. Dr. Zelaya moved to add two new outlets including Atref Advertising and Vietnamese American Services. He stated doing so would

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reduce the African Mirror newspaper buy by \$2,000.00 in order to afford this budget. Mr. Vincent was in support of the motion and recommended it to all of the Board. Dr. Barnes moved to accept the media proposal presented by staff; the motion was seconded by Mr. Vincent and passed unanimously.

#### **Old Business [2:03:04]**

##### **North Carolina**

Mr. Brajkovic briefly provided a preliminary report on the data set mentioned at the beginning of the meeting. He pulled a sample of that data to review if there was a pattern in the data itself. The data set provided had 159 records, of which 130 were from North Carolina. Mr. Brajkovic stated that he sampled 17 records from North Carolina until he established a pattern. Of the 17 records, he found that the names on the data set also are found in the MD voter registration database. Every Montgomery County voter found in the voter registration data base had a North Carolina mailing address. The reason varies from school to business. Of the 17 records reviewed, there were 11 active Montgomery County voters and 6 inactive voters. Mr. Brajkovic compared the data set against the voting history, which showed there was no overlapping voting activity by these voters in two separate states. It is Mr. Brajkovic's opinion that if North Carolina participated in the ERIC program, this data would have been provided to us, but that is not the case.

The Board members discussed the letter from the MCGOP and the claims of lack of transparency and how the letter was distributed. Mr. Naimon asked Ms. Khozeimeh if the Democrats on the Board received all of the information that the MCGOP sent to the Board President. Ms. Khozeimeh said that they did. Mr. Naimon pointed out that the Board agreed in October of 2018 that all non-routine letters addressed to the Board President would be automatically be copied to all Board members. He said that did not happen in this case and said this was not a routine letter. Mr. Naimon said that all Board members were copied on an email that Ms. Khozeimeh sent to the MCGOP Chair on February 16, without mention of any previous correspondence, but the MCGOP Chair said he had been corresponding with Ms. Khozeimeh for three weeks. Ms. Khozeimeh said she told the MCGOP Chair that he needed to send his concerns officially to the whole Board, and that when he did, she shared it with all Board members.

Mr. Naimon said that the MCGOP issued a press release on February 9 demanding that the Board take action and calling on Democrats to join them, but no one said anything about it to Dr. Barnes, Mr. Banov, or him until February 16. Mr. Naimon added that he sent an email on the morning of February 17 on behalf of Dr. Barnes, Mr. Banov, and himself, complaining about their being left out of the loop on the prior conversations, and only after that were they informed and provided a copy of a February 15 letter from Ms. Khozeimeh to the MCGOP Chair that copied Ms. Dillon, Ms. Hoeber, and Mr. Vincent, and the chair of the "Maryland Voter Integrity Group," but not Mr. Naimon, Dr. Barnes, or Mr. Banov. That letter indicated that the material that the MCGOP had provided was being provided to the Board Attorney, who was working with the Board's Director of Voter Services to analyze the information and report to the Board. Mr. Naimon asked why the information was provided to the Director of Voter Services and not to the Acting Elections Director, which would be the normal course, and why he, Dr. Barnes, and Mr. Banov did not receive a copy of the letter and were not told about the staff's review of this matter in the February 16 email. Ms. Khozeimeh said she forwarded the information to the Board Attorney. Mr. Karpinski said that he met with the Acting Election Director, the Acting Deputy Director, and three other senior staff members, and said he gave the material to the Director of Voter Services with the Election Director's permission. Mr. Naimon expressed concern with such a meeting taking place with staff to follow up on the MCGOP's letters before Dr. Barnes, Mr. Banov, and he were informed about the correspondence. Mr. Karpinski said he took full responsibility for leaving off some



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Board members from the initial response to the MCGOP Chair. He said he responded to those who were on the initial email, and there is room for improvement in these communications.

**Redistricting [2:38:00]**

Ms. McLaughlin provided an overview of the process for the Board to redraw precinct boundaries because of redistricting. She requested work sessions for future meetings to review in detail with the Board and public. All redistricting maps can be found [here](#). Ms. McLaughlin noted that the precinct lines were as follows: green lines = Congressional district boundaries, blue lines = legislative district boundaries, red lines = county council district lines, yellow lines = election district lines, which are also lines that cannot overlap, and orange lines = Board of Education lines.

**[2:43:21]** Ms. Ross continued the conversation, stating that to create these maps, they took all of the individual maps, marked where the precincts were and Louise Warner (GIS specialist) overlaid the lines and analyzed where the precincts were split. Ms. Rzeszut reviewed the following information found [here](#).

**Actions Items [2:58:00]**

Staff will continue to keep the Board updated on the status of redistricting weekly and continue to have meetings to get the Board's input. Ms. McLaughlin noted that this technique of looking at the maps with all of the district lines shown on GIS with the accompanying working documents is more efficient as it is easier to illustrate the changes through the GIS software rather than on paper. Board and staff made plans to meet the next two Mondays at 2:30 via zoom.

Mr. Banov added that there should be an action item for the announcement of the appointment of the Acting Election Director and Acting Deputy Election Director and inserting their names on the Board website.

**Approval of Minutes [2:59:39]**

Ms. Dillon moved to accept the January 24, 2022 minutes as amended. The motion was seconded by Dr. Barnes and passed unanimously.

**Adjournment [3:01:07]**

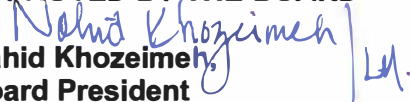
Ms. Dillon made a motion to adjourn the Board meeting. The motion was seconded by Ms. Hoeber. The motion was passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,



Lisa Merino-Dean  
Administrative Specialist II

APPROVED BY THE BOARD

  
Nahid Khozeimeh,  
Board President

