

# Montgomery County Board of Elections

## Acting Election Director's Report – April 2022

### Notice and Distribution of Materials

The agenda for the meeting was posted and provided to Board members, along with the budget spreadsheet, on April 12, 2022.

### Action Items from Previous Meeting

**Staff Redistricting Recommendations.** Staff recommendations for changes to precinct boundaries and polling places are being updated on a rolling basis on the “Redistricting” page on the website. The recommendations presented to the Board at each meeting are posted on the “Board Meeting Information” page for the date when the recommendations were presented to the Board.

**Candidate Lookup Information.** Due to the extent of the redistricting changes and the difficulty that voters were facing in identifying the districts for candidates for Montgomery County Council, the candidate list on the State Board of Elections website was updated to reflect the districts where candidates will appear on the ballot for that contest only. This does not match the information in candidates’ voter records, which will not be updated until after final votes are taken on precinct boundaries due to redistricting. In addition, a link has been added to our website at [777vote.org](http://777vote.org) to a map where voters can look up the Council district where they will reside after redistricting.

**Municipal Election Dates.** A list of municipal election dates was circulated to Board members on March 31, 2022. That list of dates is:

Brookeville	5/10/2022
Chevy Chase View	5/12/2022
Chevy Chase Village	5/21/2022
Garrett Park	5/2/2022
Kensington	6/6/2022
Laytonsville	5/2/2022
Martin's Addition	5/10/2022
North Chevy Chase	5/3/2022
Poolesville	11/8/2022
Somerset	5/24/2022
Takoma Park	11/8/2022
Town of Chevy Chase	5/3/2022
Village of Chevy Chase - Section 3	5/10/2022
Village of Chevy Chase - Section 5	5/2/2022
Washington Grove	5/14/2022

**Nursing Home Program Participants.** A list of facilities that have opted to host bipartisan teams of Election Judges to facilitate voter registration and voting through the Nursing Home and Assisted Living Program was distributed to Board members on March 31, 2022. That list is:

<b>Althea Woodland Nursing Home</b>
<b>Arcola Health &amp; Rehabilitation Center</b>
<b>Aspenwood</b>
<b>Bedford Court Assisted Living</b>
<b>Bel Pre Health &amp; Rehabilitation Center</b>
<b>Bethesda Health &amp; Rehabilitation Center</b>
<b>Brighton Gardens of Friendship Heights</b>
<b>Brighton Gardens of Tuckerman Lane</b>
<b>Brightview Falls Grove</b>
<b>Brightview Grosvenor</b>
<b>Brightview West End</b>
<b>Brightview Woodmont</b>
<b>Brookdale Olney</b>
<b>Brookdale Potomac</b>
<b>Brooke Grove Rehabilitation &amp; Nursing</b>
<b>Cadia Healthcare of Springbrook</b>
<b>Cadia Healthcare of Wheaton</b>
<b>Carriage Hill of Bethesda</b>
<b>Collingswood Nursing &amp; Rehabilitation</b>
<b>Friends Nursing Home</b>
<b>Genesis Healthcare – Fairland</b>
<b>Hebrew Home (Smith-Kogod)</b>
<b>Hebrew Home (Wasserman)</b>
<b>Ingleside at King Farm</b>
<b>Kensington Healthcare Center</b>
<b>Kensington Park - The Woodlands (Assisted Living)</b>
<b>Kensington Park Senior Living - The Groves / Havens (Memory Care)</b>
<b>Kindley Assisted Living @ Asbury</b>
<b>Landow House, Inc. (Charles E. Smith)</b>
<b>Maplewood Park Place</b>
<b>Montgomery Village Health Care Center</b>
<b>Oak Manor HC (formerly Sanctuary at Holy Cross)</b>
<b>Oakview of Silver Spring</b>

<b>Peak Healthcare at Fox Chase (formerly Genesis Fox Chase)</b>
<b>Potomac Valley Nursing &amp; Wellness</b>
<b>ProMedica – Potomac</b>
<b>ProMedica – Bethesda</b>
<b>ProMedica - Chevy Chase</b>
<b>Promedica - Silver Spring</b>
<b>Promedica – Wheaton</b>
<b>Regency Care of Silver Spring (formerly Genesis Healthcare - Woodside)</b>
<b>Seabury at Springvale Terrace</b>
<b>Sligo Creek Center - Peak Healthcare</b>
<b>Sterling Care Health of Rockville</b>
<b>Sunrise at Bethesda</b>
<b>Sunrise at Montgomery Village</b>
<b>Sunrise of Rockville</b>
<b>Sunrise of Silver Spring</b>
<b>The Village at Rockville</b>
<b>Tribute at Black Hill</b>
<b>Vita Healthcare - Shady Grove</b>
<b>Wilson Healthcare Center @ Asbury</b>

Additional facilities may choose to participate. Most visits occur between 45 and 21 days prior to Election Day, so that nursing home residents who choose to cast their ballot through the program can also be assisted in making changes to their voter registration if needed.

**Election Calendar**

On April 13, 2022, the Maryland Court of Appeals upheld the legislative redistricting plan that was enacted in January. The Gubernatorial Primary Election remains scheduled for July 19, 2022.

The order authorizes the Maryland State Board of Elections to adjust any deadlines related to certifying, displaying, and printing ballots, and the SBE has used this authority to extend the deadline for counties to make changes to precinct boundaries and polling places in the statewide voter registration database until Tuesday, May 3, 2022.

Here are the latest key dates and deadlines, some of which are subject to change:

	Original date:	Previously scheduled:	Currently scheduled:
Candidate filing deadline	February 22, 2022	March 22, 2022 at 9:00 p.m.	April 15, 2022 at 9:00 p.m.
Deadline to withdraw a certificate of candidacy	March 4, 2022	March 24, 2022	April 18, 2022

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Deadline to trigger inactivation of voter under NVRA	March 30, 2022		April 20, 2022
Deadline to fill a vacancy	March 8, 2022	March 28, 2022	April 20, 2022
Deadline to challenge a candidate's residency	March 9, 2022	March 29, 2022	April 21, 2022
Deadline to create or change a precinct boundary or polling place in MDVOTERS	March 29, 2022	April 19, 2022	May 3, 2022
Deadline for SBE to certify content and arrangement of the ballot	April 25, 2022		May 16, 2022
Authorization to begin printing ballots	April 28, 2022		May 19, 2022
Deadline to begin mailing ballots to UOCAVA voters	May 14, 2022		June 4, 2022
Close of registration and party change deadline	June 7, 2022		June 28, 2022
Deadline to provide notice of the election (i.e. sample ballot)	June 9, 2022		June 30, 2022
Early voting period	June 16, 2022 – June 23, 2022		July 7, 2022 - July 14, 2022
Deadline to request a ballot by mail	June 21, 2022		July 12, 2022
Deadline to request a web delivery ballot	June 24, 2022		July 15, 2022
Election Day	June 28, 2022		July 19, 2022
Date required to begin the absentee canvass	June 30, 2022		July 21, 2022
Date required to begin the provisional ballot canvass	July 6, 2022		July 27, 2022
Deadline to receive a timely postmarked ballot/ date required to begin the second absentee canvass	July 8, 2022		July 29, 2022
Approximate date of certification	July 22, 2022		mid-August

**Early Voting Locations**

At this time, there are two early voting locations where the staff is currently investigating alternate sites:

- The Activity Center at Bohrer Park, where the Board may wish to either use a reduced square footage or consider an alternate location.
- The Silver Spring Civic Building, where the Board may wish to either use a reduced square footage on the upstairs floor or consider an alternate location. On Friday, April 15, Board

Secretary David Naimon and Board member Elisse Barnes visited the Silver Spring Civic Building to view the available space and discuss alternative locations.

### **State Board of Elections**

**Regulations.** The changes to state regulations adopted at the State Board's March 10, 2022, meeting were published in the Maryland Register and become effective on April 18. Those amendments are:

- **33.11.02.03: Absentee Ballots- Applications-** Allows the use of the last four digits of a voter's SSN in a written, informal request for an absentee ballot to be received electronically for an absent uniformed services voter or an overseas voter who does not have a Maryland driver's license or MVA identification card number.
- **33.11.02.05: Absentee Ballots- Processing Applications-** Clarifies that returned absentee ballots do not need to be stamped if received before the Friday before the request deadline, provided that received applications are stored in a container labeled by date received.
- **33.11.03.06: Absentee Ballots- Return of Ballots-** (1) Clarifies that returned absentee ballots must only be date stamped if received starting the day before election day, provided that received envelopes are stored in a container labeled by date; (2) Allows for the return of absentee ballots at a designated drop box and states requirements of drop boxes, and (3) Requires that the local board retrieve ballots from the drop boxes according to the procedures established by the State Administrator.

### **FY22 Budget**

Staff circulated a report to the Board on April 12, 2022, reflecting that year to date expenditures for FY22 are \$4,070,525.04. While a supplemental appropriation is still anticipated for FY22, the amount of the request will be reduced due to the postponement of the election into FY23. Staff is currently working to determine the amount of the supplemental budget request needed for FY22.

### **FY23 Budget**

The Government Operations Committee of the Montgomery County Council has scheduled its consideration of the Board of Elections' FY12 operating budget for Monday, May 2 at 1:30 p.m. The committee work session is scheduled to occur via Zoom. All members of the Board will be invited to participate. Staff briefing materials will be provided.

### **Voter Registration**

**Monthly statistics.** The Monthly Statistical Report for February was distributed to Board members on April 1, 2022. As of March 31, there were 669,878 active registered voters in Montgomery County and 75,568 inactive voters, for a total voter count of 745,446.

**Vote By Mail.** The State Board of Elections began mailing Vote by Mail applications to registered voters affiliated with the Democratic and Republican parties on February 1, 2022. Applications will soon be mailed to Unaffiliated voters now that the candidate filing deadline has passed. As of April 13, 2022, the staff of the Board of Elections have processed 62,095 applications for a vote by mail ballot for the 2022 Gubernatorial Primary Election. Approximately two thirds of those requests are for permanent Vote by Mail and 12% are for web delivery ballots.

**Ballot sorting equipment.** On Tuesday, April 19, 2022, Montgomery County staff will be meeting with the development team for the statewide voter registration database to plan for the integration of high speed envelope sorting equipment for the 2022 Gubernatorial Primary Election.

### **Personnel**

**Permanent positions.** Interviews are ongoing for the vacant Supply Clerk position. The Operations Manager position has been advertised and is open until filled.

**Temporary positions.** The department currently has 56 temporary employees on the payroll, an increase of 13 temporary employees since last month. Interviews are ongoing for temporary positions throughout the department.

### **Election Judge Recruitment and Training**

Election Judge recruitment began on February 11<sup>th</sup> and 2,862 judges have signed up to be judges for the 2022 Gubernatorial Primary Election. Prior to attending hands-on training, prospective Election Judges are required to take a quiz and complete an online training course. As of Friday, April 15, 1,525 judges have completed the quiz and 950 have completed the online training. Hands-on training began on March 28 and 426 judges have completed the hands-on training.

### **Facility Enhancement**

Construction work is ongoing on modifications to the facility to accommodate the continued volume of vote by mail ballots while simultaneously providing for the return to full-scale in-person voting on Election Day. The wall has been removed between Training Room 1 and Training Room 2 to accommodate mail sorting equipment and shelving has been installed in multiple areas of the building.

### **Redistricting**

Maps of staff-recommended precinct boundaries appear on the redistricting section of the Board's website. Staff recommends the approval of precinct boundary changes and polling places en bloc, so that new Voter Notification Cards can be mailed to all voters in the county at once, since they must be mailed to affected voters within 30 days of a Board action. Voters will receive three pages of information, including their new Voter Notification Card and two pages of information on their voting options for the 2022 gubernatorial primary election.

On Friday, April 15, staff met with personnel from Montgomery County Public Schools and the Recreation Department to review sites where changes may be necessary due to construction or prior reservations at the facility. There are multiple school buildings where the schedule for summer construction work may require that the polling place be shifted to an alternate room in the facility or where staff may recommend an alternate polling place. The staff requests an opportunity to make additional and revised recommendations at the special meeting scheduled for Friday, April 22, and that a final vote be taken at the Board's special meeting on April 25, 2022. The staff has until May 3, 2022, to implement changes to voter registration records in the statewide voter registration database as a result of the changes to precinct boundaries and polling places.

### **Legislation**

Attached to this report is the Elections section of the Department of Legislative Services' 90 Day Report – a Review of the 2022 Legislative Session, summarizing legislation enacted this year that is relevant to the work of the Board of Elections. Legislation was enacted that will allow the Board to begin the canvass up to eight business days prior to early voting and to count the first legally sufficient ballot cast by a voter. In addition, legislation was enacted that adjusts the thresholds for recount and that codifies the 50/50 cost split for voting system expenses between counties and the state.

**Website**

The website has been updated to provide an online method for the public to sign up to offer public comment at a Board meeting or to upload written comment. The new platform being used for Zoom meetings allows for audience participants to be recognized, but does not allow members of the public to raise their hand to offer comment. When a member of the public signs up online, staff can notify the Board President that an audience member wishes to be recognized for comment.

Staff is in the process of making changes to the front page of the website, including removing newly outdated information about the candidate filing deadline on Friday, April 15.