

Montgomery County Board of Elections

Acting Election Director's Report – May 2022

Notice and Distribution of Materials

The agenda for the meeting was provided to Board members, along with the budget spreadsheet, on May 20, 2022 and posted to the website on May 21, 2022.

Action Items from Previous Meetings

Redistricting and Voter Lookup Information. Changes to voters' records to reflect redistricting were completed on Friday, May 20, and the information in the "look up your voter information" feature on the state website is up to date. After redistricting, Montgomery County has a total of 256 precincts.

Polling Places. The remaining polling place changes approved by the Board at its May 17, 2022, special meeting were presented to the State Board of Elections on May 20, 2022. All changes were approved. Staff is currently proofreading the addresses of polling places for the official list to be uploaded to the website.

Ballot Review and Proofing

On May 17, 2022, the State Administrator certified that the content and arrangement of the ballot had been certified and presented to the staff of the local boards of elections for review and proofing.

Throughout the last week, staff have been reviewing successive drafts of the ballots to verify candidate and contest information for 768 ballot styles and final verification prior to the ballot artwork being sent to the printer is expected on Monday, May 23.

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.

Sample Ballot

The sample ballot is currently being edited by staff and will be provided to Board members for feedback once completed. Due to the increase in the cost of paper, each copy of the sample ballot will cost 13.763 cents rather than 10.923 cents to print.

Election Calendar

Here are upcoming key dates and deadlines:

	Original date:	Previously scheduled:	Currently scheduled:
Deadline to begin mailing ballots to UOCAVA voters	May 14, 2022		June 4, 2022
Installation of drop boxes	Week of May 16, 2022		Week of June 6, 2022
First day to begin opening ballots	June 28, 2022	July 21, 2022	June 24, 2022

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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

Although alternate sites were explored, it was determined that there was no need to relocate from the Activity Center at Bohrer Park and that the best available site in downtown Silver Spring is to remain at the Silver Spring Civic Building, although early voting will be displaced to an upstairs location for the first three days. An upstairs area will also be used at the Wheaton Library and Community Recreation Center, as summer camps will be occupying the downstairs gym area.

State Board of Elections

At its April 27 and May 20, 2022, meetings the State Board of Elections approved changes to early voting locations and Election Day polling places. There were no changes presented for early voting locations in Montgomery County. The polling place changes approved by the Montgomery County Board of Elections at its special meeting on May 17, 2022, were approved by the State Board.

FY22 Budget

There was an omitted zero in the budget figure in the staff report circulated to the Board on May 20, 2022. Year to date expenditures for FY22 are \$4,550,640.12. Significant operating budget expenditures remain to be made in the month of June or after July 1, for goods and services received prior to the end of the fiscal year but not invoiced until July.

FY23 Budget

A final Council vote on the FY23 budget for the Board of Elections will occur on May 26, 2022. There have been no changes made by the Council to the County Executive's recommended budget for the department in the amount of \$10,630,327, an increase of \$2,329,971 or 28.07 percent from the FY22 approved budget. Personnel costs are 43.58 percent of the budget, and the budget anticipates moving

three temporary positions to permanent in Information Technology, for a total of 32 full-time positions and two part-time positions. The number of full-time equivalent positions in the department, including temporary personnel, is unchanged at 56.35 FTEs.

Voter Registration

Monthly statistics. The Monthly Statistical Report for April was distributed to Board members on May 2, 2022. As of April 30, there were 672,573 active registered voters in Montgomery County and 74,406 inactive voters, for a total voter count of 746,979.

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 May 18, 2022, the staff of the Board of Elections have processed 76,730 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 12.5% are for web delivery ballots.

Ballot sorting equipment. On Tuesday, May 24, 2022, the vendor will deliver and install high speed envelope sorting equipment in what was previously Training Room 1 and Training Room 2. A wall has been removed between the two rooms to make space for ballot handling to occur without carts of equipment having to be moved in and out of the hallway area.

Personnel

Permanent positions. The Board staff welcomes Don Bosse, who has worked intermittently as a temporary employee with the Board of Elections over the past decade in various roles, into the permanent Supply Clerk position.

Temporary positions. The department currently has 63 temporary employees on the payroll, an increase of 7 temporary employees since last month. Interviews are ongoing for temporary positions throughout the department. Our current emphasis is on interviewing and onboarding employees for the drop box pickup positions.

Election Judge Recruitment and Training

Election Judge recruitment continues to be a major emphasis for the election, as it is for every gubernatorial primary election. To keep class sizes small, the Board staff strives to have prospective Election Judges attend training as early as possible, but larger classes are always necessary as the election approaches. The staff is having to cancel scheduled classes for low attendance and asks for Board members' assistance in encouraging those Election Judges that you speak with to sign up for training as soon as possible. Prior to attending hands-on training, prospective Election Judges are required to take a quiz and complete an online training course. The number of Election Judges at each stage of the recruitment process will be provided to Board members in the meeting.

Facility Enhancement

Finishing work is being completed for the 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. Painting of office walls is being postponed and will occur after the election.

Website

The website will be updated this week to include the list of polling places approved by the Board.