

Meeting Minutes
Monday, January 23, 2023
MONTGOMERY COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS
Virtual Board Meeting via Zoom

APPROVED

In Attendance

Board Members:

Nahid Khozeimeh, President (in person)
Diane Nash Dillon, Vice President (virtual)
David A. Naimon, Secretary (virtual)
Amoretta Hoeber (virtual)
Elisse W. Barnes (virtual)
Alexander Vincent (in person)
Alan Banov (virtual)

Board Attorney:

Kevin Karpinski

Staff:

Boris Brajkovic, Director
Alysoun McLaughlin, Deputy Director
Janet Ross, IT and Training Manager
Chris Rzeszut, Operations Manager
Mindy Williams, Operations Manager
Gilberto Zelaya, Program Specialist
Laletta Dorsey, Program Specialist
Barbara Payne, Program Specialist
Aishah Mills-Pherigo, Administrative Specialist
Michelle Gonda, Administrative Specialist
Lisa Merino-Dean, Administrative Specialist

A video of the meeting may be found on YouTube at the link below:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-ExntGhVi-4>

Board of Canvassers Meeting

Mrs. Khozeimeh convened the meeting at 2:30 p.m. and declared a quorum present.

Ms. Dillon moved and Ms. Hoeber seconded to open the Board of Canvassers. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Brajkovic presented 12 untimely ballots that arrived at the Board of Elections after the statutory deadline of 10am on the 10th day after Election Day –

- 7 are military or overseas voters; 3 of them were postmarked by Election Day
- 5 were sent within the US; 1 was postmarked by Election Day

Ms. Dillon moved to reject the untimely ballots. The motion was seconded by Ms. Hoeber and passed unanimously.

Ms. Dillon moved to recess the Board of Canvassers meeting. The motion was seconded by Ms. Hoeber and passed unanimously.

Board of Elections Meeting

[0:02:15] Convene Board of Elections Meeting and Declare Quorum Present

President Remarks

Mrs. Khozeimeh thanked staff and canvass workers for their hard work through the 2022 election cycle.

Additions/Changes to the Agenda

None were made.

Campaign Contributions

No contributions were reported.

Public Comments

Barbara Sanders submitted written comments on behalf of the League of Women Voters and would like to address the Board in the future.

[0:06:15] Election Director's Report

Mr. Brajkovic's report can be found [here](#).

In the Board discussion about his report, Mr. Brajkovic confirmed the 2020 grant from the Center for Tech and Civic Life was a one-time grant. The Board will have to fund the recurring expenses that the grant previously covered (approximately \$800,000) going forward. Ms. Dillon agreed with the expenditures of the grant. She would like to see the application documentation/proposal for the grant. She is not concerned about the Montgomery County expenditures of the grant, but expressed concern that such grants carried stipulations and conditions in other states. Mr. Vincent said he shares Ms. Dillon's concerns, adding that he does not support the use of private funds for elections. Mr. Brajkovic said he would try to find the paperwork concerning the CTCL grant. Later in the meeting Mr. Banov asked if the Board owned the security cameras for which \$32,460 from the CTCL grant was devoted. Mr. Brajkovic answered affirmatively.

[0:26:35] Board Attorney Report

Mr. Karpinski reported that the plaintiffs in a lawsuit against the State of Maryland, all but 2 Maryland counties, and the Center for Tech and Civic Life that he reported last month was dismissed by a federal judge now have filed a motion to alter or amend the court decision, alleging new evidence. He will send a copy of the motion to Board members. The prior case was dismissed on standing grounds so the new evidence may not make a difference.

[00:28:10] New Business

A. 2022 Election review by staff

Mr. Brajkovic and Mr. Zelaya presented extensive data and findings related to the 2022 election cycle based on staff research and analysis. Their PowerPoint presentation can be found [here](#).

Mr. Banov asked Dr. Zelaya if he could detail what was publicized in social media and other media. Dr. Zelaya explained his approach. Mr. Banov, noting that Mr. Brajkovic had explained that the highest percentage of voters is seniors, asked Dr. Zelaya if he would be allocating more money for reaching seniors. He responded that he would like to do so but would not want to do so at the expense of spending less on outreach to other groups.

Mr. Naimon asked if Mr. Brajkovic's PowerPoint presentation could be posted on the Board website. Mr. Brajkovic said it could be.

B. Montgomery County Needs List

[1:26:44] Mr. Naimon presented a list of action suggestions for Board consideration based on experiences, observations and data from the 2022 election cycle. The list can be located [here](#).

Board members discussed in detail each item on the list, and, while they disagreed about several items, agreed to send forward at this time only proposals that were not controversial to the Board generally. They determined some should be communicated to the State Board, some can be supported, and some need further discussion.

[2:32:18] Mr. Naimon moved endorsement of items 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 9, 10, 13, and 17 on the list. Items 1, 6, 13, and 17 will be communicated in a letter to the State Board. The motion was seconded by Ms. Dillon. The motion passed unanimously. Mr. Karpinski will draft the letter to the State Board.

C. Future Board member compensation

[2:35:45] Mr. Karpinski explained that the outgoing Board sets the compensation for the new incoming Board because under Maryland law a Board cannot determine its own compensation. The new Board will take office in June 2023.

Mr. Naimon moved to set the annual salary for the incoming Board as follows:

- President - \$17,000
- Secretary - \$16,000
- other Board members - \$15,000
- Canvass/recount meetings - \$25.00 per day for remote participation, \$75.00 per day for in-person participation

The motion was seconded by Ms. Dillon and passed unanimously.

[2:41:25] Old Business

No old business items.

[2:41:28] Action Items

- Research and share with the Board the 2020 Center for Tech and Civic Life grant proposal documentation
- Redistribute to the Board information about Electronic Registration Information Center (ERIC) data exchange
- Mr. Karpinski will draft the letter to the State Board

[2:43:50] Approval of Minutes

Ms. Dillon moved to accept the December 19, 2022 minutes as amended.

The motion was seconded by Dr. Barnes and passed unanimously.

Ms. Dillon moved to accept the December 28, 2022, minutes as amended and with the addition of the 2:30 p.m. convening time.

The motion was seconded by Mr. Banov and passed unanimously.

[2:45:47] Future Meetings

All meetings begin at 2:30 p.m. unless otherwise indicated.

Dates are subject to change.

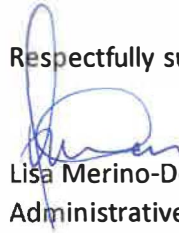
- A. February 27, 2023
- B. March 20, 2023
- C. April 17, 2023
- D. May 15, 2023
- E. June 26, 2023
- F. July 17, 2023
- G. August 21, 2023
- H. September 18, 2023
- I. October 16, 2023
- J. November 20, 2023
- L. December 18, 2023

[2:46:00] Adjournment

Ms. Dillon moved to adjourn the public meeting and move into Executive Session. The meeting adjourned at 5:15 p.m.

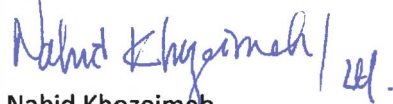
The Board met in Executive Session immediately following this meeting.

Respectfully submitted,



Lisa Merino-Dean
Administrative Specialist II

APPROVED BY THE BOARD



Nahid Khozeimeh,
Board President