

Montgomery County Board of Elections Election Director's Report – January 2023

Notice and Distribution of Materials

Draft minutes for the December 19, 2022, and December 28, 2022 meetings were circulated to the Board on January 12, 2023.

The Agenda for the January 23, 2023, meeting was posted on the website and sent to the Board on January 12, 2023, along with the Budget Expenditures document. Additions to the Agenda were distributed to the Board and posted on the website on January 19, 2023.

The Director's Report and Outline of Staff's Presentation on 2022 Election Cycle were provided to the Board on January 19, 2023.

Action Items from Previous Meetings

- Deputy Election Director shared a draft outline of her comments at the Maryland Association of Counties on January 3, 2023.
- The breakdown of the percentage of voters who used BMDs in 2022 Election Cycle:
 - Gubernatorial Primary:
 - Early Voting GP: 69.5%
 - Election Day GP: 42.7%
 - Total for 2022 GP: 49.5%
 - Gubernatorial General:
 - Early Voting GG: 61.1%
 - Election Day GG: 26.3%
 - Total for GG: 35.4%
- Information on personnel costs was communicated via email to the Board on December 19, 2022.
- Detailed account of expenditures financed by the Center for Tech and Civic Life funds is presented in the table below:

Center For Tech and Civic Life Grant

Expense	Amount
Security Cameras	\$32,460.95
Election Judge (EJ) Stipends - Unfunded Hazard Pay & Drop Box EJs	\$612,450.72
IT Seasonal Temps - Scanner Calibration	\$75,127.91
Voter Services Seasonal Temps - VBM Applications	\$81,872.92
Total	\$801,912.50

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- A meeting with the Rockville Postmaster was held on January 19, 2023, and it was attended by Board's President and Secretary, as well as Election Director and Deputy Director.
- Staff is awaiting information from the Maryland State Board of Elections regarding Action Item: *Research how long it took for Maryland ballots to be delivered by US mail*

Voter Registration Statistics

Monthly Statistical Report. The Report for December 2022 was distributed to Board members on January 3rd, 2023. As of that date, there were 676,153 active registered voters in Montgomery County and 53,081 inactive voters, for a total voter count of 729,234.

Personnel

Permanent positions: Board staff is currently in the process of selecting a candidate to fill a vacant Office Services Coordinator position with Voter Services. BOE is conducting a review of vacant positions and considering a reorganization that would meet longer term BOE staffing needs.

Temporary positions: A limited number of temporary team members remains on the payroll while current vacancies for BOE permanent positions are filled to assist with a variety of deadline-driven tasks, such as post-election inventory, voting equipment maintenance, and voter registration list maintenance.

Legislation

The 445th session of the Maryland General Assembly convened on January 11, 2023. The deadline for bills to be introduced in the Senate without requiring a referral to the Rules Committee is February 6th. The deadline in the House is February 10th. "Green bag" appointments are scheduled for delivery by the Governor on February 17th.

The first hearing on election bills is scheduled for January 24th in the House Ways and Means Committee, with additional bills to be heard on January 31st. A Senate hearing date has not yet been announced.

Bills scheduled for hearing include requiring signature verification and witness signatures for vote by mail ballots (HB 22); requiring photo identification and proof of residency for in-person voting (HB 35); establishing curbside voting (HB 41); requiring training and signage related to accommodations for voters with disabilities (HB 95); allowing unaffiliated voters to affiliate with a party using same-day registration (SB 39/HB114); requiring reporting and providing for the termination of contracts with election service providers for reasons related to foreign ownership and manufacture (HB130); and requiring the posting of the complete text of certain ballot questions at least 65 days before a general election in a manner widely accessible to the public.

Local bills related to the use of ranked choice voting or other alternate voting methods (MC 3-23) and the inclusion of Takoma Park municipal elections on the state ballot (MC 7-23) have been favorably reported by the Education, Elections and Housing Committee of the Montgomery County delegation.

Sections' activities:

Lessons learned sessions: The BOE staff is participating in the SBE Working Groups that are looking into different programmatic areas and reviewing lessons learned from the 2022 Election Cycle. In parallel, BOE Sections conducted internal lessons learned sessions in their respective program areas.

Voter Services: BOE does not process voter registration applications from the close of voter registration (three weeks prior to the election day) until certification of the election results. BOE received accumulated backlog of 34,150 Electronic Voter Registration Applications in December to process. Additionally, Voter Services is preparing Mail In Ballot Applications and returned Mail In Ballot envelopes for storage.

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IT Section: Temporary IT Staff is performing Post Election Maintenance (PEM) which consists of inspecting and testing of election equipment in accordance with the Statewide Post Election Maintenance Plan. The equipment on which PEM must be performed consists of the following: DS200s/scanners – 677; DS850s – 4; Pollbooks – 1212; Pollbook printers – 1555; and ExpressVotes/BMDs – 861.

Operations Section: The staff is preparing 2022 documents for storage and 2022 unvoted ballots for shredding. In parallel, staff is completing the inventory of the warehouse materials and equipment.

Upcoming Meetings / Events

Post-Election Manual Audit: The staff will commence the Post-Election manual Audit on February 13, 2023 as per SBE's procedure. The Manual Audit will be livestreamed and open to public's observation.

Candidate Filing: Candidate Filing process for 2024 Election Cycle will commence on February 27, 2023.

MAEO Annual Conference: The 2023 MAEO conference will be held in Ocean City from May 14, 2023, to May 19, 2023.