

APPROVED

Meeting Minutes

Monday, April 17, 2023

MONTGOMERY COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS

Virtual Board Meeting via Zoom

In Attendance

Board Members:

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

Staff:

Boris Brajkovic, Director
Alysoun McLaughlin, Deputy Director
Janet Ross, IT and Training Manager
Mindy Williams, Operations Manager
Laletta Dorsey, Interim Voter Services Manager
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://youtu.be/LVCBG9IIMwY>

Board of Canvassers Meeting

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

Mr. Brajkovic presented 3 untimely ballots that arrived at the Board of Elections after the statutory deadline of 10:00 a.m. on the 10th day after Election Day -

- 1 came from an overseas voter;
- 2 were sent within the US

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

Ms. Hoeber moved to adjourn the Board of Canvassers meeting and move into the regular Board Meeting. The motion was seconded by Ms. Dillon and passed unanimously.

Board of Elections Meeting

[0:01:10] Convene Board of Elections Meeting and Declare Quorum Present

President Remarks

Mrs. Khozeimeh did not offer any remarks.

Additions/Changes to the Agenda

Mr. Vincent requested that a new item be added.

Campaign Contributions

No contributions were reported.

Public Comments

[0:04:15] Mr. Michael Fletcher joined the meeting to share his comments on Albert sensors. His written comments are available [here](#).

Regarding follow up on the Board's request for more information about Albert sensors, Mr. Brajkovic pointed out that a letter from the Maryland State Administrator of Elections, Linda Lamone, was distributed to Board members for the February meeting and it is available on the Board of Elections' website. The State Board will conduct a more thorough presentation on the overall security of the election system in the state of Maryland during biennial MAEO meeting in October 2023.

[0:15:40] Election Director's Report

Mr. Brajkovic reviewed his Director's report, which was provided to the Board in advance. The full report can be found [here](#).

Mr. Naimon asked that the Board be provided with a detailed list of outreach events and that there be a discussion about the outreach plans at the next Board meeting.

Mr. Banov asked for an explanation of the finding presented in the section of the report regarding the State Board of Elections' audit. Mr. Brajkovic explained it is an administrative review of the documents that are prepared and collected at the local level and submitted to the State Board of Elections.

Mr. Banov also requested an update on the Board's exploration into purchasing a truck and expanding its facilities. Mr. Brajkovic reported an agreement has been reached with Montgomery College to potentially use their space for the canvass for election years 2024 and 2026. Simultaneously, the Board

is working with the County to explore expansion into additional space at the Board's current office location. Conversations about buying a truck are being held with relevant County offices. The truck would be purchased by the County, giving priority use to the Board for a certain period of time every 2 years. Mr. Banov requested more information about the space expansion exploration at the next meeting.

On HB 410, Mr. Banov asked about the prior requirements for submitting a polling place plan to the State Board. Mr. Brajkovic believes the new planning and reporting requirements are more detailed than they were in the past. Staff would need time to review the implications of the new law on staffing activities. There were additional questions about the bill, which will be discussed at the next meeting when Mr. Karpinski is present.

Mr. Banov asked, and Mr. Brajkovic confirmed, that Board equipment used in municipal elections is purged before use in County elections. The municipalities depend on the Board to provide voter lists and most of them have their own equipment. A few will use Board equipment such as drop boxes or request assistance to process their ballots.

Mr. Naimon indicated he will attend the meeting with the County Council Government Operations Committee and asked if other board members plan to attend. Mr. Brajkovic received replies from Board members earlier. He has informed the County Council staff that Ms. Khozeimeh and Mr. Naimon will be in attendance.

[0:42:10] Board Attorney Report

No report.

[00:42:20] New Business

Mr. Vincent expressed interest in introducing a motion for discussion now or at the next meeting. The motion is to express the sense of the Board that election operations and administration should be conducted exclusively with tax revenues disbursed from the treasury of the County or of the State government, and that no Board or staff member should solicit or accept grants or donations from non-governmental organizations to do these things, and that the state and the county should not do so either.

There was considerable discussion on his prospective motion. He said he was willing to have the discussion when Member Elisse Barnes was present. He went on to state that foundations which help to finance elections must want a return on their money. Mrs. Khozeimeh asked Ms. Dillon for her sources for her belief that the Center for Tech and Civic Life (CTCL) had an ulterior motive for providing the Board with grant money. She responded that the only information we have on CTCL is from Mr. Brajkovic and argued that CTCL does data mining of election data. Mr. Naimon said that in an ideal world, the Board wouldn't need money from outside the government, but this is not an ideal world, especially during the pandemic. He also asked Ms. Dillon to point to the part to which she objected and what data she thought CTCL was trying to obtain inappropriately, since the information the Board had provided was public information (e.g. the number of active voters on our rolls; the size of our budget; and the name of local government body which would approve the funding). He reminded her how

difficult 2020 was, especially due to the pandemic, noting that the staff needs more money, the Board needs more employees, and the staff needs a better work/life balance.

In response, Ms. Dillon argued that partisan politics should not enter elections and said she was not going to take up Mr. Naimon on his request for documentation. She asserted that in Green Bay, Wisconsin, CTCL took over the election there and continued to argue that CTFL is overtly partisan. After agreeing with Mr. Naimon, Mr. Banov quoted Kera Bumbray's response to CTCL on what the Board used their funds for, including ballot drop boxes, pollworker recruitment pay, temporary staffing support, hazard pay, and training expenses, and pointed out that during the pandemic the Board had to rely tremendously on mail-in ballots, which were very expensive. Ms. Dillon said she had no doubt about the integrity of the Board's staff in using the CTCL funds. She then expressed her opinion that third parties should not finance our elections.

Mr. Naimon disputed the value of the anecdotal evidence that Ms. Dillon cited in support of her understanding that CTFL ran an election in Green Bay, Wisconsin, and said that whatever happened in Green Bay should not dictate how our Board might in the future accept outside funds. In response, Ms. Dillon expressed her view that the Board also should not use federal money, either.

For further discussion, Mrs. Khozeimeh suggested Mr. Vincent introduce his motion at the next meeting or in June.

[01:09:25] **Old Business**

Nothing was mentioned.

[01:09:35] **Action Items**

The Board requested that discussion items be added to the May agenda on Outreach and the impact of House Bill 410.

In addition, Mr. Brajkovic will provide the Board with:

- a detailed list of outreach activities through October 2023 for discussion at the May meeting;
- an update of possible office space expansion.

[01:11:00] **Approval of Minutes**

Ms. Dillon moved to accept the March 20, 2023 minutes as amended. The motion was seconded by Mr. Banov and passed unanimously.

[01:11:40] **Future Meetings**

All meetings begin at 2:30pm unless otherwise indicated.

Dates are subject to change

- A. May 15, 2023
- B. June 26, 2023

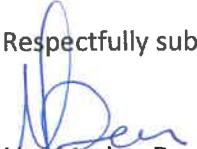
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- C. July 31, 2023 (changed from July 17)
- D. August 21, 2023 *tentative*
- E. September 18, 2023
- F. October 16, 2023
- G. November 20, 2023
- H. December 18, 2023 *tentative*

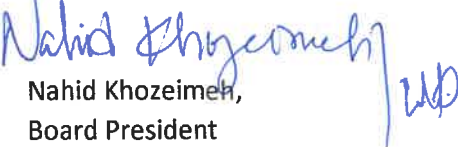
[01:12:55] **Adjournment**

Ms. Dillon moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Banov and passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 3:45pm.

Respectfully submitted,


Lisa Merino-Dean
Administrative Specialist II

APPROVED BY THE BOARD


Nahid Khozeimeh,
Board President