

**APPROVED**

**Meeting Minutes**

**Monday, June 26, 2023**

**MONTGOMERY COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS**

**Virtual Board Meeting via Zoom**

**In Attendance**

**Board Members:**

David A. Naimon, President (virtual)

Daniel A. Koroma, Vice President (virtual)

Amoretta M. Hoerber, Secretary (virtual)

Keyna I. Anyiam (in person)

Diane Nash Dillon (virtual)

Margie C. Delao (virtual)

Alexander C. Vincent (virtual)

**Board Attorney:**

Kevin Karpinski (virtual)

**Staff:**

Boris Brajkovic, Director

Alysoun McLaughlin, Deputy Director

Janet Ross, IT and Training Manager

Chris Rzeszut, Recruitment and Election Support Manager

Mindy Williams, Operations Manager

Laletta Dorsey, Interim Voter Services Manager

Bobbie Payne, Program 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/2xu5fq2qsE8>

Mr. Naimon convened the meeting at 3:00 p.m. and declared a quorum present. He welcomed new Board members, Mr. Koroma, Ms. Anyiam and Ms. Delao, to their first regular Board meeting. He also thanked staff for their work on the June 5 swearing-in ceremony event.

**Board of Canvassers Meeting**

[0:03:40] Mr. Naimon declared a quorum present of 2022 General Election Board of Canvassers members.

Mr. Brajkovic presented 1 untimely domestic ballot that arrived at the Board of Elections at the end of May. The ballot was delivered to the Board by the US Postal Service without a date stamp.

Mr. Vincent moved to reject the untimely ballot. The motion was seconded by Ms. Dillon and passed unanimously.

Mr. Naimon adjourned the Board of Canvassers meeting.

## **Board of Elections Meeting**

### **[0:07:05] Board President Remarks**

Mr. Naimon explained agenda format adjustments to make items more descriptive.

Ms. Dillon requested clarification of the Disclosure of Campaign Contributions/Attendance at Fundraisers agenda item. Mr. Naimon noted Mr. Karpinski will review the bylaws later in the meeting and the Board should further discuss this item.

### **[0:09:43] Additions/Changes to the Agenda**

No changes were made.

### **Disclosure of Campaign Contributions/Attendance at Fundraisers**

Mr. Naimon attended the Maryland Democratic Party Gala honoring Congressman Steny Hoyer on June 22, 2023.

Ms. Anyiam attended an event for Delegate Lorig Charkoudian on June 15, 2023.

Mr. Naimon and Mr. Koroma attended the Montgomery County Democratic Party event honoring Senator Ben Cardin on June 17, 2023.

### **[0:16:00] Public Comments**

Mr. Naimon shared that public comment information is available on the Board of Elections website. He restated that public comments are limited to 3 minutes. Speakers will be notified when their time is almost up so that they can finish their comments.

Mr. Michael Fletcher shared his concerns about actions by the federal government and some state governments to centralize voting systems. His written testimony can be found [here](#).

Mr. Naimon thanked Mr. Fletcher for his comments. He also referred to the [Maryland State Board of Elections administrator's memo](#) on Albert sensors that was included in this Board's February 23, 2023 meeting. He shared that the staff is reviewing voter list information Mr. Fletcher provided.

Mr. Vincent asked for clarification about Mr. Fletcher's assertion that pollbooks are connected to the Internet. Mr. Brajkovic stated that Election Day pollbooks are not connected to the Internet at all. Data is uploaded to pollbooks prior to Election Day.

Ms. Dillon asked how information is shared across the county during early voting. Mr. Brajkovic responded that pollbooks at early voting sites are connected to each other and to the State through an established, designated network, not through the Internet.

## [0:25:35] Election Director's Report

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

Mr. Vincent requested more information about budget line items "Other Professional Services" and "Central Duplicating – Postage – Bulk." Mr. Brajkovic explained "Other Professional Services" is for election judge stipends. The budgeted amount was for one election and with the change in the 2022 primary date, two elections took place in one fiscal year. For bulk mailing, costs have gone up significantly as mail-in voting has increased. Staff are working with the Office of Management and Budget to right-size the FY2024 budget, including this line item. Mr. Brajkovic stated there will be a positive budget balance at the end of FY 2023, which will be returned to the county.

On the matter of personnel, Mr. Vincent asked if Mr. Brajkovic has concerns or reflections about the positions where offers were made and declined. Mr. Brajkovic shared that the hiring market is competitive, especially in the areas of finance and IT. The Board of Elections (BOE) will continue the search to fill these positions.

Mr. Naimon asked if there are telework options for the BOE finance and IT positions. Mr. Brajkovic responded that in a non-election year, there are teleworking options May-August. Everyone is expected to be in the office starting in September.

As an aside, Mr. Naimon reported that the Board previously voted to include the website on the monthly meeting agenda. He would like this to continue. Regarding the outreach calendar, he asked about activities on holidays such as Fourth of July, Labor Day, and Veterans Day. Mr. Brajkovic replied we do not have activities on those days. Mr. Naimon asked to include this question in the outreach discussion.

Regarding the "Vote Here" signs, Mr. Naimon asked and Mr. Brajkovic confirmed, the new signs will be easy to spot, lighter in weight, easier to pack in the black carts, and therefore reduce overall costs.

Ms. Delao asked if the outreach calendar will be updated regularly or is stagnant, and why so many events are in Silver Spring. Mr. Brajkovic described the outreach calendar as a living document to be updated continuously. He will refer the question about Silver Spring events to Mr. Zelaya. Mr. Naimon asked that the Board receive the overview outreach report of events by zip code from the 2022 election. There will be a discussion about outreach at the July Board meeting.

## [0:56:00] Board Attorney Report

In addressing Board of Elections office space needs, Mr. Karpinski reviewed again the pending Gibson lawsuit details and the related court order to retain 2020 election materials. Under federal law, those materials would have been able to be disposed of by now, freeing up space in the building.

Mr. Karpinski will send a memo to the Board with his observations of the bylaws. He suggests changes be made in the sections addressing Board meeting time, meeting location, political activities, conflict of interest, and roles and responsibilities, among others. He reminded Board members they are not allowed to circulate or sign petitions.

Board members will review the bylaws, have further discussion at the July Board meeting and plan for adoption of amendments at the September meeting.

## [1:24:00] Organization and Key Activities of the Board of Elections Staff

Mr. Brajkovic gave a presentation on the election process, and the role of the staff and Board in that process. The presentation can be found [here](#).

Board members discussed and shared information about the canvass schedule. Mr. Brajkovic will distribute 2022 election canvass minutes to new Board members for their information.

## [2:21:15] Old Business

There was none.

## [2:21:25] New Business

### A. Election Workers' Stipends

Mr. Brajkovic presented a staff proposal that lists election service positions, position descriptions, service hours and service stipend. The list includes all positions that support elections including election judges, canvassers, drop box runners and nursing home program workers.

The proposal implements the new Maryland State law, HB1200, which requires a minimum stipend of \$250/day for election judges that serve in early voting and on Election Day; \$50 per completed training; and \$100 additional for returning election judges.

Ms. Dillon moved to accept the staff recommendations for the election workers' stipends. The motion was seconded by Mr. Vincent and passed unanimously.

### B. Discussion of Board Members' Priorities

Board members shared their priorities. These include issues around staff pay, retention and work/life balance, election worker recruitment and retention, communication and branding, voter education, drop box security, and outreach.

## [3:03:00] List Future Action Items from Today's meeting

- Going forward, the Director's report will include the overview of website updates
- Mr. Brajkovic will send the 2022 election outreach report by zip code to Board members
- Mr. Brajkovic will send 2022 election canvass materials, including minutes, to Board members

Mr. Naimon announced that staff will issue a press release about election worker pay.

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[3:05:10] **Approval of Minutes**

Ms. Dillon moved to accept the May 15, 2023 minutes as amended. The motion was seconded by Ms. Anyiam and passed unanimously.

[3:06:00] **Future Meetings**

All meetings begin at 3:00pm unless otherwise indicated.

Dates are subject to change.

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

[3:07:35] **Adjournment**

Mr. Naimon adjourned the meeting at 6:10pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Lisa Merino-Dean  
Administrative Specialist II

APPROVED BY THE BOARD



David A. Naimon,  
Board President