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

### Notice and Distribution of Materials

Draft minutes of the May 15, 2023, meeting was distributed to the Board on June 16, 2023.

The Agenda for the June 26, 2023, meeting was shared with the Board and posted on the Board of Elections web site on June 16, 2023.

The Director's Report, the budget document, meeting materials and Action Items from the previous Board meeting were shared with the Board on June 22, 2023.

### Action Items from Previous Meetings

1.  **Outreach Calendar – shared as a part of the meeting packet.**

2.  **Outreach Talking Points – shared as a part of the meeting packet.**

### Voter Registration Statistics
**Monthly Statistical Report.** The Report for May 2023 was distributed to Board members on June 6, 2023. As of the end of May 2023, there were 679,139 active registered voters in Montgomery County and 58,980 inactive voters, for a total voter count of 738,119.

### State Board of Elections:

During its session on June 8, 2023, the State Board of Elections unanimously voted to appoint Mr. Jared DeMarinis as the next Maryland State Administrator of Elections.  Mr. DeMarinis will assume the post on September 1, 2023.

### Personnel
**Permanent positions:**

The Department has readvertised the Administrative Specialist II – Finance position on June 22, 2023. After the initial interviews the panel selected a candidate who ultimately declined the offer.  The ad will remain open for a month in an effort to attract a higher number of prospective applicants.

The panel completed interviews and selected a candidate for IT Tech III position who eventually declined the extended offer. The panel conducted additional interviews and selected a candidate.  Onboarding of the selected candidate is underway.

The Staff is awaiting the list of qualified candidates for the three IT Tech II positions from the County's OHR office and once obtained, will commence interviews.

**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 tasks, such as post-election voting equipment maintenance, preparation for the new pollbooks and outreach.

## Budget

The County Council appropriated $12,661,461 as the Board of Elections Budget for FY24. The appropriation includes $4,897,928 for personnel costs and $7,763,533 for operating costs.

The County Council approved the supplemental appropriation for FY23 in the amount of $4,244,911.

The expenditures in the period since the last Board meeting were in line with the forecast, and summary was shared with the Board on June 22, 2023.

## Sections' Activities

**Voter Services:** The Voter Registration team continues its daily List Maintenance activities which include processing of all incoming records, provided directly by the voters, or received from DHMH, the Jury Commission, Courts or through ERIC.

As previously reported, Voter Services continues providing support to municipal elections scheduled for 2023.

Voter Services is compiling the list of names and contacts of municipal officials who would need to be notified of any polling places changes as per HB 410.

**IT Section:** The Temporary IT Staff is finalizing the quality checks on the voting booths used for the last election to ensure all the pieces are in each box and that none of the voting booths are broken. In addition, they are performing the quarterly charging of the voting equipment per the charging plan developed by SBE. The temporary IT Staff will be released on June 30th and will return when SBE begins shipping the new pollbooks to the LBEs.

The IT Manager is working with TEBS to implement a solution to replace the portal that the election workers use to submit applications, schedule training, etc. to the Election Resource Management System. The IT Manager is continuing to work with the City of Rockville and the City of Gaithersburg on their upcoming elections.

**Operations Section:** The Operations team is consolidating the blue bins used during the 2022 General election. The process includes boxing, labeling, stacking and shrink wrapping both blue bins with the voted ballots and the empty blue bins.

The Operations Section Staff is visiting polling places to check both cellular access and signal strength. They have also begun to research options to replace the currently used "Vote Here" signs that would facilitate easier transport and handling.

The Operations team is awaiting a court ruling that could potentially enable us to shred 2020 election ballots and free up storage space. In meanwhile, the Team is organizing temporary storage for 2022 election cycle voted ballots.

**Recruitment and Election Support:** The Election Worker Recruitment team continues to work with the Outreach Program by participating in various events throughout the County.  The Staff is processing all received election worker applications.

**MAEO Annual Conference:** BOE Staff attended the annual conference of Maryland Association of Election Officials and participated in a number of presentations, discussions, and meetings with colleagues from the State Board of Elections and the other 23 jurisdictions.  The Election Director was a panelist at the plenary session dedicated to 'Driving Diversity, Equity and Inclusion in our Voter Community'.  Discussion reflected on Montgomery County's experience and practices with onboarding bilingual election workers and temporary staff to meet requirements of the Section 203 of the Voting Rights Act, scale and continuity of the outreach efforts that yield those results and the role of the Future Vote program to expand voters' engagement.

**<u>Upcoming Meetings / Events</u>**
Montgomery County Board of Elections meeting – July 31, 2023, at 3PM.