

**Meeting Minutes**  
**Monday, July 31, 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. (Amie) Hoeber, Secretary (virtual)  
Keyna L. Anyiam, Board Member (virtual)  
Margie C. Delao, Substitute Member (virtual)  
Alexander C. Vincent, Substitute Member (virtual)

**Board Attorney:**

Kevin Karpinski (virtual)

**Staff:**

Boris Brajkovic, Director  
Janet Ross, IT and Training Manager  
Chris Rzeszut, Recruitment and Election Support Manager  
Mindy Williams, Operations Manager  
Laletta Dorsey, Acting Voter Services Manager  
Lisa Merino-Dean, Administrative Specialist  
Gilberto Zelaya, Program Specialist

A video of the meeting may be found on YouTube at the link below:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-mLXp6s9kUU>

[0:04] Mr. Naimon convened the Board Meeting at 3:00 p.m. and declared a quorum present.

**President's Remarks**

[1:02] Mr. Naimon announced that Diane Dillon was unable to attend today's meeting. The Board of Canvassers Meeting and the Bylaws' discussion will be postponed until the next meeting.

Mr. Naimon shared that Ms. Hoeber, Mr. Koroma, and he attended a virtual meeting with the Board of the Montgomery County Muslim Council on July 15, to encourage its members to participate generally in elections and specifically to apply to serve as Election Judges.

He also stated that he and Mr. Koroma attended an event sponsored by the Latino Democratic Club on July 23<sup>rd</sup>, wherein Mr. Naimon emphasized our need for bilingual Election Judges.

**Additions/Changes to the Agenda**

Additions and changes were announced in President's remarks.

## **Campaign Contributions or Attendance at Fundraisers**

[3:24] No contributions were reported.

## **Public Comments**

[5:36] Mr. Naimon stated that public comments are limited to 3 minutes and speakers will be notified when their time is almost up so that they can finish their comments.

Mr. Fletcher commented on the centralization of the election systems and ERIC (electronic registration information center). His comments are available [here](#).

Mr. Vincent asked Mr. Fletcher the timeframe associated with the statistics presented in his comments. Mr. Fletcher responded prior to January 2023. Mr. Naimon noted that not every State is a member of ERIC, which prevents the Board from receiving notices from non-member States. Mr. Fletcher confirmed that not all the data was necessarily from the States participating in ERIC.

Mr. Brajkovic explained what is required to inactivate or cancel a voter. The Board thanked Mr. Fletcher for his comments, and Mr. Brajkovic confirmed that he would follow up with Mr. Fletcher to discuss his findings.

Mr. Naimon concluded by emphasizing that Board's authority is limited, as we follow directives of the Maryland State Board of Elections.

## **Election Director's Report**

[36:47] Mr. Brajkovic reviewed his Director's report which was provided to the Board in advance. The full report can be found [here](#).

Mr. Vincent requested that more information about certain line items be added to the expenditure tracking budget spreadsheet. In addition, he requested that acronyms be spelled out. Mr. Naimon agreed that this would be helpful information for Board members and the public. Mr. Brajkovic agreed.

Mr. Brajkovic responded to Mr. Koroma's question on how to amplify the work the staff is doing to fill in critical positions and roles that are needed.

He added that the department follows the County's hiring process for all vacant permanent positions, and BOE is following its internal planned schedule when it comes to hiring and bringing candidates onboard. Regarding temporary team members, advertising too early in the summer, when people are on vacation and traveling, does not prove to work well. August, and getting closer to September, is the time when ads for the Election Aide II positions need to be posted. Mr. Brajkovic stated that he would share the date of ads posting with Board members so they could amplify the message through their multiple contacts.

Ms. Anyiam asked about the 823 postcards sent out to potential election workers inquiring what process is used for recruitment and how postcards are used to narrow the recruitment efforts.

Mr. Brajkovic explained the first step is to get an application from anyone who expresses interest. Once they apply and their application is in the system, they will start to see all the notifications that are sent to Election Judges, *e.g.* when to apply, what positions are available, stipend options, your recruiter, what numbers to call.

Ms. Anyiam expressed interest in moving into a more digital way of engaging with people. Mr. Brajkovic responded that we are trying to marry our traditional and new digital approaches.

Ms. Delao asked what the “other communication services” budget line item is for. Mr. Brajkovic responded that the budget line covers various communication, including purchasing of repeaters that enable Election Judges to use their cell phones at polling places to communicate with the Board.

Mr. Naimon suggested that staff consider adding something “grabby” on the front page to guide voters to the new increased Election Judges stipend, like the signs used at our outreach events. He added that, for him, post cards should be a color other than white so that they stand out in a pile of white paper.

### **Board Attorney’s Report**

[1:09:44] Mr. Karpinski reported on the case he is currently following regarding the issue of storage of voted ballots, Gibson vs. the State Board of Elections, et al., which involves the State Prosecutor’s Office and 22 jurisdictions, where the plaintiffs have alleged that there was voter fraud in 2020 in connection with money given to a variety of States, including Maryland, by the Center for Tech and Civic Life. That case was filed in the United States District Court for the District of Maryland before Judge Gallagher, and she dismissed it. It is now on appeal to the United States Court of Appeals for the 4<sup>th</sup> Circuit. The Appendix by the Appellants has recently been filed and they have requested an extension of time to file their brief. Pursuant to the local rules of the 4<sup>th</sup> Circuit, the Appellees, the State of Maryland, the State Office of the Prosecutor and the 22 named jurisdictions, are required to file one brief. The Assistant Attorney General is taking the lead on that. Mr. Karpinski suspects briefing will be within in the next 90 days, and a decision will be made within the next 4 months. Mr. Karpinski will contact Assistant Attorney General Dan Kobrin to find out whether he intends to request expedited briefing and a ruling on the decision.

### **Presentation: Early Voting in 2022 Election Cycle**

[1:13:03] Mr. Brajkovic and Ms. Williams gave a presentation regarding Early Voting for the 2022 Gubernatorial Election with a great deal of data about early voting at each early voting location. The full presentation is available [here](#).

Ms. Anyiam asked if we accommodate the influx of people voting midday by increasing staff during that time period. Mr. Brajkovic responded that we see voting pattern jumps from 11 to 12 o’clock, 1 p.m. to 2 p.m., but the numbers are not so high and Early Voting Centers are staffed with 6 to 8 check-in stations, so additional staff is not necessary. Mr. Brajkovic added that Board has a dashboard on its website during early voting which informs the public about any wait times, and that historically the lowest wait times are from 7-10am in the morning and on the weekends.

### **Presentation: Outreach**

[1:43:04] Dr. Zelaya showed the Outreach PowerPoint presentation. The presentation is available [here](#).

Mr. Koroma complimented the presentation and wanted to recognize Dr. Zelaya's work and the entire staff's work highlighting Future Vote. He asked how the Board can help amplify this message and encourage people to participate.

Dr. Zelaya responded the biggest one is supporting the agency and buttressing our staffing needs especially temporary workers, and increasing the \$73,000 budget for additional multicultural media.

Mr. Naimon asked how big the outreach team is. Dr. Zelaya responded that his team is 4 temporary personnel plus him, noting that permanent staff assist as well. Mr. Naimon asked if the 4 personnel were full-time, and Dr. Zelaya said they are not. Mr. Brajkovic said that number of hours are varied and depends on the events where outreach is needed, usually 2-12 hours per week. Dr. Zelaya said the hours could up to 30 hours per week closer to the election.

Ms. Hoeber inquired how many hours are spent on outreach of the whole staff, including the temporary staff in a year, and it would be helpful for the Board to know how many hours were allocated for outreach and how much would be desired. Ms. Hoeber commented on the need for political diversity in the election workforce and the need for more Republican election workers and asked if outreach was being done specifically to Republicans. Dr. Zelaya discussed recent outreach to the Montgomery County Republican Party. Ms. Hoeber suggested that the five women's clubs are an active cadre on the Republican Party and agreed to provide a list of the chairs of the groups to Dr. Zelaya with their contact information to give him time to make a presentation to them. Dr. Zelaya said he would make the contacts with these groups and with others if other Board members send him the information.

Dr. Zelaya responded that outreach is done with all political parties.

Ms. Anyiam thanked Dr. Zelaya and inquired further about the Future Vote program and asked for further information regarding election judges who were in the Future Vote program. Board members briefly discussed how the information can be tracked. Dr. Zelaya stated that he would talk with the IT Team and discuss some options for getting the information. Mr. Naimon asked if this was information that can be gathered soon, and Dr. Zelaya said he would check.

Ms. Delao asked about whether there are opportunities for Board members from diverse backgrounds to support outreach events. Dr. Zelaya responded that his professional team often have served as center managers or chief judges and know the history of our outreach activities. He welcomes the Board members to provide points of contacts and organizations for outreach activities, but historically Board members have not worked side-by-side with the staff. Dr. Zelaya believes there should be a clear delineation between a Board member and a staff member. Mr. Naimon encouraged Dr. Zelaya to think about ways to engage Board members aside from telling him places where the staff can go for outreach events because of the power of Board members and staff members working together. Mr. Naimon pointed out that there was a wealth of knowledge about outreach on the Board, and that the Board includes two of the youngest Board members in history who are both women of color, and he suspects they can help advise about outreach to young women of color.

Mr. Naimon said that he had a number of questions that he said came from a perspective of being the parent of Future Vote alumni and that what Dr. Zelaya has done with the program is absolutely amazing and that the statistics on our election judges from ages 16-25 show it and may be unmatched in the

country. He also said that his view was that anything that is good can be made better, and that's the job of the Board and the staff.

Mr. Naimon asked what is the age limit for participation in Future Vote program, and Dr. Zelaya responded Future Vote is available for Middle School through High School students, starting with rising 6<sup>th</sup> graders.

Mr. Naimon said he agreed with Dr. Zelaya that the demographics of Future Vote presentation should reflect the county and asked whether the data presented was current or cumulative. Dr. Zelaya said the numbers were cumulative and had fluctuated over the years. Mr. Naimon pointed out the presentation said that 12.5% of Future Vote participants were Latino while the current county population was roughly 20% Latino. He asked if there was something more that we should be doing to recruit Latino students and asked for more recent information, including data from 2022, rather than cumulative information in terms of Latino population in the Future Vote program. Dr. Zelaya described a number of measures he's taken to reach out to Latino students and the families of Future Vite alumni.

Mr. Naimon clarified that 16-year-old pre-registered voters are eligible to become an election judge.

Mr. Naimon suggested that Dr. Zelaya consider using the members of the Board who are alumni of MCPS to reach out to their high schools, and Dr. Zelaya said that, as an alumnus himself, he agreed.

Mr. Naimon asked about the demographics of Dr. Zelaya's outreach team. Dr. Zelaya commented that he had multiple bilingual members of his team and that he is grateful for the assistance of recruiters in the outreach program. Mr. Naimon and Dr. Zelaya agreed that there is benefit to diversity in the outreach team but that it's not a requirement for outreach that the Board's representative be from the same demographic as the group holding the event.

Mr. Naimon asked Dr. Zelaya if he decides when, where, and how to tweet, and who to follow, and he said yes. Mr. Naimon said he understood that the Board is following more than 2,000 Twitter users, and Dr. Zelaya agreed. Mr. Naimon asked how he decides who the Board's Twitter would follow. Dr. Zelaya said he wants to assure that the Board is getting its message out. Mr. Naimon asked if we have criteria for who the Board follows on Twitter. Dr. Zelaya said he doesn't generally follow random requests. The criteria is to request the Twitter handles of our partners.

Mr. Naimon recommended that the Board's website have a social media presence to push the same messages used on social media - namely, that if something is posted on Twitter, it should be on our website too.

Mr. Naimon suggested that the Election Director's story and his history of supporting democracy should be shared with the public, and that the same could be considered for members of the permanent staff.

Mr. Naimon asked about the texting application, inquiring why the early voting locations and ballot-drop site locator are still active. Dr. Zelaya stated that no information is updated and shared for early voting and box-drop locations between elections. Mr. Naimon indicated that drop box information was still available. Dr. Zelaya will follow up with the County IT department. To assure accuracy, Mr. Naimon asked that the word "nearby" – rather than the word "nearest" -- be used to accurately indicate the location of sites and ballot drop-boxes.

Mr. Naimon inquired about the usage of zip codes listed on the outreach calendar. He asked that Dr. Zelaya add clarity on one zip code being listed for three different cities. Dr. Zelaya responded that the zip codes are directly from how the organizations described their own locations and Park and Planning.

Mr. Naimon noted that the outreach calendar does not include outreach events on July 4<sup>th</sup>, Labor Day, or Veterans Day, and he didn't remember if the Board staff does outreach on MLK Day or Juneteenth, and he wondered whether the Board was missing good opportunities for outreach on those holidays. Dr. Zelaya considers it unproductive to do outreach on July 4<sup>th</sup>. Sometimes the county is closed on holidays and outreach is done on events on adjoining days.

Ms. Hoeber made a comment that the Board should have Outreach as a monthly item on the agenda to get an update and have an opportunity to make additional comments.

Mr. Naimon agreed that that was an excellent idea, and the Board should go ahead and plan for it.

Mr. Koroma suggested to amend Ms. Hoeber's recommendation by adding that the Board should receive highlights of the Outreach. He also added that the Board trusts staff's expertise and work and providing highlights to the Board would be more informative.

Mr. Naimon concluded that the Board will add Outreach to the Agenda and do its best to stick to big ticket items.

#### **Old Business**

[3:28:57] No old business was discussed.

#### **New Business**

Mr. Naimon reminded that the Bylaws discussion is postponed until our next meeting.

Mr. Karpinski reminded the Board that the State Board of Elections' Biannual meeting is October 19<sup>th</sup> and is mandatory for all Board Members, and that Mr. Naimon already has taken the Open Meetings Compliance Act training but he encourages others to take the training if they have the time to do it.

#### **List Future Action Items from Today's meeting**

[3:30:07]

- Request for a detailed breakdown of the budget lines, spelling out acronyms.
- Share the Election Aide II job posting with the Board.
- Request to look at the total hours spent on Outreach annually, and Future Vote transition to EJs, to look at how to increase visibility of EJs' stipend positions on our website.

#### **Approval of Minutes**

[3:31:41] Ms. Hoeber made a motion to approve the July 31, 2023, Board Meeting minutes, as amended. The motion was second by Mr. Koroma and passed unanimously.

#### **Future Meetings**

[3:32:34] Mr. Naimon stated that currently it is undetermined if the August Board meeting will be held. Mr. Karpinski added that there may be an issue at one of the Early Voting sites, the Activity Center at Bohrer Park, with the use of the gymnasium for the Primary and the General. Staff is going to be looking into getting additional information and getting it to the Board. Once the information is determined, the meeting may or may not be cancelled.

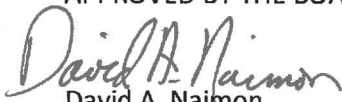
#### **Adjournment**

[3:34:54] Mr. Naimon adjourned the meeting.



Submitted by Lisa Merino-Dean  
Administrative Specialist II

APPROVED BY THE BOARD



David A. Naimon  
Board President