

Meeting Minutes
Monday, September 18, 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)
Diane Nash Dillon, Board Member (virtual)
Margie C. Delao, Substitute Member (virtual)
Alexander C. Vincent, Substitute Member (virtual)

Board Attorney:

Kevin Karpinski (virtual)

Staff:

Boris Brajkovic, Director (in person)
Alysoun McLaughlin, Deputy Director (in person)
Janet Ross, IT and Training Manager (in person)
Chris Rzeszut, Operations Manager (in person)
Mindy Williams, Operations Manager (in person)
Laletta Dorsey, Acting Manger – Voter Services (in person)
Lisa Merino-Dean, Administrative Specialist (in person)
Thomas Chuck Williams, Administrative Specialist Finance (in-person)

A video of the meeting may be found on YouTube at the link below:
[September 18, 2023 Board Meeting - YouTube](#)

Convene as the Board of Canvassers (00:00:35)

Mr. Naimon opened the meeting of the Board of Canvassers, with a quorum present consisting of the four returning Board members from 2022. Mr. Brajkovic presented one untimely mail-in ballot, which was mailed from Israel and received on June 30, 2023.

Ms. Nash Dillon moved that the Board reject the untimely mail-in ballot, and Ms. Hoeber seconded the motion. The Board of Canvassers unanimously rejected the presented untimely mail-in ballot.

Convene Board Meeting and Declare Quorum Present (00:02:28)

Mr. Naimon convened the Board meeting and declared a quorum present.

Board President's Remarks (00:02:35)

Mr. Naimon addressed the voter registration of Mr. Roscoe Nix, which was brought up during the public comment period at the Board's July 31 meeting. Mr. Naimon explained Mr. Nix's and Mrs. Emma Nix's voter registration and voting history in Montgomery County and confirmed that staff's research did not reveal any voting irregularities, but did indicate that their voting registrations might have been updated sooner if the Electronic Registration Information Center had existed at the time, if Georgia had contacted

Maryland when the Nixes registered to vote in Georgia, or if the new residents of the Nix's former Montgomery County home had returned the election mail addressed to Mr. or Mrs. Nix after the Nixes no longer lived there. He invited the Board, staff and the public to support the timely return of undeliverable election mail and to support robust cross-state cooperation in the exchange of voter registration information. Mr. Brajkovic provided further information on the process that generates returned mail and legally required steps that staff needs to undertake to change a voter's status to Inactive and to cancel voter registration.

Additions/Changes to the Agenda (00:13:33)

Mr. Naimon introduced the Meeting Agenda. Board members did not propose any additions.

Disclosure of Campaign Contributions/Attendance at Fundraisers (00:14:22)

Mr. Naimon reported that he contributed \$40 to the Maryland State Democratic Party for the upcoming State Party fundraiser.

Presentation: Proposed Early Voting Sites for 2024 (00:15:15)

Mr. Brajkovic and Ms. Williams delivered a presentation on the Staff's Proposal of Early Voting sites for the 2024 Presidential Elections. The presentation is available [here](#).

Public Comments re: Proposed EV Sites for 2024 (00:44:20)

No one signed up in advance to provide public comments regarding the 2024 proposed Early Voting sites. Ms. Ora Johnson requested permission to address the Board and raised the issue of the distance between the bus stop on Wisconsin Avenue and the Jane Lawton Early Voting site.

Board Discussion re: Proposed EV Sites for 2024 (00:49:38)

Mr. Naimon moved to approve the staff's recommendation of the 14 Early Voting sites that were used in 2022 and for the Board to request approval from the County Executive and the County Council to use 14 Early Voting sites for the 2024 elections. Ms. Hoeber seconded the motion to approve the following sites:

- Activity Center at Bohrer Park, Gaithersburg
- Bauer Drive Community Recreation Center, Rockville
- Nancy H. Dacek Community Recreation Center, North Potomac
- Damascus Community Recreation Center, Damascus
- Executive Office Building, Rockville
- Germantown Community Recreation Center, Germantown
- Lawton Community Recreation Center, Chevy Chase
- Mid-County Community Recreation Center, Silver Spring
- Potomac Community Recreation Center, Potomac
- Marilyn J. Praisner Community Recreation Center, Burtonsville
- Sandy Spring Volunteer Fire Department Station 4, Sandy Spring
- Silver Spring Civic Building, Silver Spring
- Wheaton Community Recreation Center, Wheaton
- White Oak Community Recreation Center, Silver Spring

Mr. Naimon provided further explanation of the proposal, emphasizing that the proposal represents a mixture of continuity and change from 2022 as the 14 Early Voting locations are the same but the proposal

includes utilizing larger spaces (gymnasiums) within some of the buildings for Early Voting, including the Marilyn J. Praisner Community Recreation Center and the full gymnasium at the Damascus Community Recreation Center, and the gymnasiums at the Wheaton and White Oak Recreation Centers for the last few days of early voting. He also provided a detailed review of proposed locations and spaces to be used for Early Voting centers.

The Board unanimously (5-0) approved the proposal of the 2024 Elections Early Voting Centers.

Public comments for subjects other than Early Voting (01:12:40)

Maryland State Senator Cheryl Kagan (D-17) addressed the Board and emphasized her work on a resolution passed by the National Conference of State Legislators calling on Congress to find a solution to strengthen cooperation among states regarding the exchange of voter registration information and cooperation to maintain voter list accuracy. Senator Kagan also reflected on her prior elections-related legislative work and presented her legislative plans for the 2024 legislative session.

Old Business (01:21:06)

A. Review of the SBE documents for the new Boards

Mr. Karpinski introduced the documents for new Boards prepared by the Maryland State Board of Elections, including a letter from the State Election Administrator, *Ethics and Standards for Election Officials and Employees*, and *Assignment of Local Board of Elections' Duties to Members of the Local Board, the Election Director, and Staff*. The Board was presented with the administrative requirements regarding mandatory public notice before and after Board meeting activities and notices when the Board is taking up issues that affect voting rights. At the end, Mr. Karpinski presented a summary of relevant federal election laws.

B. Review and discussion on the Board's Bylaws (01:26:56)

Mr. Naimon opened the discussion by moving to approve the bylaws that was previously circulated with the Board members and Mr. Koroma seconded the motion.

Mr. Naimon summarized the changes to the current Bylaws that include:

- Section 4.2. which deals with political activity of the Board members, with specific changes related to Board members' participation in political party events, political party fundraisers and use of social media. In addition, the Board agreed that Mr. Karpinski will prepare research on the use of social media by Board members for the next Board meeting.
- Section 3.1. which prescribes the dates and times for monthly meetings of the Board. In response to Ms. Dillon's suggestion, the Board agreed for the Bylaws to say, "Unless circumstances dictate otherwise, the Board shall generally meet every month on the third Monday of the month at a time determined by the President, after consultation with the Secretary and the Election Director."
- Section 3.2. which addresses Board members virtual and in-person participation in the meetings.
- Section 5.2. The Board, at Mr. Vincent's suggestion, requested a link to the document titled *Assignment of Local Board of Elections' Duties to Members of the Local Board, the Election Director, and Staff* to be added to the Bylaws or, if not possible, to add the document as an addendum to the Bylaws

All Board members and substitute members approved the new bylaws unanimously. The final bylaws can be found [here](#).

Director's Report (02:15:56)

Mr. Brajkovic presented the Election Director's Report, which can be found [here](#).

Mr. Naimon welcomed Thomas "Chuck" Williams to the team as the new Administrative Specialist for Finance.

Ms. Anyiam asked a question regarding staff efforts to increase election workers recruitment across the county. Mr. Brajkovic acknowledged unequal sign-up for the Future Vote program across geographical parts of the county and emphasized that staff is working to encourage more participation from the areas that are not represented in the program at the level that we would like to see.

Mr. Naimon asked about staff efforts to address significantly lower participation in the Future Vote program than the county population's percentage of Latino and African American students as presented by the data in the Election Director's Report. He emphasized the need for engagement of groups that are underrepresented, whether they are up-county residents, a specific political affiliation, or a specific ethnic group. Mr. Brajkovic agreed and added that both creativity and continuity of engagement is needed. Mr. Brajkovic informed the Board that the Board's Community Engagement Officer will have a new contact point within MCPS that should enable better outreach.

Ms. Hoeber asked a question about staff's outreach to Republican Women's clubs as suggested in July's meeting. Mr. Brajkovic explained the initial staff effort and thanked Ms. Hoeber for her suggestion to reach out to Clubs directly without utilizing the political party structure. Ms. Hoeber raised the issue of staff's coverage of more conservative areas of the county with outreach activities and said that Poolesville Day was a missed opportunity to recruit more Republican election judges. Mr. Brajkovic promised to look into staff's outreach coverage of Poolesville Day.

In response to Mr. Naimon's question about X (formerly Twitter) accounts that the Board is following, Mr. Brajkovic presented an overview of up-to-date staff activity on the social platform and acknowledged both the lack of and the need for a policy to provide for a structured engagement on the platform. Mr. Brajkovic informed the Board about his conversations with the Board's Legal Counsel and plans to present a draft policy at the next Board meeting.

In response to Ms. Delao's question on comparison of budget lines between the previous and current fiscal year, Mr. Brajkovic explained that the overspending in the previous fiscal year came about as a result of the 2022 Primary election being postponed from June to July and the resulting financing of two elections in one fiscal year. He also explained efforts to 'right-size' the budget in cooperation with the Board and the County's Office of Management and Budget.

Attorney's Report (03:00:00)

Mr. Karpinski informed the Board about the meeting he had with the staff to initiate preparation of memorandums of understanding (MoUs) that need to be put in place for the 2024 election. These MoUs will address the placement of drop boxes in several municipalities and the legally mandated surveillance of the drop boxes. The same requirement will be addressed by MoUs with MCPS and the Recreation Department.

Upon Mr. Karpinski's suggestion, Mr. Naimon moved to approve three alternate early voting sites (in case an emergency were to cause the regular early voting sites to be unavailable) for the 2024 election cycle as presented by the staff. Ms. Hoeber seconded the motion, and it was approved unanimously.

Mr. Karpinski stated that a petition is being circulated to impose a two-term limit on the Office of the County Executive. The petition requires 10,000 valid signatures that need to be submitted by August of 2024. The petition organizer has submitted a number of questions regarding how much money could be spent on various activities. Mr. Karpinski will meet with the State Election Administrator and the Assistant Attorney General assigned to the State Board to obtain answers.

The last issue presented related to ongoing discussions regarding use of social media and the First Amendment. Mr. Karpinski stated that he will, together with Mr. Brajkovic, prepare a proposal for the Board's consideration by next month.

Website (03:11:40)

Mr. Brajkovic informed the Board that, due to a system reconfiguration by X, the live X feed cannot be accessed on the website unless the visitor is signed into X. He also added that the County's Department of Technology Enterprise and Business Solutions is preparing an update of the Board's website.

Outreach (03:14:44)

Mr. Naimon summarized that the discussion of Outreach had already been covered through discussion and Q&A in the Director's Report.

New Business (03:14:54)

A. Staff's Memo about the 2024 election cycle polling places (03:14:58)

Mr. Brajkovic presented the Staff's Memo about the 2024 election cycle polling places (document can be found [here](#)). Presentation included the legally required number of polling places and proposed changes compared to the list of polling places that the Board approved for the 2022 election cycle. In response to Mr. Naimon's question, Mr. Brajkovic explained that staff is in constant communication with MCPS, and that staff was not provided with any information about schools that could not serve as polling places due to planned construction projects.

B. Legal Descriptions of Precinct Boundaries (03:22:39)

Mr. Brajkovic stated that in 2022 the Board reviewed the precincts' boundaries across the county following decennial census and redistricting and changed boundaries of 76 precincts. The staff has prepared the legal descriptions of those changes. The document was shared with the Board and posted on the Board's website (document can be found [here](#)). Mr. Brajkovic stated that public was invited to provide comments on the legal descriptions by October 2, 2023, and a public announcement about legal descriptions would be made through the website and social media.

Future Action Items (03:27:15)

Mr. Brajkovic summarized the list of Action items that include (1) provide more information on policy regarding use of social media, (2) provide the Board with the X list of followed and following accounts, (3) complete the direct outreach communication to Republican Women's Clubs, as previously requested by Ms. Hoeber, (4) provide the Board with information on outreach efforts at Poolesville Day, and (5) describe staff efforts to inform the public about the use of undeliverable mail as a tool to perform list maintenance.

Approval of Minutes (03:29:16)


Mr. Naimon announced that approval of the minutes from July 31, 2023, is postponed until the October Board meeting.

Adjournment (03:29:55)



Submitted by Lisa Merino-Dean
Administrative Specialist II

APPROVED BY THE BOARD



David A. Naimon
Board President