Montgomery County Board of Elections
Election Director's Report – February 2024

Notice and Distribution of Materials

Draft minutes of the January 22, 2024, meeting were distributed to the Board on February 13, 2024.

The Agenda for the February 26, 2024, meeting was shared with the Board and posted on the Board of Elections website on February 20, 2024.

The Director's Report, the budget document, and meeting materials were shared with the Board and posted on the website on February 22, 2024.

Action Items from Previous Meetings

On February 3, 2024, the Board President and Board Attorney, together with the Election Director and Operations Manager, visited the Wheaton Library and Community Recreation Center, the Sandy Spring Volunteer Fire Department, and the Silver Spring Civic Center. The purpose of the site visits was to review proposed no-electioneering zones.

Voter Registration Statistics:

The Monthly Statistical Report for January 2024 was distributed to Board members on February 1, 2024, and published on the BOE's website. As of the end of January 2024, there were 679,158 active registered voters in Montgomery County and 67,848 inactive voters, for a total voter count of 747,006.

State Board of Elections (SBE):

SBE has adjusted the online process to request a web delivery of a mail-in ballot, emphasizing all the steps that applicants are required to follow to receive and return the mail-in ballot sent to voters by email. The change would require all the voters who are requesting a web delivery ballot to affirm the following:

I understand that if my ballot is sent by email:
- o   I will print the ballot at home
- o   I will provide my own envelope
- o   I will pay for postage or use a drop box
- o   The local board of elections will use the information on my ballot to mark a scannable ballot

Personnel
Permanent positions:
Ms. Jennifer Dailey joined the Voter Services team as an Office Service Coordinator, Candidate Filing on January 28, 2024.

Ms. Julia Douglas joined the BOE Team as the Voter Education and Training Specialist on February 11, 2024.

The ad for the Program Manager II – Voter Services position closed last week, and staff is reviewing resumes.

The ad for the Deputy Election Director position remains open until filled.

Temporary positions:
As we are getting closer to the election, we are finalizing the onboarding of the temporary team members. Currently, BOE has 50 temporary team members on site. Onboarding of other temporary team members will take place through the end of March, and it will be driven by election processes that require temporary staff support.

Budget

The attached Budget Document reflects the approved Fiscal Year 2024 Budget and the Department's spending through the end of January 2024.

Sections' Activities

BOE voter communication efforts
Staff will work with the Technology and Enterprise Business Solutions (TEBS) department to send out over 15,500 emails to voters who have requested to receive by email their print-at-home mail-in ballots. The email will serve as a reminder to our voters of all the necessary steps that they would need to undertake to print, complete, and return such a mail-in ballot.

Voter Services
The Voter Registration team continues its daily processing of paper and electronic voter registrations, and list maintenance activities which includes processing all incoming records provided directly by the voters or received from DHMH, the Jury Commission, Courts, or through ERIC.

Mail-in Voting team is processing incoming requests for mail-in ballots for the 2024 election cycle or all future elections. After the State Board of Elections mailed applications on January 17, 2024, to all registered Democrat and Republican voters who did not have a request for a mail-in ballot on file, we received over 32,000 new applications. As of February 21, 2024, we have 98,455 requests for mail-in ballots for the 2024 Primary election, which also include 91,770 permanent requests for mail-in ballots. Number of web delivery ballot requests is 15,646 (with 14,615 permanent requests). We are currently processing the backlog of over 18,000 requests.

Candidate filing process for the 2024 Presidential Primary Election concluded on February 9, 2024. A total of fourteen (14) candidates filed with BOE for Board of Education seats that will be on the ballot this year: At Large = 6 candidates; District 2 = 5 candidates; and District 4 = 3 candidates.

IT / Training Section
IT Staff continues to allocate the equipment for Early Voting and Election Day in preparation for Logic and Accuracy Testing. Additional tasks include replacing the batteries in the pollbooks as per SBE's direction.

The Election Worker portal was launched on February 7, 2024, for election workers to renew or submit new applications for the current election cycle. The IT Manager is continuing to work with the Technology and Enterprise Business Solutions (TEBS) department on the implementation of the replacement Future Vote portal.

TEBS and BOE Staff are conducting functionality testing of the Future Vote software. After successful testing, the new Future Vote portal application will be made available to the Future Vote students to begin using for the upcoming election.

Training classes began on February 20, 2024, at the Board of Elections and the Nancy Dacek Community Recreation Center. A total of twelve training classes were conducted over two days and 95 election workers completed their training.

Operations Section

The Operations Team continues to prepare and stage supplies and carts for the Primary election day polling place and the 14 early voting centers (labeling, collating, packaging, etc.). We continue to prepare the 2024 primary paper ballot order and we work with the print shop to finalize signage and forms for polling places. We are finalizing plans with moving contractors for supply and equipment deliveries to early voting sites and election day polling places.

Recruitment and Election Support

On February 7, 2024, the Recruitment Team sent out 23,044 emails to prospective volunteers who either previously served or expressed interest in serving as election workers for the 2024 Presidential Primary election (note: a number of emails were duplicates). Since kick-off,

- 1,909 prospective volunteers renewed or submitted their application.

- 1,212 prospective volunteers have completed the online quiz.

- 95 have completed in-person training by February 21, 2024.

- 655 have signed up to attend in-person training sessions by March 29, 2024.

Party affiliation breakdown of those who renewed or completed an application:

- Democrats – 1292

- Republicans – 213

- Unaffiliated – 376

- Other – 28

Meetings / Events

The Election Director, on behalf of MAEO, attended the MACo (Maryland Association of Counties) Legislative Reception in Annapolis on January 24, 2024.

On January 25, 2024, the Election Director, Acting Deputy Director, and Vote By Mail Specialist attended Rockville's Post Election Forum.

On January 31, 2024, the Election Director and Acting Deputy Director, attended a meeting regarding Rockville's municipal elections in Annapolis, together with the Rockville Board of Election Supervisors, the City Clerk, the State Election Administrator, the Deputy State Election Administrator, and SBE staff.

On February 1, 2024, the Election Director and Budget Specialist attended a meeting with the County Executive and Office of Management and Budget to discuss future budget needs in FY25.

On February 5, 2024, Board members, Election Director, and Budget Specialist attended a meeting with the County Executive to discuss future budget needs in FY25.