

Meeting Minutes

Monday, February 3, 2025

MONTGOMERY COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS/BOARD OF CANVASSERS

In-Person Attendance Board Members:

David A. Naimon, President

Daniel A. Koroma, Vice President

Keyna I. Anyiam, Board Member

Diane Nash Dillon, Board Member

Margie C. Delao, Substitute Member

Alexander C. Vincent, Substitute Member

Virtual Attendance Board Members:

Amoretta (Amie) M. Hoeber, Secretary

In-Person Attendance Board Attorney:

Kevin Karpinski

In-Person Staff Attendance:

Boris Brajkovic, Director

Laletta Dorsey, Voter Registration Specialist

Michelle Gonda, Vote By Mail Program Manager

Lisa Merino-Dean, Administrative Specialist

Aishah Mills-Pherigo, Acting Recruitment Manager

Sandra Prudenti, Voter Services Manager

Janet Ross, IT/Training Manager

Mindy Williams, Operations Manager

Gilberto Zelaya, Outreach Coordinator/Public Information Officer

Anna Johnson, Election Aide II

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

<https://youtu.be/iATw0at25x0>

Convene Board of Canvassers Meeting (2:00)

Mr. Naimon called the meeting to order and declared a quorum present.

Mr. Brajkovic presented fifty-five (55) untimely mail-in ballots from the 2024 Presidential General Election that were received after the mandated deadline of 10:00 A.M. on November 15, 2024.

- One ballot sent from within the United States was postmarked after Election Day (11/5/2024) and arrived untimely.
- One ballot sent from within the United States was postmarked on or before Election Day (11/5/2024) but arrived untimely.

- Three (3) ballots sent from outside of the United States were postmarked after Election Day and arrived untimely.
- Forty-two (42) ballots sent from outside of the United States were postmarked on or before Election Day but arrived untimely.
- Eight (8) ballots sent from outside of the United States arrived untimely and did not have a postmark with date information.

Ms. Dillon moved to reject the 55 untimely mail-in ballots. The motion was seconded by Ms. Delao and passed unanimously.

Mr. Naimon adjourned the meeting of the Board of Canvassers.

Convene Board of Elections Meeting (4:50)

Mr. Naimon called the meeting of the Board of Elections to order and declared a quorum present.

President's Remarks (5:00)

Mr. Naimon noted that this meeting was held in person as Board members hosted a staff appreciation luncheon for the Board of Elections' staff. Mr. Naimon thanked all the Board Members for helping organize this event to show their appreciation for the Board of Elections staff. Mr. Naimon expressed his gratitude for Former Congresswoman Connie Morella and Former Congressman John Sarbanes for speaking at the staff appreciation luncheon. Former Congresswoman Morella and Former Congressman Sarbanes expressed their personal thanks to the staff.

Mr. Naimon expressed his well wishes to Mr. Josh Kurtz, founder of local news publication Maryland Matters, who announced he would be leaving the company within the next ten days. Mr. Naimon stated that he believes Maryland Matters will continue to be an important news source for what is happening across the State.

Finally, Mr. Naimon congratulated Ms. Michelle Gonda on starting her new role as the Vote By Mail Program Manager.

Additions/Changes to the Agenda (8:40)

There were no additions or changes to the agenda.

Disclosure of Campaign Contributions and Fundraiser Attendance (8:47)

No disclosures were made.

Public Comments (8:57)

Public Comment documentation can be found [here](#).

Michael Fletcher submitted a written public comment and signed up to appear at the meeting but was not in attendance at the Board Meeting. Mr. Naimon asked Mr. Brajkovic to summarize Mr. Fletcher's comments. Mr. Fletcher extended an invitation to a rally hosted by

Secure the Vote MD and United Sovereign Americans that is being held in Annapolis, MD later this month. The flier with more information can be found in the Public Comments section of the documents for this Board Meeting.

Mr. Fletcher's second topic was regarding Voter Registration list maintenance and the accuracy of voter rolls. Mr. Fletcher had previously sent a data set containing names of deceased individuals in Montgomery County to Mr. Brajkovic. Mr. Brajkovic responded to this topic that the list had been shared with the Maryland State Board of Elections and staff is awaiting their guidance on how to proceed.

Election Director's Report (25:24)

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

Mr. Brajkovic reported that upon the conclusion of the hiring process for the Vote by Mail Program Manager, Ms. Michelle Gonda was selected to fill the position. The reclassification process for the Recruitment Manager position has been completed. Staff are working with the Office of Management and Budget and the Office of Human Resources to have the position advertised soon. The HR Liaison/Administrative Specialist is currently covering the duties of the Budget and Finance Specialist position.

Following the conclusion of the 2024 Election Cycle, the number of temporary employees has been further reduced. However, some temporary employees remain as staff works through post-election cleanup, equipment maintenance, and processing the Voter Registration backlog.

Mr. Brajkovic reported that the second quarter budget analysis has been completed and shows that the Board of Elections should be in a surplus by the end of the current fiscal year (FY2025).

Mr. Brajkovic notified the Board that the staff will be attending trainings for the Website ADA enhancements to meet the ADA requirements released by the Federal Department of Justice (DOJ). The deadline for compliance is April 24, 2026, and staff plans to make many of the required enhancements before the deadline. Mr. Vincent asked if these changes would be enhancements to the existing ADA Requirements or if the website was previously noncompliant. Mr. Brajkovic responded that DOJ has enhanced their requirements and standards. The Board of Elections has remained current and made changes when directed to. Mr. Naimon requested that the Board receive a copy of the DOJ's directive regarding these ADA enhancements for the website to learn more about what they are requesting be changed.

Mr. Brajkovic informed Board Members that the biannual conference of the Maryland Association of Election Officials will be held May 4-9, 2025, in Ocean City, Maryland. During the conference, there will be a separate session held for Board Members and the Board Attorney.

Mr. Koroma asked about the process of notifying inactive voters of their status and any changes to that status made by the Board. Mr. Brajkovic noted that a voter is changed to Inactive Status if a piece of election mail is returned to the Board with notification that mailed correspondence was undeliverable, which is followed by staff sending a letter to confirm the voter's address details. If there is no response within two weeks, the voter's registration status is changed to Inactive. If a voter who is in Inactive Status fails to update their information or fails to vote within two consecutive Election Cycles (4 years), their registration is canceled. The voter can reregister anytime after their registration has been canceled.

Board Attorney's Report (42:35)

Mr. Karpinski updated the Board and Staff on the pending lawsuits regarding the election results of the 2020 and 2022 Elections. The case pertaining to the 2020 election results has been decided by the United States Court of Appeals for the 4th Circuit. It found that the plaintiffs lacked standing and upheld the United States District Court for the District of Maryland's decision to dismiss the lawsuit. Within the last week, the plaintiffs have filed a Petition for an *en banc* review by the entire 4th Circuit which would require a polling of the entire 4th Circuit to see whether they would wish to hear the case. Mr. Karpinski believes that they will deny the request and we will have a final decision by this spring. It is anticipated that the decision in the 2022 case challenging election results will be released in the next 30 days.

Mr. Karpinski is working on a MOU to be used for the upcoming 2025 municipal elections. The MOU will be used when the Board leases pedestal drop boxes to municipalities for their use in their upcoming municipal elections. Early Voting and Drop Box MOUs for the 2026 Election Cycle are also in progress.

Mr. Naimon inquired if Early Voting MOUs include a provision to allow storing campaigns' election materials overnight. Mr. Karpinski confirmed that the MOU with the County Government already includes the provision and added that Board sends a letter to campaigns with pertinent information.

Staff Presentation on the 2024 Election Cycle (54:45)

Mr. Brajkovic and Dr. Zelaya presented extensive data and findings related to the 2024 Election Cycle based on staff research and analysis. The Staff Presentation on the 2024 Election Cycle can be found [here](#).

Old Business: Continuation of the December 15, 2024, Board meeting review of the Election Administration Improvement Proposals (2:49:01)

The full list of Election Administration Proposals can be found [here](#).

Mr. Naimon provided updates on the slate of Legislative proposals that passed unamended at the December Board Meeting.

Item one of the administrative proposals had been discussed during the December Board Meeting. Mr. Naimon updated the Board that he, Mrs. Hoeber, Mr. Brajkovic, and Mrs. Prudenti had a meeting with the Shady Grove Post Office Postmaster where it was emphasized that adding a postmark at any point that is not the initial point of entry of the mail in ballot into the USPS stream is not beneficial to processing ballots sent by mail.

Mr. Naimon is working with legislators for the 2026 Legislative Session on introducing a local bill that would address changing the designation of the two Substitute Board Members to Regular Board Members of the Montgomery County Board of Elections. Mr. Naimon added that legislation has been introduced in both houses of the Maryland General Assembly to change the Gubernatorial Primary Election date from the last Tuesday in June to the fourth Tuesday in June. Mr. Naimon has been working with bill sponsors, Senator Cheryl Kagan and Delegate Jheanelle Wilkins, to increase support for the bills. Mr. Naimon added that proposals six through nine on the list will not be pursued at this time.

Mr. Naimon presented the slate of 18 Administrative proposals for the Board to consider during this discussion. The full discussion of the slate of 18 Administrative proposals can be found [here](#). Board members agreed to begin pursuing the slate of administrative proposals that were discussed.

2025 General Assembly Session – Overview of the Introduced Election-Related Bills (3:29:47)

The full list of Election-Related Bills introduced as of January 30, 2025, in both chambers of the Maryland General Assembly can be found [here](#).

Mr. Koroma moved that the Board endorse HB 945 and SB 645, which both propose changing the Gubernatorial Primary Election date from the last Tuesday in June to the fourth Tuesday in June. The motion was seconded by Ms. Anyiam and passed unanimously.

Ms. Delao moved that the Board endorse HB 839 and SB 543, which both propose that if a provisional ballot is issued because a voter claimed a different political party affiliation from the political party affiliation on their voter record, the voter's selection in a nonpartisan board of education contest may be counted. The motion was seconded by Mr. Koroma. The motion passed with four in favor (Mr. Naimon, Mr. Koroma, Ms. Hoeber, and Ms. Anyiam) and one against (Ms. Dillon).

Mr. Koroma moved that the Board endorse HB 586 and SB 534, which both propose that Election Judges will only be paid for training if they serve during Early Voting or on Election Day. The bills also propose that Election Workers who are High School Students may receive both the service stipend and Student Service Learning (SSL) Hours. The motion was seconded by Ms. Delao and passed unanimously.

Website Update (3:44:50)

Mr. Brajkovic informed the Board that the Board of Elections' website usage has returned to normal following the 2024 Election Cycle. Website Statistics can be found [here](#).

Outreach Update (3:45:20)

Dr. Zelaya informed the Board that the staff is currently scheduling High School outreach events and other community events and attendance for the spring of 2025. The list of outreach events for December 2024 through March 2025 can be found [here](#).

Future Action Items (3:46:00)

- Mr. Karpinski and Mr. Brajkovic will obtain a copy or summary of the Department of Justice's communication regarding Website Accessibility.
- Mr. Brajkovic will provide the Board with data pertaining to Ballot Marking Device usage at all Leisure World Polling Places.
- Mr. Brajkovic will provide the Board with data on the total number of Mail-In Ballots rejected following the certification of the 2024 Presidential General Election.
- Board discussion of Ranked Choice Voting will take place at the March 2025 Board Meeting.

Approval of Minutes (3:46:54)

Ms. Dillon moved to approve the minutes from the Board Meeting on December 16, 2024, as amended. The motion was seconded by Mr. Koroma and passed unanimously.

Future Meetings (3:47:33)

All meetings begin at 3:00 P.M. unless otherwise indicated. Dates are subject to change.

- March 17, 2025 (In-Person Meeting, Board of Elections Office)
- April 21, 2025
- May 19, 2025
- June 16, 2025
- August 4, 2025
- September 15, 2025
- October 20, 2025
- November 17, 2025
- December 15, 2025

Adjournment (3:50:00)

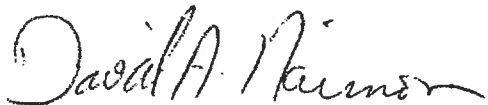
Mr. Naimon adjourned the public Board Meeting at 5:50 P.M. and moved into a closed Executive Session to discuss confidential voter requests.

Report on Executive Session

The Montgomery County Board of Elections moved into an executive session at 5:51 P.M., pursuant to §3-305(b)(2), General Provisions Article, to consider confidential voter requests.

The Executive Session was adjourned at 6:00 P.M.

Approved by the Board,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "David A. Naimon". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "D" and "N".

David A. Naimon
Board President