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November 6, 2018

MEETING OF THE MONTGOMERY COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS
18753-210 North Frederick Avenue, Gaithersburg, Maryland

In Attendance:

Board Members:

Jim Shalleck, President
Nahid Khozeimeh, Vice President
Mary Ann Keeffe, Secretary
Alexander Vincent
David Naimon
Jacqueline Phillips
Alan Banov

Board Attorney:

Kevin Karpinski

Staff:

Margaret Jurgensen, Election Director
Alysoun McLaughlin, Deputy Director
Lisa Merino, Office Services Coordinator
Christine Rzeszut, Operations Manager
Jessica White, Voter Services Manager

Guests:

Dolly Kildee
Mike Subin

Audio of the meeting may be found at the link below:

https://youtu.be/YjLvpPHxb_Q (Board Meeting)

Convene the Board Meeting and Declare a Quorum Present

Mr. Shalleck called the Board Meeting to order and declared a quorum present at 11:42 a.m.

Update of Election Day Activities

Mr. Shalleck noted that the Board members have been visiting polling places all morning. He requested members share their observations.

Alan Banov said that when he visited it early on Election Day the St. Matthews Church location was very crowded and that a door separating the small voting room from another room had not been opened. Ms. Jurgensen stated that two staff members were sent there to open

the expandable door in the polling place to give them more space. No one could determine why the door was not opened initially. Mr. Banov had no pending, unresolved problems at polling places. Earlier one precinct had a faulty poll book printer; another had a scanner problem.

Mr. Shalleck asked Ms. Jurgensen if there were enough scanners. She could not identify that as a problem as yet. The numbers of voters appeared to be less than the number during the Presidential General Election; lines might form because of the 3-page ballot. This implies that for the 2020 Presidential Election, more scanners will be necessary, which creates a storage problem. Ms. Keeffe indicated that with additional scanners, there will be placement/space and electrical problems in some polling places. Ms. Jurgensen also stated that some early voting centers are clearly not large enough to meet demands for the 2020 Presidential Election. In anticipation for needing more scanners for the current election, Ms. Jurgensen ordered all the scanners available in the state – all six. These scanners have been deployed to replace faulty scanners in several precincts.

Mr. Naimon asked if there had been more problems with scanners in this election. Ms. Jurgensen reported that the high humidity of the day is altering the quality of the paper and contributing to problems. Ms. McLaughlin pointed out that the 3-page ballot creates a heavier work load for scanners.

Mr. Banov reported that 2 voters claimed to have received pre-marked ballots. Mr. Karpinski looked into the issue. It appeared that a marked ballot that should have been spoiled was mixed into the stock of ballots to distribute as a result of a judge's error. Ms. Jurgensen noted that a lesson learned from early voting was that a ballot should be spoiled before the voter receives a replacement ballot. There was no time to convey this method to judges by Election Day.

Mr. Naimon reported confusion among judges about the handling of ballots when a scanner is down. He alerted some about the use of the emergency ballot compartment, advising them to offer this alternative to voters. He also reported that some voters welcome the use of the emergency ballot compartment, but others prefer to cast their own ballot. At Tilden, where there are 2 polling places, there was confusion about which polling place to go to. The biggest issue he's heard about was at Precinct 5-23, the Praisner Center, where there appears to be a large number of people in line. A scanner might be down. On social media, there is some chatter about it. Mr. Naimon believes that some of that problem has to do with people confusing early voting at Praisner with Election Day voting at Praisner when it served Precinct 5-23.

Ms. Keeffe reported no issues. She noted a police car parked at B'nai Israel. Mr. Subin suggested that more police officers were made available because of what happened in Pittsburgh. Ms. Jurgensen stated that Temple Emanuel asked for no additional officers, Temple Beth Ami is charging for an additional guard, and the JCC believed their coverage was adequate.

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Mr. Shalleck observed that the staff has done an impressive job of solving problems as they arise. Overall, he believes it is a smooth election.

Mr. Banov said there was a report that it took 3 hours to vote at St. Peter's. [Later in the meeting, there was an update to this. The chief was contacted and said that there had been an hour-long wait at the beginning, but the wait now is about 30 minutes.]

Ms. Khozeimeh reported lines, but no problems beyond some scanner issues.

Mr. Vincent reported heavy turnout, but generally a smooth election.

Mr. Shalleck asked if all polling places opened on time. It is believed they did.

Ms. Phillips reported only minor issues and lines. She was, however, troubled by the activities of the League of Women Voters, stating that neither she nor the chief judge were aware of the contract between the Board and the League designed to satisfy regulations set forth by the State Board to ensure compliance with election law and regulations. Other Board members were aware of the contract to varying degrees. Ms. Jurgensen reviewed their duties and stated that chief judges are informed during their training that the League will visit to evaluate polling precincts. Ms. Jurgensen has, in general, found their input valuable. In addition, their reports are shared with the Board. Ms. Keeffe suggested that there be a line on the visitor sign-in sheet designated for the League to lessen confusion about their role .

Ms. Jurgensen reported about the procedures employed to correct the State having dropped some voter records from the pollbook update on the Saturday before the election. This affected over 3,000 voters in Montgomery County who had asked for absentee ballots or used same day registration during early voting. The State Board's instructions were not feasible for use. The decision was made to enter the names of affected voters into pollbooks, which would force them to vote provisionally and prevent double voting. The VACs of the affected voters are to be cancelled before the pollbooks are closed. Remaining issues will be addressed during the canvass. Other counties also implemented procedures differing from those issued by the State.

Ms. Jurgensen stated this entire issue proves two things. First, the pollbooks must be retired. Second, communication from the State when problems occur must become inclusive with clear instructions. In addition, there must be a cut-off time for the State to alter established instructions, not so close to Election Day.

Ms. Phillips suggested deferring more discussion about this issue to the next meeting.

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Adjournment

Ms. Khozeimeh made a motion to adjourn. It was seconded by Ms. Phillips and passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 12:38 p.m.

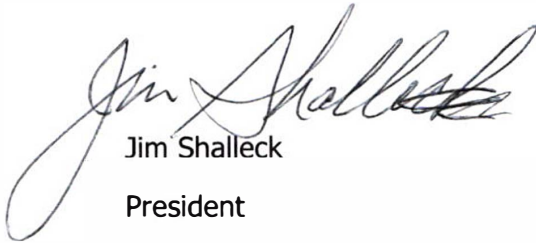
Respectfully Submitted By,



Lisa Merino

Office Services Coordinator

APPROVED BY THE BOARD:



Jim Shalleck

President