

MEDIA ADVISORY

For Immediate Release: Wednesday, December 28, 2022

MONTGOMERY COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS UNANIMOUSLY APPOINTS BORIS BRAJKOVIC AS NEW ELECTION DIRECTOR

The Montgomery County Board of Elections unanimously voted Wednesday afternoon to appoint Boris Brajkovic (pronounced “BRAI-ko-vich), as Election Director, effective January 1, 2023. The selection followed a nationwide search, interviews by the full Board with multiple experienced elections professionals, and a thorough vetting of the top candidates. Brajkovic, who currently serves as the Board’s Voter Services Manager, will succeed Alysoun McLaughlin, who has been serving as Acting Director for the past year since the retirement of former Election Director Margaret Jurgensen on January 1, 2022. McLaughlin will return to her position as Deputy Director, in which she has served since 2012.

The Montgomery County Election Director, who reports to the bipartisan seven-member Board, is responsible for the overall administration of elections in Montgomery County. The Director is responsible for choosing the staff, training election judges, issuing voter registration cards and voter notifications, giving notice of elections (including sending the sample ballots), recommending polling places and early voting centers, receiving certificates of candidacy, verifying petitions, and (in consultation with the Board) conducting the canvass of ballots.

Brajkovic joined the Board of Elections staff in 2020 as a Trainer for the Election Judge Program, conducting interactive training programs for election judges and assisting in the updating and fine-tuning of training materials, presentations, and hands-on exercises. He was promoted later in 2020 to manage the Voter Services Division, which handles voter registration and mail-in ballots, including the canvassing of ballots. He has been responsible for hiring, directing, and supervising the performance of up to 40 team members (supervisors/program specialists, office service coordinators, and temporary team members).

Prior to joining the Board of Elections staff, Brajkovic served as the National Chief of Governance Programs for the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) OSCE Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina, where he managed thirty-three team members and designed its long-term programmatic strategy focused on good governance, institutional development, civic engagement, and conflict prevention. He earlier served OSCE as Program Officer for Governance and Local Economic Development and as Project Manager for Citizens Participation.

“I am pleased that the Board unanimously chose Boris Brajkovic to be the Election Director,” said Board President Nahid Khozeimeh. “Boris is a dedicated election professional who has quickly become an expert in multiple areas of our Board’s operations, while impressing Board members and his staff colleagues with his intelligence, hard work, and commitment to getting the job done.”

“Boris Brajkovic has spent his career promoting democracy and elections, and I’m thrilled that he will now be our Election Director,” Board Secretary David Naimon said. “Boris has impressed me with his integrity, commitment to serving the voters, interpersonal skills, focus on data, savvy, and willingness to consider change when it is warranted.”

Since Margaret Jurgensen’s retirement, Alysoun McLaughlin has been serving as the Acting Director of the Board of Elections and Information Technology Manager Janet Ross has been serving as the Acting Deputy Director. Several other staff members have served in acting positions while the Director position remained vacant. “The Board thanks Alysoun, Janet and the entire staff for their dedicated work under difficult circumstances during the challenging 2022 election year, which included significant work to implement multiple redistricting decisions by the County, the state legislature, and the courts, a postponed primary election, a recount in the Democratic primary for County Executive, and a gubernatorial general election with the highest number of mail-in ballots in the state,” Khozeimeh and Naimon said on behalf of the full Board. “We look forward to working with Boris and the staff as the Board prepares for the 2024 election and beyond.”

For election related information, call 240-777-8500, visit www.777vote.org or the Maryland State Board of Elections’ website at <https://elections.maryland.gov>, or follow the Montgomery County Board of Elections on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram @777vote. Your Voice, Your Vote 2022!

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