

APPROVED

November 4, 2014

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

In Attendance:

Board Members:

Mary Ann Keeffe, President
Donice Jeter, Vice President
Graciela Rivera-Oven
Nahid Khozeimeh
Jacqueline Phillips
David Naimon

Board Attorney:

Kevin Karpinski

Staff:

Margaret Jurgensen, Election Director
Alysoun McLaughlin, Deputy Election Director
Lisa Merino, Office Services Coordinator
Marjorie Roher, Management and Budget Specialist III

Convene the Board Meeting and Declare a Quorum Present

Ms. Keeffe called the Board Meeting to order and declared a quorum present at 11:40 a.m.

Selection of Polling Place

The Board members randomly picked seven precincts from a basket to be audited prior to certification. The selected precincts will be in possession of the Board Attorney and revealed at 8:00 p.m.

Election of Officers for the Board of Canvassers

Mr. Karpinski asked that the Board appoint a Chair and Secretary for the Board of Canvassers. Ms. Khozeimeh made a motion to appoint Ms. Keeffe, Board President, as Chair of the Board of Canvassers. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Rivera-Oven and passed unanimously. Ms. Phillips made a motion that Mrs. Khozeimeh serve as Secretary of the Board of Canvassers until Mrs. Dacek returns. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Jeter and passed unanimously.

Update on Election Day Activities

Ms. Keeffe asked that staff update the Board with any concerns or issues they are aware of. Ms. Jurgensen reported that all polling places opened on time. She stated that one report of "vote flipping" was received; the Chief Judges closed down the touch screen unit to prevent any further issues. Ms. Jurgensen reported that, due to staff error, a candidate from the House of Delegates, District 16, was left off the laminated (not required by State) sample ballot. All laminated ballots have been pulled from every polling place. Ms. Keeffe stated that she came across a poll worker who was very upset with the missing candidate. Ms. Keeffe could confidently say to the poll worker that all of the laminated sample ballots were in the process of being pulled from the affected precincts as she saw them being pulled as she visited a polling place.

Mr. Naimon inquired further about "vote flipping." Ms. Jurgensen stated that the only one report came in from Wootton High School. "Vote flipping" is described as when a voter has selected one candidate but the "x" appears for the candidate right above or below their selection – the "vote flipping" is attributed to either the voter inaccurately selecting the box for their selected candidate or a calibration issue. The solution for this issue is to deselect the incorrect candidate and select their choice again as well as to verify the summary page at the end of the ballot prior to pressing "cast ballot."

Mrs. Khozeimeh stated she came across two gentlemen at Potomac Elementary who stated they experienced "vote flipping;" however, they did not tell the Chief Judge about the issue. They were able to resolve the issue themselves prior to casting their ballot.

Ms. McLaughlin noted that an estimated 900 calls have been received by the Call Center, some of which were judges expressing concern with how to handle voters' concerns with "vote flipping." Mr. Naimon asked how many calls were received indicating actual experiences of "vote flipping" vs rumors/concerns. Ms. Keeffe stated that voters may be sensitized due to the media reports. Mrs. Jeter asked that staff provide the Board with the number of calls received. Ms. McLaughlin agreed to provide the information.

Ms. Rivera-Oven stated that the Chief Judge at Clarksburg Elementary was told that if a polling place needed stylus pens for voters they would be provided. She inquired what the protocol is to request a stylus for their polling place. Another Chief Judge was told to use the pencils provided for Provisionals; however, the pencils have no erasers that can be used on a touch screen unit.