



Frederick County Board of Elections

8490 Progress Drive, Frederick, Maryland 21701
FrederickCountyMD.gov/elections

301-600-VOTE (8683)
ElectionBoard@FrederickCountyMD.gov



MINUTES of the February 7, 2024, Meeting of The Frederick County Board of Elections

The meeting was called to order at 2:00 pm, in person and virtually, by Board President Mary Costello.

PRESENT:

Mary Costello, President	Jim Filson, League of Women Voters
Nathaniel C.W. Wilson, Vice President	Patti Worsley, self
Shirley McDonald, Secretary	Mary E. Miller, self
Michael Sowell, Board Member	John Charles Miller, self
Ted Neeves, Board Member	Jay Kaminsky, self
Daniel B. Loftus, Board Counsel [WebEx]	Jean Ann Struharik, self
Barbara Wagner, Director	Winston Eugene Mann, self
Anthony Gutierrez, Deputy Director	Scott Beard, self
Thomas Coogan, Election Program Manager	William Woodcock, self
Shakir Satterfield, Voting Operations Supervisor	Fred Propheter, self
Diane Zepp, Voter Registration	Stephen Slater, self
Brian Blakesley, Election Program Assistant I	
Via WebEx:	
M. C. Keegan Ayers, County Executive [WebEx]	
Shelley Aloi, Republican Central Committee [WebEx]	
Mari Lee, Democratic Central Committee [WebEx]	

ADDITIONS/CHANGES TO THE AGENDA

Mr. Gutierrez requested 2 items be added under New Business: Administration of Employee Oath and Annual State Ethics Commission Filing. Ms. Wagner stated that Ms. Lee will be taken off the agenda for Public Comment.

APPROVAL OF BOARD MINUTES

Mr. Sowell made a motion to approve and accept the January 3, 2024, meeting minutes. Mr. Neeves seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

COUNCIL LIASON COMMENTS

N/A

BOARD COUNSEL REPORT

Mr. Loftus reported that the plaintiffs in Gibson case have requested oral arguments before the 4th Circuit Court. No decision yet.

Mr. Loftus reported that on Monday the Maryland Supreme Court asked the parties in Harvey v. DeMarinis to participate in mediation and return on Feb 20 with a potential resolution.

ELECTION DIRECTOR REPORT

1. Announcements and Important Meetings

The Director and Program Manager met with the County Executive on February 5th in support of Budget Appeal requests. This is the Executive's annual budget meeting with Division Directors.

2. Voter Registration

VOTER REGISTRATION STATISTICS REPORT As of 2/7/2024

<u>TOTAL ACTIVE + PENDING:</u>		<u>200,352</u>		
<u>PARTY</u>	<u>ACTIVE</u>	<u>PENDING</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>PERCENT</u>
DEM	77,502	21	77,523	38.69%
REP	67,656	7	67,663	33.77%
LIB	1,222	0	1,222	0.61%
UNA	52,181	23	52,204	26.06%
OTHERS - TOTAL	1,738	2	1,740	0.87%
<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>200,299</u>	<u>53</u>	<u>200,352</u>	<u>100.00%</u>

VOTER REGISTRATION TRANSACTIONS REPORT 02/2024

Additions to County Registration	1233
Subtractions from County Active Status	1188
Party Affiliation Changes	566
Address Changes within Jurisdiction	1061
Name Changes	1196

- Pending status – identification has not been able to be verified by either MVA or the Social Security Administration.

CURRENT PENDING VOTERS
As of 2/7/2024

Reason	Number
ID Not Provided	8
ID Not Verified	43
Incomplete Application	2
TOTAL	53

3. General and Continuing Items - None

4. Voting Systems Division

Statewide inventory has begun and will continue through June 30. Warehouse staff will be working throughout the warehouse and offices to audit all state-owned equipment.

Post-election maintenance has been completed and preparation for the beginning of Logic & Accuracy testing is underway. This task will begin in late March.

5. Voter Registration Division

Eric all four report- Completed.

January Comprehensive Audit Report – Completed

DHMH List - Completed.

AOC List - Completed.

We received 2,813 Mail in applications in the mail and another 2,572 online applications. Out of those, we have processed 2,485 online applications and 522 applications mailed to us.

6. Election Judge Division

Election Director and her staff addressed the LYNX program at Frederick High School on January 29th. Twenty students gained first-hand experience checking voters in, using the Ballot Marking Device, and casting their ballots into the Ballot Scanner. A number of these students have applied to become election judges.

Voting Operations Judge training begins on February 20.

877 Election Judges recruited as of 2/6.

Election Judge Training Signup opened January 16

County will continue to provide support for the Election Judge Recruitment program by allowing county workers 12 hours of paid time off for training and working at the polls on Election Day.

7. Social Media and Website Content

The Plan to Vote and 2024 Election pages have been updated and include information about the approved early voting sites, ballot drop box sites, and the 2024 polling place assignments.

Work has begun on “Election Judge Central” section of the website for 2024. This update will better organize information and bring the pages into alignment with the overall look and feel of the Board of Elections pages.

8. MD Voters/Special Projects

Districts/Precincts/Street Files - Completed

Assignment of Election Judges to polling places in MD Voters

Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) each division is tasked with going over current procedures and writing or re-writing them to a standard which can be given to any incoming employee to assist with training.

OLD BUSINESS

A. Budget

Tom Coogan explained the calendar of events to the board for the 2025 budget process.

NEW BUSINESS

A. No Labels Maryland

Enough valid signatures were turned in on a petition to create a new party called “No Labels”.

B. Legislative Update

Mr. Gutierrez reported on several election-related bills which the office is monitoring, including:

- Requiring special elections for vacancies in senate and delegate offices
- Allowing Unaffiliated voters to chose a party at an Early Voting Center
- Requiring canvass boards to review the original ballot prior to counting a duplicated one
- Lowering the age of voting to 15 years, 9 months to mirror the provisional driving age
- Election official security act which creates new crimes for harassing election officials, family
- Voter ID and signature verification bills

- Requiring post-election Risk Limiting Audits
- Requiring other language voting materials, which would include Frederick County
- Curbside voting
- Making Orphans' Court contests non-partisan
- Limiting someone to only provide voting assistance to maximum of 3 voters
- Requiring a method for ADA disabled voters to return an electronic ballot
- MD Voting Rights Act Of 2024
- Removing members of boards for misconduct, incompetence, other good cause

C. Swearing-In of the Board of Canvassers prior to the March meeting

The Clerk of the Circuit Court is scheduled to be here at 1:45 pm on Wed, March 6 to swear-in the members of the 2024 Primary Board of Canvassers and their counsel.

D. Annual State Ethics Filing

Reminder that board members are required to file an annual State Board of Ethics Financial Disclosure statement by April 30. For more information, please go to their website.

E. New Employee Oath

Election Program Assistant I Masa Richard was sworn in by Ms. Costello.

DISCLOSURES

Ms. McDonald attended an event for Andrea Chambler, Howard County BOE candidate and widow of Capital Gazette Report. She also donated to the Frederick County Central Committee.

Ms. Costello donated to the Biden/Harris campaign.

NEXT MEETING

The Board scheduled the next meeting for Wednesday, March 6, 2024, at 2:00 pm at 8490 Progress Drive.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Per the board's by-laws, public comment is allowed after the request has been approved by the Board President.

Winston Mann

Jay Kaminsky

Scott Beard

Jean Ann Sturharik

ADJOURNMENT

The motion to close was made by Mr. Wilson, seconded by Mr. Neeves, and passed unanimously. The meeting was called to a close at 2:41 pm by Ms. Costello.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

On February 7, 2024, at 2:43 The Frederick County Board of Elections met in Executive Session following the July Board meeting in the conference room at 8490 Progress Dr. Frederick, MD. A motion to close the session was made by Mr. Neeves and seconded by Mr. Wilson, the vote was unanimous. The meeting was held to approve the minutes of the January 3 meeting, handle a personnel issue. This action was in accordance with the authority granted under the Annotated Code of Maryland, General Provisions Article, Sections §3-305 The session discussions pertained to the following subsections under this provision:

This action was in accordance with the authority granted under the Annotated Code of Maryland, General Provisions Article, Section §3-305. The session discussions pertained to the following subsections under this provision:

§3-305(b)(7) to consult with counsel to obtain legal advice.

§3-305 (b)(1) to discuss the appointment, resignation, or performance evaluation of appointees, employees, or officials over whom this body has jurisdiction; any other personnel matter that affects one or more specific individuals.

Mary Costello, President, present

Nathaniel C.W. Wilson, Vice President, present

Shirley McDonald, Secretary, present

Ted Neeves, Board Member, present

Michael Sowell, Board Member, present

Daniel B. Loftus, Board Counsel, present

During the executive session, there was only one action taken by the Board. The motion to pass the minutes of the January 3 meeting, was made by Mr. Willson and seconded by Mr. Neeves. The vote was unanimous.

Motion made at 3:18 pm by Mr. Neeves, seconded by Mr. Sowell for adjournment, vote was unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Shirley McDonald

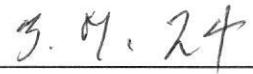
Secretary

Respectfully submitted by Diane Zepp, Election Program Assistant II

Approved by:



Mary Costello, Board President



Date