



Frederick County Board of Elections

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

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MINUTES of the May 1, 2024, Meeting of The Frederick County Board of Elections

The meeting was called to order at 2:04 pm, in person and virtually, by Board President Mary Costello.

PRESENT:

Mary Costello, President	M. C. Keegan Ayers, County Executive [WebEx]
Nathaniel C.W. Wilson, Vice President	Mari Lee, FC Democratic Party [WebEx]
Shirley McDonald, Secretary	Jay Kaminsky, self
Michael Sowell, Board Member	Patti Worsley, self
Ted Neeves, Board Member	Scott Beard, self
Daniel B. Loftus, Board Counsel	Michael Bunitsky, League of Women Voters
Marc Welch, Election Program Supervisor I	Shelley Aloj, Republican Central Committee
Diane Zepp, Voter Registration	

ADDITIONS/CHANGES TO THE AGENDA

No changes were made to the agenda.

APPROVAL OF BOARD MINUTES

Mr. Wilson made a motion to approve the April 10, 2024, meeting minutes. Ms. McDonald seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

COUNCIL LIAISON COMMENTS

The County Executive will be having a Public Meeting next Tuesday at 7pm regarding FY25 budget.

BOARD COUNSEL REPORT

Mr. Loftus reported no update on the Gibson case. No update on the Sullivan case. In the Maryland Election Integrity federal case, waiting to hear about the injunction.

ELECTIONS DIRECTOR'S REPORT

May 2024

1. Announcements and Important Meetings

- a. Early Voting begins tomorrow 5/2.
- b. Deadline to request ballot to be sent by mail is next Tuesday 5/7.
- c. Deadline to request ballot to be sent via internet is Friday 5/10.

d. Election Day is in less than 2 weeks – Tuesday 5/14.

2. Voter Registration

VOTER REGISTRATION STATISTICS REPORT

As of
5/1/2024

TOTAL ACTIVE + PENDING:		202,084	-	-
<u>PARTY</u>	<u>ACTIVE</u>	<u>PENDING</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>PERCENT</u>
DEM	77,897	15	77,912	38.55%
REP	68,179	8	68,187	33.74%
LIB	1,258	0	1,258	0.62%
UNA	52,926	26	52,952	26.20%
OTHERS - TOTAL	1,773	2	1,775	0.88%
TOTAL	202,033	51	202,084	100.00%

VOTER REGISTRATION TRANSACTIONS REPORT

May 2024

Additions to County Registration	1029
Subtractions from County Active Status	495
Party Affiliation Changes	765
Address Changes within Jurisdiction	665
Name Changes	1403

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

CURRENT PENDING VOTERS

As of 5/1/2024

<u>Reason</u>	<u>Number</u>
Conformation Mail process	1
ID Not Provided	5
ID Not Verified	41
Incomplete Application	4
TOTAL	51

3. General and Continuing Items – See State Board Election Calendar

4. Voting Systems Division

Voting machine logic and accuracy has been completed and reviewed by the State Board of Elections staff.

Statewide inventory is currently in progress and will continue through June 30.

Warehouse staff will be working throughout the warehouse and offices to audit all state-

owed equipment. **Current Status – 98.81%**

5. Voter Registration Division

April - Comprehensive Audit Report – Completed

DHMH List - Completed.

AOC List - Completed.

Jury List – Completed.

Election Prep work.

Total Mail-in Ballot requests for the Primary is 29,605 of those 8,295 have been returned to our office.

6. Election Judge Division

861 Election Judges assigned to training.

763 Election Judges trained.

7. Network and IT Support Division

Final preparations for the Mail Processing Unit are complete and the system is ready to begin processing received mail.

8. MD Voters/Special Projects

880 Judges assigned to Election Day as of May 1.

50 Polling Places are fully assigned as of May 1.

All Early Voting sites are fully staffed.

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

None.

NEW BUSINESS

Board Secretary Shirley McDonald presented the following items to consider for the upcoming MIB Canvass on Thu, May 16:

The bi-partisan Canvass teams may accept a printed name in place of a signature for the oath without sending the ballot to the Board of Canvassers for review.

The Judges may duplicate ballots without sending to the Board of Canvassers for review if:

1. There are tea, coffee, or food stains on a ballot.
2. The ballot was marked in pencil or with ink other than blue or black, including markers.
3. A voter marked a ballot with an x, check mark, underlined or crossed out candidate name, circled candidate name – instead of bubbling as long as the bi-partisan team can agree on voter intent. If they do not, it goes to the Board of Canvassers for review.
4. If a voter used an ink that bled thru the ballot, leaving marks on both sides of ballot.
5. If there are stray marks on ballot.

Ms. McDonald made a motion to allow bi-partisan teams, if they agree, and provides notification to the board that the duplication process is underway. Mr. Sowell seconded her motion for items 1, 2 and 4 above. After discussion, the motion passed unanimously for items #1, 2 and 4.

Items #3 and 5 did not pass because they were too vague.

Ms. McDonald made a motion to allow a printed name on envelope as a signature as long as it agrees with the name on the envelope. Mr. Sowell seconded the motion; the motion passed unanimously.

Board Attorney Loftus thanked the Board for working together as a team.

Board President Mary Costello announced that the Board will go in pairs to do evaluations at the 4 Early Voting Centers. Teams were handed the evaluation forms.

DISCLOSURES

Ms. Costello and Mr. Sowell attended the Democratic Gala and provided a donation. Ms. McDonald donated \$83 to the Frederick County Democratic Central Committee.

NEXT MEETING

The Board scheduled the next meeting for Wednesday, June 5, 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. and

Jay Kaminsky and Patti Worsley spoke during the public comment period.

ADJOURNMENT

The motion to adjourn and move into a "closed session" to discuss personnel issues and to consult with Board Counsel was made by Ted Neeves seconded by Mr. Sowell and passed unanimously. The meeting was called to a close at 2:58 pm by Ms. Costello.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

On May 1, 2024, at 2:30 The Frederick County Board of Elections met in Executive Session following the May 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 Ms. McDonald, the vote was unanimous. The meeting was held to approve the minutes of the December 6 meeting, handle a personnel issue and to seek legal guidance 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 were two actions taken by the Board. The first was to pass the minutes of the February 7 meeting, the motion to do so was made by Mr. Sowell and seconded by Mr. Wilson. The vote was unanimous. The second action was to pass the minutes of April 10 meeting, the motion was made by Mr. Sowell and seconded by Mr. Wilson. Motion passed unanimously.

Counsel signed his contract for the upcoming year.

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

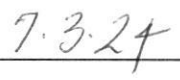
Respectfully,
Shirley McDonald

Respectfully submitted by Diane Zepp, Election Program Assistant II

Approved by:



Mary Costello, Board President



Date