

MINUTES

September 4, 2019

MEETING OF THE ALLEGANY COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS 701 Kelly Road, Room 100, Cumberland, Maryland

ATTENDEES: John Stakem, President
Timothy Donaldson, Member
John Fetchero, Member
Debbie Johnson, Member
JoAnn Spiker, Member
Diane Loibel, Election Administrator

DECLARATION OF QUORUM PRESENT:

Mr. Stakem called the meeting to order at 9:00 A.M., and stated that there was a quorum present. Mr. Donaldson arrived at 9:05 A.M.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Mr. Stakem called for alterations, corrections, and/or approval of the minutes. Mrs. Spiker motioned to accept the July 3, 2019 minutes. Ms. Johnson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

ADDITIONS:

None.

ATTORNEY'S REPORT:

None.

CORRESPONDENCE:

None.

OLD BUSINESS:

Early Voting MOU:

On July 25, 2019, The Allegany County Board of Commissioners signed the Early Voting MOU for the 2020 Presidential Primary and General Elections. This agreement allows us to have access to Room 100 for all days necessary to conduct Early Voting.

Bylaws:

On July 25, 2019, the State Board of Elections reviewed and approved the bylaws dated July 3, 2019.

Polling Place Agreements:

On July 8, 2019, the polling place agreements for the 2020 Presidential Primary and General Elections were sent out to all polling places. Agreements were due

back in the office on August 30th. Second notices will be sent out this week. To date, 29 of 36 agreements have been returned.

Ballot Marking Device Policy:

At it's June 27th board meeting, the State Board of Elections discussed the policy on using the ballot marking devices for the 2020 Elections. The motion that was passed includes:

1. During early voting, one BMD must be deployed, the local board has the discretion of sending four BMDs, and the local board must ask for approval from the State Board to send five or more BMDs.
2. On election day, one BMD must be deployed, the local board has the discretion of sending two BMDs, and the local board must ask for approval from the State Board to send three or more BMDs.
3. The minimum number of voters that must use the ballot marking device(s) is five by 1:00 pm. Changing the time will allow more time in the day to meet that requirement.
4. The statement has been changed from the check-in table to the ballot issue table. At its July 25th State Board Meeting the motion that passed states "You have two ways to mark your ballot – either by hand or with the electronic device. Which do you prefer?"

Election Judge Recruitment:

On July 9, 2019, the election judge inquiries were sent out to all judges in our database. To date, 216 judges have indicated that they are interested in working the upcoming election. 25 judges have indicated that they do not intend to return and 29 new judges have been recruited.

NEW BUSINESS:

SBE Statewide TTX:

On October 18th, the State Board will be conducting a table top exercise at the Anne Arundel County Board of Elections office. Four staff members will be participating in this exercise.

Regional Training:

On September 18th, staff will be attending a regional training session at the Frederick County Board of Elections. Training topics include ERIC, jury notice processing, and absentee ballot questions.

Universal Postal Union:

Mrs. Loibel presented all members with a copy of a reference document entitled Leave No Voter Behind by Tammy Patrick. In this document it states that if the U.S. proceeds with withdrawing from the union, the U.S. will need to negotiate individual mail rates for the 192 relationships with those countries. This will have a negative impact on our UOCAVA voters. We should know by October 17th if a withdrawal is going to happen.

Pollbook Update:

On August 27th, we received two additional pollbooks for use in the 2020 Elections. These pollbooks will be used at the Frostburg Community Center to help with checking in Provisional Voters. As you know, the college runs a bus to that polling place so that the college students can vote by provisional ballot. An update to the pollbook is needed to implement Same Day Registration at the polling places. SBE expects to have a testable version of the updated software in late summer or early fall. A statewide pollbook test is scheduled for the week of October 7th.

National Voter Registration Day:

National Voter Registration Day is Tuesday, September 24, 2019. Frostburg State University and Allegany College of MD are planning on conducting voter registration drives at their campus on this day. FSU has requested that someone from the office be on site during their drive. Mr. John Stakem and Ms. Debbie Johnson volunteered to attend the FSU drive. We will be hosting an Open House for National Voter Registration Day. Interested parties will be able to register to vote, make address/party changes, ask questions about serving as an election judge, and participate in a voting system demonstration.

Disaster Plan:

Beginning on September 24th, Mrs. Loibel will be participating in an 8-session course conducted by SBE to teach the recommended content of a disaster recovery plan and how to organize and draft the plan. Hopefully, by the end of the class, a draft version of our new disaster recovery plan will be ready for your review.

6.1.0.0 Update:

At the August 22nd director's meeting, SBE talked about some of the advantages and disadvantages of the EVS 6.1.0.0 update for the voting equipment. It is the understanding that the certification is still on track for October 31, 2019. Disadvantages include: a short timeline before the primary election causing many to question whether there is enough time to update all of the equipment. In addition, we have been told that unlike the current version, election night reporting will require us to upload ballot images, not just the text like we have done in the past. This will take a considerable amount of time election night. Ballot proofing will also increase because there will be more ballot styles to proof. Advantages include a fix to the navigation with the ballot marking device and the newer version will run on Windows 10. Our current version runs on Windows 7 which is approaching its end of life cycle. Mrs. Loibel will keep members updated once a decision has been made.

Voter Registration Volunteer Training:

All members will participate in the voter registration volunteer training class directly after the regularly scheduled board meeting.

Computer Systems and Software Security Updates:

Mrs. Loibel reports that office staff has successfully applied the Microsoft Security updates for the month of August on SBE workstations. We have also updated other third-party software applications to their latest versions on all workstations.

Registration Statistics:

Statistics as of August 31, 2019 were as follows: Total Active Registration 43,278, 13,250 Democrat, 21,904 Republican, 0 Bread & Roses, 7,420 Unaffiliated, and 704 Others.

Board Members Report:

Mr. John Fetchero disclosed a contribution of \$100.00 to Citizens to Elect Mike McKay. Mrs. JoAnn Spiker disclosed a contribution of \$25.00 to Citizens to Elect Mike McKay.

Next Meeting:

The next regular meeting will be held on October 2, 2019 at 9:00 A.M.

Adjournment:

Ms. Johnson made a motion for adjournment. Mr. Fetchero seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Mr. Stakem adjourned the meeting at 11:20 A.M.