



Anne Arundel County Board of Elections
6740 Baymeadow Drive
Glen Burnie MD 21060
April 10, 2025 9:00 AM
MINUTES

Attendance

Member	In-Person	Online	Absent
Trudy McFall, Board President	[x]	[]	[]
Robert Atkins, Board Vice President	[x]	[]	[]
Tryphena Ellis-Johnson, Board Secretary	[x]	[]	[]
Edward Evans, Board Member	[x]	[]	[]
Jason Rheinstein, Board Member	[x]	[]	[]
James Praley, Board Attorney	[x]	[]	[]
David Garreis, Director	[x]	[]	[]
Richard Siejack, Deputy Director	[x]	[]	[]

Public Attendance

Regular Board Meeting

1. **Approval of Minutes** - Ms. Ellis Johnson moved to approve the February 13, 2025 Board Meeting minutes and summary. Mr. Atkins seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously.

2. **Additions to the Agenda** -

- A. Voter List records: Mr. Garreis presented two documents to the board as requested, to see how Confidential voters show up or do not show up on a voter registration list available to the public. He shared a "fields" document that lists the information available. He shared a sample voter list from a precinct with a known confidential voter. It was shown that confidential voters do not show up at all on voter registration lists available to the public. The board discussed that State Board of Elections (SBE) should either change the regulations to be in accordance with what they are producing, or vice versa.
- B. Provisional Ballot data from 2022 and 2024 elections: Mr. Garreis shared Provisional Ballot reason code data from these elections. Approximately half were shown to be reason code 1, which is not being on the precinct register. This could be because they are not registered to vote, are out of the county/state, or in the wrong precinct/polling place within the county. Another large reason was code 4, which is having been issued a Mail in Ballot or having already voted. The board discussed the pros and cons of having all ballots available at each polling location on Election Day, similar to Early Voting, so that Provisional reason code 1 would be greatly reduced. This could lead to some places that are in a high traffic business area being overwhelmed by voters who are not going to their assigned locations. After a few elections this could show where larger locations need to be in order to facilitate higher voter turnout and eliminate underutilized locations. This could further help reduce the number of locations and our budget. This would increase the percentage of votes being counted by the close of Election Day.

Mr. Rheinstein moved to draw up a proposal for Anne Arundel County to implement a Pilot Program having all ballots available in every polling location on Election Day and sent to SBE for approval. Mr. Evans seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

- C. Future Canvassing options: Mr. Garreis has scheduled the Board to meet with Montgomery County at the Maryland Association of Elected Officials (MAEO) conference to discuss how they have implemented a tighter schedule for their Canvassing Board. They will share how they manage their batches and track their ballots.

3. Election Director's Report -

I. BUSINESS OPERATIONS -

- A. Important Meetings:
- Preliminary meeting with the County Auditor. Our FY26 budget has passed our Budget Officer, the County Executive and is now with the Auditor.
 - Kickoff meeting with University of Maryland for Mail in Ballot dropbox fire protection testing.
 - County and State OIT meetings regarding the resolution of the Cybersecurity Incident. We are now back online and fully operational.
- B. Building Improvement Plan: Received quotes for new Election Worker Offices, Mail In Ballot warehouse restrooms and security for more of our doors with additional card readers and alarms. Working on a quote for the interior security cameras. Moving the sorting machine into the newly located Mail In Ballot warehouse which will be in the back of the annex on the other side of the rolling doors. The Canvassing area will stay in the same location. Mr. Atkins requested the new layout of the annex warehouse area.
- C. Election Workers: Implementing the new Election Worker Management System with the Annapolis Election as a preliminary test. ADP accounts created for the payroll management team to streamline the payroll process, increase data integrity and quality control. Second quarterly Election Judge newsletters have gone out to maintain communication and interest in the 2026 elections. Preliminary planning for Election Worker appreciation event in August 2025 to mark the start of recruiting for the 2026 elections.

II. VOTER SERVICES -

- A. MDVOTERS access has been restored to our Baymeadow Drive network. Voter Registration backlog from the 2024 General Election has been completed.
- B. Voter Registration by Party: Democratic: 173,259 Republican: 131,250 Green: 466 Unaffiliated: 107,395 Others: 6,935 TOTAL: 419,305

III. ELECTION OPERATIONS -

Archiving 2024 voted ballots almost finished. Ordering 191 CMOS batteries for current Electronic Pollbooks. Precinct being renamed as 04-025 to accommodate new construction in a previously uninhabited section of Fort Meade area. Finalization of Annapolis redistricting process.

4. **Board Attorney's Report** - SBE has taken over a portion of the municipal election process with the passing of HB 322 in the last legislative session. There is a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) now between SBE municipalities, which in Anne Arundel County is Annapolis. SBE came out with their questionnaire this week. We filled it out and sent it to the City of Annapolis so they can start the process of their MOU with SBE. We will modify our MOU with Annapolis to address what we will supply them.

5. Old Business -

- A. Annapolis Redistricting: The Board discussed the Naval Academy county districting which is separate from the city. Ms. McFall moved to approve the City of Annapolis Redistricting effective for the 2025 Municipal Election. Mr. Atkins seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
- B. 2025 Legislative Update:
 - HB412 - Requires live streaming of Board Meetings and a 5 year retention period. Canvass streaming is not required.
 - HB426 - Risk limiting audits begin statewide in 2026 which will be conducted after the Primary and General elections before State certification of election results. This replaces our manual audit process which has been done after certification.
 - HB322 - Municipalities will enter into an MOU with SBE Administrator for municipal elections. As already discussed, this will impact the 2025 Annapolis election.
 - SB308 - Allows Local Board of Elections (LBE) to assign unaffiliated Chief Judges.
 - SB259 - Comprehensive Election Plan is required to be approved by the LBE and submitted to the State Administrator 7 months before Election Day. This consolidates our previously submitted 3 election plans for dropboxes, polling places and early voting sights. We will post this plan on our website and publish a press release.
 - HB945 - Gubernatorial Primary Election Day has been moved forward to June 23, 2026.

6. New Business -

- A. Rename Precinct: "Ghost" precinct 04-099 which was previously uninhabited to be changed to precinct 04-025 as rezoning and housing has happened in this area. There are 3 current registered voters here. Potential polling place will be consolidated with another precinct at one of the nearby schools. Mr. Rheinstein moved to approve renaming precinct 04-099 to 04-025. Ms. Ellis-Johnson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
- B. Executive Order and SBE Press Release: Executive Order "Preserving and Protecting the Integrity of American Elections" was given on 3/25/25. SBE issued a Press Release "Statement from Jared DeMarinis, Maryland State Board of Elections Administrator, Regarding ..." on 3/26/25. The State of Maryland has entered into a lawsuit with 19 other states questioning this order. The Board questioned what we receive in Federal funding for elections. Mr. Garreis stated SBE receives and administers federal grant money and provides funds to the LBE's as needed or purchases items on the state level and supplies to LBE's.
- C. 2025 SBE Biennial and MAEO Conference reminder: Mandatory State Biennial May 4th & 5th. MAEO Conference May 6th through 9th. The Grand 2100 Baltimore Avenue, Ocean City, Maryland. Conference Theme: Building Relationships; Building Trust.
- D. Financial Disclosure reminder: Disclosures must be submitted by April 20th.

7. Disclosures - No disclosures.

8. Closed Session - No closed session.

9. Adjournment - Mr. Rheinstein made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Ellis-Johnson seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 10:40 AM. The next meeting will be held on May 15, 2025 at 9:00 AM beginning with an Election Director Evaluation Closed Session.

Respectfully submitted,

Kim Durrant, Recording Secretary

Approved:

Board Member

Board Member

Cc: State Board of Elections
Board Members
County Executive
County Council Members
County State Delegation
Budget Office