



Anne Arundel County Board of Elections  
6740 Baymeadow Drive  
Glen Burnie MD 21060  
March 13, 2025 9:00 AM  
**MINUTES**

**Attendance**

| <b>Member</b>                           | <b>In-Person</b> | <b>Online</b> | <b>Absent</b> |
|---|------------------|---------------|---------------|
| 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** - Mr. Garreis presented to the Board a Confidential Voter record to show what information is redacted and kept confidential. The birthdate, age and address information is all that is kept hidden. Mr. Rheinstein pointed out that the public information for confidential voters may be different than what the staff can see in MDVOTERS. He suggested that we run an export of our confidential voters to see what information is given. Mr. Garreis said he will check to see if we can do that or if we need to see with the next confidential voter request. Mr. Rheinstein said that he believes party affiliation is kept hidden or the voter may even be completely hidden from the public which goes against SBE's regulations. Mr. Garreis said we can verify this information with SBE and contact the Voter Registration Director.
- 3. Election Director's Report -**
  - 1. CYBERSECURITY INCIDENT UPDATE** - On Sunday, February 23, 2025 Anne Arundel County notified us of a Cyber Incident that affected all of the county agencies with loss of network and internet access. Specific details related to the incident are unavailable from the County Office of Information Technology at this time. We notified SBE immediately and they disabled our connections to MDVOTERS and statewide networks. We are rotating Voter Registration and Vote-By Mail staff who are going to SBE and handling registration processes there. SBE is processing our Candidate Filing which opened up February 25th. So far there have been two filings for Anne Arundel County. We shifted some staff to help the Election Operation Department with Post Election Maintenance which has now been completed. The county is allowing us to log back into our computers, on their network and online in phases to ensure safety at each stage.

## **II. BUSINESS OPERATIONS -**

- A. Important Meetings: County Executive Budget Review will be discussed in depth later. Ms. McFall attended and shared the Board's enthusiasm and cooperation with each other.
- B. Purchasing: We are seeking vendors to economize our dropbox surveillance cameras that will work with us in not having to go through the purchasing process or possibly not having to use a vendor.
- C. Building Improvement Plan: We will be adding additional ID card scanners and alarms to a few interior and exterior doors as well as interior cameras for additional security. Construction projects including restrooms in the Mail-In Ballot warehouse and offices in the 2nd floor Election Worker Department.
- D. Election Workers: Plan to implement a new Election Worker Management program upon resolution of the cyber security incident. We are hoping to improve the functionality within MDvoters, scheduling training classes and payroll for our Election Judges.

Ms McFall would like to address how the Board can be more efficient with the time during canvassing so that there would not be so much down time during these lengthy days. Mr. Garreis said it is possible to schedule a specific period during the canvassing day for referrals. We could announce to the public that the board will be reviewing referrals between certain times each canvassing day. The whole canvassing board or quorum would need to attend during those times. Mr. Praley said some counties do this and the law is a majority of the Board of Canvassers need to preside at the Canvass at all times while the quorum can be there for referrals.

## **III. VOTER SERVICES -**

- A. MDVOTERS access has been turned off to our building. Our team has been going to the State Board of Elections building to process. Candidate Filing is being handled directly by SBE until operations are accessible again in our building. Our Multi-status voter report is pending until we can access MDVOTERS again within our building.
- B. Voter Registration by Party - Democratic: 173,564 Republican: 131,403 Green: 455 Unaffiliated: 106,911 Others: 7,035 TOTAL: 419,368

## **IV. ELECTION OPERATIONS -**

Completed Post Election Maintenance with the help of all Departments. Archiving 2024 voted ballots is ongoing. We hold Voter Authority Cards (VACs) for 36 months and ballots for 24 months at the Iron Mountain facility. Completed the annual state asset inventory 100% and everything has been located.

- 4. **Board Attorney's Report** - Mr. Praley explained we have been working on the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for the City of Annapolis elections and waiting for a year on SBE to send us their updated Municipal Elections Responsibilities with their schedule, what they will provide the municipality for an election and their prices. SBE has now submitted a Legislative Bill saying any municipality using our voting system has to submit an MOU directly with them. The Bill was introduced as emergency legislation and is pending. If passed it will become law on April 8th. In the meantime we have been instructed by SBE not to enter into any memorandum with a municipality. We have notified the City of Annapolis and have not heard back. SBE is preparing a questionnaire that we can send to the municipality to be submitted and approved by the State Board Election Administrator. In the past we have not charged the city for use of our equipment. Under the current law it says any money received would have gone to the county because the county funds our local board of election's budget. The new bill states that the State will receive the money and it will go into the Campaign Finance Fund. However, we still would

be preparing the equipment and various other responsibilities as previously performed. We need to keep asking SBE for their questionnaire. The City may want to reach out to their Senator and Representatives as well. It was discussed that the reason for this action by SBE may be that the election process has become more centralized over the years and may possibly eventually be run entirely by the State. Ms. McFall would like to see it discussed at the MAEO conference the true roles of the local boards.

## 5. Old Business -

### I. **FY 26 Budget:**

- A. We had a meeting with the County Executive and our County Budget Officer on March 10th. It was attended by our Board President Ms. Mcfall, Director Mr. Garreis and Deputy Director Mr. Siejack. Our FY26 Base Budget requested was \$6,953,100.00. The County's recommended budget is \$6,881,900.00. This will cover the Gubernatorial Primary Election. This is with a cut to polling places and election judges. We are working on eliminating most of the private polling locations. There is another bill coming through the legislature that, if passed, will make it easier to consolidate locations. Currently there is a waiver process to reduce the number of polling places. Mr. Praley suggested we apply for this waiver as soon as possible as we are cutting our budget based on that assumption.
- B. June 30, 2026 Gubernatorial Primary Election (GP26) Overview: Early Voting will be June 18th through June 25th. There is pending legislation which may change Election Day to June 23rd, 2026. We will have 9 voting days and 7 canvassing days (3 Pre and 4 Post Election Day).
- C. Our staff organizational chart was shared with 26 current State Employees and 1 vacancy. We will be reducing our seasonal staff by 50% to about 48 hires for the GP26 elections.
- D. The voter turnout was compared between 2022 and 2024 with the biggest differences being in Early Voting 62,734 more and Vote by Mail 23,919 more in 2024. Election Day votes were almost the same. The total difference is 93,770 more votes in 2024. The Presidential Elections usually have more turnout than the Gubernatorial Elections. These numbers show that consolidating our polling places would work well for having to service approximately 120,000 voters. 152 polling places would probably be overkill.

### II. **Annapolis Redistricting:** The City of Annapolis finalized changes to ward boundaries, effective for the 2025 Municipal Election. We have updated our precinct descriptions, the maps and conversion charts. These can all be found on the Board of Elections website. Final approval will be at our April Board Meeting pending preliminary approval at today's March Board Meeting. This redistricting will have the City and County boundaries coinciding with each other. This will make it easier to administer the municipal elections. If the City moves their elections to the State's ballots it will make that process much simpler. Mr. Rheinstein suggested making the Naval Academy its own precinct since they are not a City jurisdiction. Dan Oltman, Voter Services Manager explained that the Naval Academy has a sub precinct boundary split in our system. When someone makes a voter list request for the City, they will not see the Naval Academy voters listed. If we split and make the Naval Academy their own precinct(s), this will create additional ballot styles for Election Judges and Canvassers to process.

Ms. McFall made a motion for preliminary approval of Annapolis redistricting wards and precincts as presented. Mr. Evans seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

### III. **Legislative Update:**

- A. HB 412 - Requires live streaming of Board Meetings. Canvass streaming not required/ amended. Mr. Evans attended to speak as a Board member and Canvass Board President. Right before he went to speak the Senator proposing the Bill said to the side that the Canvass streaming part of the bill had been taken out/amended. However it hasn't been amended online yet. He stated it is scary that it passed the House with the Canvass streaming language apparently still in it. Ms. McFall asked if a camera would see the same thing that the public who attends the canvass sees in person. Mr. Garreis stated that the attending public sign a non-disclosure agreement that the online viewers would not be able to. Mr. Evans said the cautionary part of livestreaming is the position of the camera. Initially he wasn't worried about it, understanding the stream would not take place over a Canvasser's or Board Member's shoulder, but on camera there is a possibility to pause and zoom in to see a ballot/envelope. Ms. McFall stated there is already tension in the Canvassing room and a camera could further exacerbate people's anxiety working the election in this day and age along with possibly being able to decipher what the ballot says. Mr. Siejack said he will pull up the history and current form of the bill as of today on the General Assembly's website and email it to the Board.
- B. HB 317 - Curbside Voting is a pilot program and is in Committee. We will see how it progresses.
- C. HB 426 - Risk Limiting Audits is likely to be implemented in 2026 statewide. This will replace our current manual audit process and will be conducted earlier before the state certification of Election results.
- D. HB 322 - SBE Administrator to enter into MOU with Municipal Corporation for municipal elections. Will likely impact the 2025 Annapolis election.
- E. SB 308 - Allowing unaffiliated Chief Judges is in Committee and hasn't gone very far.
- F. SB 259 - Removes requirement for 2018 Polling Place total. It requires a polling place plan to be submitted 7 months before Primary Election Day.
- G. HB 945 - Updates the date of the Primary Election to June 23 and requires certification on or about July 6th to avoid the July 4th holiday.

Mr. Evans addressed the idea of having all ballot styles available at the polling places in case a voter goes to a precinct that is not theirs, they will not be limited in their votes. He related that in the Legislative hearing he attended, testimony from the Senator who put forth the bill about the livestream stated to the Board that the Provisional Ballots are just for show to appease the voter. She stated that none of it counts and dramatically emphasized what happens to their ballot as she ripped a paper in half. This information is false and the provisional election judges explain to the voters what will happen with their votes. Whether races on the provisional ballot will be counted in full, in part or not at all because of their jurisdiction. If we are able to have all ballot styles available this could drastically reduce provisionals. Mr. Garreis stated this would need to be approved by SBE. Mr. Evans asked would that require the Board to send a request to SBE to make this change throughout the whole state? Mr. Garreis said the Board would need to start with a letter of proposal to the State Administrator and when they would want to implement it. They may want to tie in some of the Legislators that they are friendly with. Mr. Rheinstein's proposal is assuming that we have networked all of the pollbooks on Election Day, we could use the ballot marking devices for a ballot on demand if someone walks into the wrong precinct and is not willing to go to the correct polling place. Mr. Praley wants us to take into account the number of people that this would be serving by knowing how many of these types of provisionals we have had in the past. Some provisionals are because they are not registered, have moved, etc.

When we collect the data, we can show the amount affected if this process becomes available. Also state that with these numbers we can show how many more ballots will then be counted election day. Propose it as a Pilot Program with all of the steps for our County to show that we can better serve the voter, expedite the results and reduce the back end work and canvassing backlog in processing provisional ballots. Mr. Garreis said we could do our research to figure out what the impact would be based on our 2024 numbers if we implement something like this. We can draft a document that the Board could approve in April and send to the State Administrator.

Ms. McFall asked since the Independent voters in the County are right up there in number with the Democratic and Republican voters, has there been any talk how they can be included in the Primary Elections? Mr. Rheinstein stated that it is the Party's decision. At one time the Republican party did open up their Primary Election to Independent voters. He doesn't recall the Democratic Party ever doing this. Ms. McFall said if the State decides to run an Open Primary it wouldn't be an individual Party decision. She feels the tax payers are paying for these elections but everybody doesn't get to vote in the Primary.

**IV. 2025 SBE Biennial Meeting & MAEO Conference:**

The mandatory State Biennial will be held May 4th & 5th. If a board member cannot attend, a written notice is required to be sent to the State Administrator. The Maryland Association of Election Officials (MAEO) Conference will be held May 6th through the 9th. The Conference Theme will be Building Relationships; Building Trust. Both the meeting and conference will be at the Grand Hotel in Ocean City.

- 6. New Business** - As a reminder, Financial Disclosure Statements must be submitted by April 30th at [efds.ethics.maryland.gov](https://efds.ethics.maryland.gov).
- 7. Disclosures** - Mrs. McFall donated \$100.00 to moveon. Mr. Atkins purchased a ticket to the Lincoln/Reagan dinner. Mr. Rheinstein will be purchasing a ticket to the Lincoln/Reagan dinner as well.
- 8. Closed Session** - No closed session.
- 9. Adjournment** - Mr. Rheinstein made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Evans seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 11:14 AM. The next meeting will be held on April 10, 2025 at 9:00 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

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Kim Durrant, Recording Secretary

Approved:

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Board Member

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Board Member

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