



Frederick County Board of Elections

340A Montevue Lane, Frederick, Maryland 21702
FrederickCountyMD.gov/elections

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



MINUTES of the May 22, 2020 Meeting of The Frederick County Board of Elections

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 AM, in Room 114, and via video and teleconference by the Board President, Mrs. Mary Lou Green.

PRESENT:

Mary Lou Green, President

Shirley McDonald, Vice President

Lawrence C. Hill, Secretary

Mary Costello, Board Member

William L. Woodcock, Board Member

Daniel B. Loftus, Board Counsel

Stuart Harvey, Election Director

Noreen L. Schultz, Election Deputy Director

Christine Winer, Election Supervisor

Marc R. Welch, Election Administrative Assistant

MC Keegan-Ayer, County Council President

GUESTS:

Deborah Carter, Democratic Central Committee

Jim Filson, League of Women Voters

SWEARING IN OF BOARD OF CANVASSERS / ELECTION OF OFFICERS:

Sandra Dalton, Clerk of the Circuit Court administered the oath of office to the Board of Canvassers, and the Board Attorney.

Mrs. Costello nominated Mary Lou Green as president of the Board of Canvassers. Mr. Woodcock seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Mr. Woodcock nominated Larry Hill as secretary of the Board of Canvassers. Mrs. Costello seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

NEW EMPLOYEE:

Mr. Harvey introduced Clifton Mowell, the office's Election IT Specialist.

ADDITIONS/CHANGES:

Mr. Harvey removed the COVID-19 Update from the agenda since Dr. Brookmeyer is not available. Minutes will be reviewed at a future meeting. He added a discussion of the new drop boxes.

COUNTY COUNCIL:

Mrs. Keegan-Ayer reported that the County Council has passed the tax rate and budget.

ELECTION DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

Mr. Harvey summarized the contents of the written Election Director's report and provided copies to the Board. The Board discussed the report.

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OLD BUSINESS:

A) FY20 BUDGET

Mr. Harvey provided an update on the current budget status. He informed the Board of current expenditures. Postage costs, and supply purchases are the biggest impact to budget.

B) JUNE 2, 2020 PRIMARY ELECTION

1. ELECTION CALENDAR

Mr. Harvey updated the board on the latest revisions to the election calendar for the Primary Election. He provided the Board with an overview of the reasons for the changes and delays due to changes to the statewide pollbook database. He also discussed the transportation schedule for equipment for the vote centers.

2. TEMPORARY HELP

Mr. Harvey provided an update on the status of the temporary help.

3. BALLOT DROP BOXES

Mr. Harvey updated the Board on the status of the new ballot drop boxes. He expressed gratitude to the County Council and City of Frederick for helping with promoting the drop box locations. The drop boxes were put in place on Wednesday May 20. Through 5/21, a total of 148 ballots were received at the office drop box, 55 ballots @ Talley, and 64 ballots @ Urbana. 267 ballots total. The drop boxes are under 24-hour camera surveillance.

4. VOTE CENTERS

Preparations continue for vote center operations on 6/2. Judges were trained on Monday 5/18 and Tuesday 5/19. Staffing at the vote centers will be limited and will include 2 line managers at each location to manage any lines. Judges will be wearing masks and gloves while working and cleaning all areas of the voting locations following each voter, as well as their work areas periodically.

5. BALLOT CANVASSING

Mr. Harvey provided the Board with the State "Definition of a Vote" guide. This document provides guidance on how to review ballots, and what constitutes a vote. The Board agreed

that they will review any ballots that need examination daily at 3 pm via webex. If there are any ballots which need hands-on review that will happen in-office on June 12, the final day of the canvass. Mr. Hill expressed concerns that the Board won't be present in-person throughout the canvass period. Mr. Welch explained the cameras and webex setup. The Board discussed the canvassing plan. Mr. Harvey provided a general overview of the canvass schedule. Canvassing will begin on 5/26.

C) MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS – UPDATES

Mr. Harvey updated the Board on the just completed Myersville and Middletown municipal elections. Brunswick's election is scheduled for August. The municipality is going to determine if they will do an in-person or by-mail election.

D) 2020 MAEO CONFERENCE

The MAEO Board has tentatively scheduled the annual conference to begin August 23rd in Ocean City. The Board discussed the tentative schedule.

E) CD7 ELECTION

Mr. Harvey provided an overview of the just-completed CD7 election. He discussed undeliverable ballots, and the reasons which can cause a ballot to be undeliverable. The Board discussed the election.

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NEW BUSINESS:

A) BAG CHECK

Mr. Harvey advised the Board that staff will pack the election judge bags, as usual. Mr. Harvey and Mrs. Schultz will complete the bag check, since they will not be involved in the packing process. Mr. Harvey and Mr. Welch will assist with Monday night setup but won't be present on-site on Election Day, due to the ongoing canvass. The Board discussed the plan.

B) VOTE-BY-MAIL BALLOT DELIVERY

Mr. Harvey provided an update on the status of ballot delivery issues and what is being done to address the problems. He provided an overview of what is currently known about any delivery delays. The Board discussed the delivery issues.

C) OTHER

Mr. Woodcock discussed concerns about the party designation printed on the outgoing ballot envelope. He requested a motion to contact the State Board about these concerns. Mr. Harvey advised Mr. Woodcock to table the discussion until after Primary.