



Frederick County Board of Elections

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MINUTES of the March 3, 2021 Meeting of The Frederick County Board of Elections

The meeting was called to order at 2:02 PM, 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 Woodcock, Board Member

Daniel B. Loftus, Board Counsel

Stuart Harvey, Election Director

Noreen L. Schultz, Election Deputy Director

Clifton Mowell, Election IT Specialist

Christine Winer, Election Supervisor

Marc R. Welch, Election Program Assistant

MC Keegan-Ayer, County Council President

GUESTS:

Deborah Carter, Chair, Frederick County Democratic Central Committee

INTRODUCTION OF NEW EMPLOYEE:

Mr. Harvey introduced Blaire Johnson. Blaire joins the staff as Election Judge Coordinator and will manage the hiring and scheduling of election judges.

BOARD OF CANVASSERS:

Ms. Winer reports 2 ballots arrived too late for election. Mrs. McDonald made a motion to reject these too-late ballots. Mr. Woodcock seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Mr. Hill made a motion to accept the February 3, 2021 meeting minutes. Mrs. McDonald seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

COUNCIL:

Ms. Keegan-Ayer noted that the County Council's compensation review commission will make their recommendations in a public meeting on March 30. They are recommending a 2% COLA for the Council members, and County Executive.

The Council is moving forward on a resolution to appoint a redistricting commission by April 1, 2021.

The County Executive has set up an interactive public budget survey tool to collect public feedback.

The Board discussed the Council Liaison's report.

ELECTION DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Harvey provided a written report and gave highlights from the report. The Board discussed the report.

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OLD BUSINESS:

A. FY21 BUDGET UPDATE

Mr. Harvey gave an overview of the current budget status. He pointed out a change of terminology in one of the account strings to better reflect the usage of the account for payment of State Board invoices. He reports that SBE expects the 3Q and 4Q billing to be over \$300,000 each. Mr. Harvey has advised our budget officer of these future charges. The Board discussed the budget, and the impact of the future billings from SBE.

B. MANUAL AUDIT REPORT

Mr. Harvey updated the Board on the outcome of the Manual Tabulation Audit, and provided copy of the report to the Board. There were no differences between the manual tabulation and the machine counts.

C. MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS

Mr. Harvey updated the Board on the Middletown election. Turnout was low, but the town was pleased with the by-mail election.

D. CITY OF FREDERICK ELECTION

Mr. Harvey has met with the City election board. Due to the unavailability of the existing pollbook system, the City is exploring other options. The City is working on code and charter changes to support a vote by mail election, to include drop boxes

and limited in-person voting. Mr. Harvey will be present at the upcoming workshop with the Mayor and Board of Aldermen. Once all details are worked out, an MOU will be drafted. The Board discussed the status of the planning for the City's 2021 elections.

E. 2021 GENERAL ASSEMBLY SESSION

Mr. Harvey updated the Board on various proposed election-related legislation at the Maryland General Assembly. The Board discussed the proposed legislation.

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NEW BUSINESS:

A. REDISTRICTING

Mr. Harvey updated the Board on the status of redistricting. The process hasn't yet started at the local level and won't begin until the county's redistricting commission is in place. At the State level there was hope that the local GIS and MDVOTERS could be integrated, but due to different methodologies used, the technology isn't compatible. Staff has begun working on cleaning up the street file in MDVOTERS to flag any business addresses, or other invalid addresses. The redistricting process for congressional and legislative districts won't happen until the General Assembly approves any changes. Delays due to late-arriving census data will slow down the process. The Board discussed the upcoming redistricting process.

B. OTHER

The Board discussed the potential impacts of HR1/SR1 should it pass in Congress. It will require some changes to early voting and other aspects of Maryland's process. Maryland already has some provisions in place and there shouldn't be major impact on those.

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NEXT MEETING:

The Board agreed to hold its next meeting on April 7, 2021 at 2:00 PM via teleconference.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

At 3:00 PM, Mr. Harvey requested the Board adjourn the public meeting and proceed to Executive Session. This action is in accordance with the authority