



The Charles County Board of Elections held its regular monthly Board meeting on June 16, 2022 at 201 East Charles Street, La Plata, Maryland, 20646, at 9:00 a.m.

- I. Declaration of Quorum Present:** Craig Renner
Norman Saunders
Dorothy Duffield
Mark Hashagen
Louis Jenkins, Board Attorney
Fern Brown, *Absent*

Staff: Tracy A. Dickerson
Chris McDougal
Wade Beswick
Stephanie Ramos-Santos

Public: Lt. Donley
Cheryl Fellenz
Bernadette Smith
Adrienne Davis
Norma Jean Gibson
Rose Anne Markham

II. Additions to the Agenda: N/A

III. Old Business: N/A

IV. Approval of April 14th and April 19th Minutes: Mr. Saunders made a motion to accept the April 14th and April 19th minutes, seconded by Mr. Hashagen. Unanimously approved.

V. Election Director's Report:

- The Election Director introduced Lt. Donley to the Board. Ms. Dickerson asked Lt. Donley for guidance on security during canvassing, availability to patrol locations on election day, and availability to patrol drop boxes. She informed everyone that the drop boxes are under 24-hour video surveillance.
- Lt. Donley told the Board that there could be routine patrol checks for the drop boxes, and someone would be available for canvassing.
- Mr. Renner asked if there were any signs for the drop boxes, and Mr. Jenkins asked if there were any issues in 2020. Ms. Dickerson answered no to both questions.
- Lt. Donley recommended putting up signs about no electioneering near the drop boxes; Ms. Dickerson informed the Board she will have those signs up by Saturday.

- Ms. Dickerson informed the Board that all mail-in ballots were tentatively mailed on June 15th. Approximately 7,000 ballots were mailed out in the first batch. There have been 9,234 mail-in requests; 6,057 are permanent mail-in ballots. Ms. Dickerson informed the Board that out of those requests, 7,326 were Democrat, 1,507 were Republican, and 401 were other parties/ unaffiliated.
- Ms. Dickerson went over the polling place evaluations; she informed the Board that the ballot marking devices at the locations need to be evaluated due to the return pass. Ms. Dickerson explained the Return Pass to the Board- if the ballot marking device is inoperable, voters can wait or come back later using the pass.
- Ms. Dickerson informed the Board that they need to evaluate 25% of the precinct polling locations for the Primary Elections and new locations need to be evaluated. Barry Elementary School and the Senior Center would need to be evaluated. Ms. Dickerson informed the Board that new Chief Election Judges are to be evaluated.
- Ms. Dickerson informed the Board that at least 11 polling places will need to be evaluated for the Primary and 11 for the General. She informed the Board that St. Joseph's and Waldorf Jaycees will need to be evaluated twice, and Sacred Heart will be evaluated once.
- Ms. Dickerson informed the Board that all training has been completed, and there will be small classes for make-up and to fill vacancies. Ms. Dickerson informed the Board that the office is short 13 Chief Judges (4 Republicans, 9 Democrats). Ms. Dickerson informed the Board that she plans on moving judges with experience to those Chief positions. In addition, the office is short 6 Provisional Judges, 5 Same-Day Registration Judges, 10 Check-in Judges, and 13 Ballot/Voting Judges. She informed the Board that a handful of judges did not show up for training, and there could be judges calling out or not showing up to work on election day.
- Ms. Dickerson informed the Board that Logic & Accuracy testing starts on June 27th, the Board will be sworn in by the Clerk of the Circuit Court, Ms. Sherry Hancock, that day at 10:00 a.m. She informed the Board that the Public Demo is on July 1st at 10:00 a.m.; public notices were emailed and mailed on June 10th to the heads of the Central Committees, non-partisan local candidates, and the State Administrator for the State Board of Elections. Public notice was also posted on the website and Facebook.

VI. Board Attorney Report: N/A

VII. New Business: Ms. Bernadette Smith asked to speak to the Board. Ms. Smith informed the Board that as the President of the Republican Women of Charles County, she and many members of the community are concerned about election fraud and election integrity. Ms. Smith talked about her concerns with the voting machines, stating that Dominion has been proven to be hackable and that although Maryland uses ES&S, they are the same. Ms. Smith also stated that there have been confessions of voter fraud in other states, where they obtained voter's envelopes, collected the ballots, and then took them home and changed the votes. Ms. Smith's question to the Board is that there is no electioneering near the drop boxes, but what if a member of the public wants to monitor the box?

- Ms. Dickerson responded that someone monitoring the box could raise voter intimidation as an issue. It would also depend if the watcher is sitting at a school, a church, or any other facility where the facility doesn't want someone parked there.

- Ms. Duffield responded that there is no schedule released of when ballots are picked up for safety reasons.

Ms. Smith recommended watching 2,000 Mules, as the film shows stuffing the boxes with ballots and proof of election fraud. Ms. Duffield informed Ms. Smith that the office verifies the ballot envelope against the database and the application. Ballots are held and verified until canvass.

- Ms. Dickerson went over the mail-in ballot process, informing Ms. Smith that if a voter requests a mail-in ballot, the mail-in ballot is sent out, and the voter will send back their voted ballot. When the ballot is received, staff at the office verifies that the voter has signed the oath and verifies the signature against what is in the database. The ballots are then held until canvassing. Ms. Dickerson also informed Ms. Smith that if there is an abundance of ballots or anything that looks suspicious, the State Board of Elections will be called immediately, and everything would go over to the State's Attorney's office for investigation. Ms. Duffield informed Ms. Smith that ballots are collected two times a day once it gets closer to the election. Ms. Dickerson also informed Ms. Smith that the office submits integrity reports on the drop boxes to conduct audits.

Ms. Smith asked when ballots are counted and who counts them.

- Ms. Dickerson responded the Mail-in Ballot 1 canvass is on July 21st, the Provisional canvass on July 27th, and the Mail-in Ballot 2 canvass on the 29th, the canvass is conducted by Canvassers and is always open to the public.

Ms. Smith then asked the Board if they share concerns about voter integrity and asked the Board to use their voice and change how things are to have fair and free elections.

- Mr. Renner responded that the Board comments when appropriate and implements the law under the guidance of rules given by Legislature and the State Board of Elections.

VIII. Next Board Meeting: The next Board Meeting will be (TBD).

IX. Motion to Adjourn: Mr. Saunders made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Hashagen. Unanimously approved.

