



Cecil County Board of Elections

August 17, 2022

MINUTES

PUBLIC NOTICE OF THE MEETING

Public notice of the Board meeting was provided by displaying the meeting information and agenda on the bulletin board (wall) located in lobby of the Cecil County Administration Building, and by posting on the Election agency website and Election agency social media platforms. A copy of the agenda was made available.

Minutes of the Cecil County Board of Elections meeting held on the 17th day of August 2022 in the Perryville Room on the 2nd Floor of the Cecil County Administration Building located at 200 Chesapeake Boulevard in Elkton, Maryland. Public viewing of this meeting was available in person and by livestream. Board member attendance was in person and by livestream, as noted below.

ATTENDEES:

Kelly Sengstock	President
Nancy Simperts	Vice President
Diane Letts	Secretary
Jennifer Castellanos-Graham	Board Member (virtually)
Stephen Stiles	Board Member
Cameron Brown	Board Counsel (virtually)
Doug Walker	Director
Karen Perry	Deputy Director
Nathan Reynolds	Election IT Program Manager
Cindy Remmey	Election Program Supervisor
Mary Nelson	
Sandy Pearce	

DECLARATION OF QUORUM

The meeting was called to order by President Kelly Sengstock at 3:02 pm. Quorum was established with four (4) Board Members present in person and one (1) virtually.

AGENDA

No Changes at this time.

PRESIDENT'S REMARKS

President Kelly Sengstock welcomed everyone. She thanked election judges and the office staff for a wonderful job executing the Primary Election and noted that the General Election is just 2-1/2 months out.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Minutes of the June 15, 2022 Board meeting were provided to the Board by electronic mail prior to this meeting and copy was included in the Board folders.

MOTION: Nancy Simpers motioned to approve the Minutes of the June 15, 2022 Board meeting, as written.
SECOND: Diane Letts
ACTION: Favorable and unanimous, Motion carried

DIRECTOR'S REPORT – August 2022

The Director thanked the Board for its support and likewise offered gratitude to staff and volunteers for a smooth Primary Election

Board Folders: Agenda, August 17, 2022 Board Meeting
Board Meeting Minutes June 15, 2022
Directors' Report, August 2022
Monthly Statistics Report, June 2022
Notice of Important Dates
Updated Board Dates

Meetings, Trainings, and Important Dates:

June 16, 2022 Directors meeting by SBE
June 20, 2022 Juneteenth Observance, Office Closed
June 21, 2022 Supply verification 3pm
June 23, 2022 Begin L&A of voting systems
June 23, 2022 Directors meeting by SBE
June 25, 2022 Open House for Election Judges 9am-12pm
June 28, 2022 Public Demonstration of L&A records 10 am
June 28, 2022 Close of voter registration 5 pm
June 30, 2022 Directors meeting by SBE & Election Security briefing
July 4, 2022 Independence Day Office Closed?
July 5, 2022 L&A Testing of pollbooks
July 7, 2022 First Day of Early Voting
July 14, 2022 Last Day of Early Voting
July 19, 2022 Election Day
July 21, 2022 Mail-in Ballot Canvass 1- 10am
July 27, 2022 Provisional Canvass 10- am
July 29, 2022 Mail-in Ballot Canvass 2- 10 am
August 17, 2022 Monthly Board Meeting

Upcoming:

August 18, 2022 Director's Meeting
September 21, 2022 Board Meeting
September 22, 2022 MAEO Annual Meeting

Mail-in Ballots

For the Gubernatorial Primary 2022, 3586 ballots were presented for canvassing, 3540 of those ballots were accepted, with 46 rejected. A total of 5779 ballots were mailed out for the primary.

Election Judge Recruitment and Training

We have started a list of items that the judges need more training on for the general election. We are still recruiting for more judges for the general. Training schedules have been set up. Judges have been asked to sign-up for refresher training.

Voter Registration Department:

The ERIC Report, Audit, DHMH Report and Jury list were completed and sent to SBE prior to the deadline. As of August 2, 2022, we are back to regular processing of election mail.

General Election Ballot Questions:

The November ballot will contain five amendments to the County Charter (A-E) pertaining to County Council Vacancies, the Redistricting Commission, filling a vacancy in the County Executive position, reestablishing the Ethics Commission as an independent agency, and Council review of contracts.

Post-Election Tabulation Audit

As you may recall, the State Board hired Clear Ballot to perform an automated tabulation of all ballot images from the 2022 Primary Election. Over a two-week period, Clear Ballot tabulated all ballot images including those in person during early voting and on election day, and all mail-in and provisional ballots. Clear Ballot compared its data against the voting system's data and generated five reports which show:

1. That Clear Ballot tabulated the same number of ballots (cards cast) as was tabulated by the voting system.
2. Any differences in the results between the two systems are less than 0.5%.
3. Clear Ballot's tabulation verified the accuracy of the voting system's results.

Drop Boxes:

A total of 1288 ballots were picked up from the 10 drop boxes.

Site	Ballot Total			Sites 2-10 Total
Cecil Admin Building	487			801
Elkton High School	85			
Cherry Hill Middle School	52			
North East Middle School	173			
Calvert Elementary School	91			
Rising Sun Middle School	134			
Conowingo Elementary School	37			
Perryville Middle School	125			
Bohemia Manor High School	57			
Cecilton Elementary School	47			
Total	1288			

BOARD COUNSEL'S REPORT

No news on his Mr. Brown's candidacy for the judicial vacancy here in Cecil County for which he is being considered. If selected, he would need to start that position within 30 days and end his term with the Board. He has already put feelers out for another lawyer if needed.

OLD BUSINESS

Adjusting the Number of Ballot Drop Boxes: At the April 2022 meeting, the Acting Director presented concerns about having 10 ballot drop boxes for the primary and agreed to take up the matter with the State Board and report back at the following meeting. At the May meeting she reported back that the State Board wished to move forward with the 10 drop boxes for the Primary, after which it could be revisited. On August 10, the Director proposed to the State Board that placing five drop boxes—at the County Administration Building, North East Middle School, Rising Sun Middle School, and Perryville Middle School, and Bohemia Manor High School, provides the best balance of voter convenience and effective use of Cecil County Board of Elections staff resources. During this meeting, the State Board requested confirmation that the Cecil County Board supported the Director's proposal.

MOTION: Nancy Simperts offered a motion to conditionally approve the Director's ballot box proposal
SEDOND: Diane Letts
ACTION: Favorable and unanimous, Motion carried.
We await a response from the State Board.

NEW BUSINESS

Lessons Learned from Primary Election--Discussion

The director noted that we conducted the Primary with a higher than usual number of new chief election judges and proposed that in refresher training, we plan to emphasize the importance of the poll closing paperwork and the efficacy of beginning the document completion before the polls close, the importance of checking on judges working all other aspects of the election regardless of their level of experience to ensure smooth polling place operations and encourage as many chief judges as possible to work at least two days of early voting.

QUESTIONS AND CONCERNS

Mary Nelson—congratulations on completion of redistricting. Urged more information for unaffiliated voters.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND DISCLOSURES

None at this time.

NEXT BOARD MEETING

The next Board meeting will take place on September 21, 2022 at 3:00 p.m. in the Cecil County Administration Building located at 200 Chesapeake Boulevard in Elkton, Maryland. The meeting will be available for public viewing in person.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, with a motion to adjourn by Nancy Simperts and a second by Jennifer Castellanos-Graham the meeting was adjourned at 3:47 pm.

BOARD OF CANVASSERS

The Board of Canvassers convened at 3:47 p.m. to review ballots received after July 29, 2022.

MOTION: Nancy Simpers offered a motion to convene as the Board of Canvassers
SECOND: Diane Letts

The Deputy Director presented ballots received after July 29, 2022.

MOTION: Nancy Simpers offered a motion to reject all the ballots presented.
SECOND: Jennifer Castellanos-Graham
ACTION: Favorable and unanimous, Motion carried.

Adjournment

There being no further business, with a motion by Kelly Sengstock and second by Nancy Simpers, the meeting of the Board of Canvassers adjourned at 3:48 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Diane Letts, Secretary

Kelly Sengstock, President

Approved this 21st day of September 2022