



Cecil County Board of Elections

December 19, 2024

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 in the 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 19th day of December 2024 in the Northeast Room on the 1st Floor of the Cecil County Administration Building located at 200 Chesapeake Boulevard in Elkton, Maryland. Public viewing of this meeting was available in person. Board member attendance was in person, as noted below.

ATTENDEES:	Jennifer Graham	President
	Stephen Stiles	Vice President
	Krista Moretz	Secretary
	Bradley Moore	Board Counsel
	Eunice Grant	Board Member
	Holcombe Grier	Board Member
	Gary Holmes	Director
	Karen Benecewicz	Deputy Director
	Sheri Woodruff	Election Supervisor
	Mary Nelson	Public
	Doug Johnson	Public
	Sean Brimm	Public

DECLARATION OF QUORUM

The meeting was called to order by President Jennifer Graham at 3:06 pm. Quorum was established with five (5) Board Members.

AGENDA

No additions to the agenda other than that there was really no old business to discuss.

PRESIDENT'S REMARKS

President Jennifer Graham wished everyone a happy holiday season. In addition, she thanked the staff and board for all the hard work that had occurred throughout the election season.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Minutes of the September 18, 2024, Board meeting were provided to the Board with a copy in each of their folders.

MOTION: Board Member Eunice Grant motioned to approve Minutes for September 18, 2024; as present.

SECOND: Krista Moretz, Secretary Cecil County Board of Elections

ACTION: Minutes approved and signed by Jennifer Graham, Board President and Krista Moretz, Board Secretary.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Gary Holmes, Director, enclosed his director's report with the agenda in the folders for the board. He opened up by stating that Cecil County certified the election after the conclusion of the canvass on November 15th. Clear Ballot had received copies of our scanned ballots and results and there were no variances greater than .5%.

Cecil County had a historic turn out for this election with 73,142 ballots being cast, which is a 73.35% voter turnout. Election Judge checks have been mailed and the administrative leave forms for state and county employees were completed.

MDVoters has reopened and the staff is working on the backlog of the 1400 scanned provisional applications, updated forms, obituaries and various other documents in addition electronic batches that have accumulated while the books were closed. In addition, the ERIC report was completed in December as well as the critical audit – where we audit another county as assigned by SBE.

Gary, Karen, Sheri and Brenda went to Harford Co. Board of Elections on Wednesday December 18, 2024, to watch and participate in their manual audit. Cecil Co. will be holding the manual audit on a date to be determined; the deadline is March 5, 2025. Also, while in Harford County, they demonstrated to members of the State Board of Elections and Legislators in attendance the process of Risk Limiting Audits (RLA). RLAs have been proposed in several MD Legislatove sessions and could appear again. The consensus was that it was time consuming for results that they produce, as it is only supposed to show the trend. There is software and vendors that would have to be decided upon should this go forward.

Karen, Gary, and Sheri have all just reached their 1-year anniversary with Cecil County Elections. The warehouse roof leaking with the last major rainstorm and the roofers came out to patch the problem areas. No damage to equipment or materials has occurred and the leaks are monitored by warehouse staff. We are waiting on word from the State Board of Elections to begin clearing the election from equipment and begin post-election maintenance. We have begun the cycle of charging the equipment, in addition to reorganizing the carts to prepare for 2026. The new regulations from SBE for warehouses have not been completed but will be coming shortly. Gary will continue to reach out to officials and voice our need for new warehouse space. Gary will also be reaching out to Jared in regard to his thoughts on the RLA process. Lastly, Gary mentioned his recent attendance at an event through Cecil Leadership, which he passed along to the staff. Some staff members have expressed interest, but want to determine if there are grants or scholarships available.

COUNSEL'S REPORT

Bradley Moore, Board Attorney, stated there was nothing to report at this time.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business to discuss.

OFFICE REPORT

Covered in Directors Report.

NEW BUSINESS

Jennifer Graham asked if we could set up a meeting with the Chief Judges to discuss their thoughts on the election. Meeting should be sooner rather than later while election was fresh. Was suggested that this could be done via an email survey. Jennifer stated that she felt the

judges would be more inclined to respond in person. (The date of January 19, 2025 has been establish for this meeting to take place.)

There were 2 separate incidents at schools where the election judges were either asked to leave by the janitorial staff or the room had been double booked. The schools had been reached out to and this can be addressed with schools prior to the 2026 election.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND DISCLOSURES

None at this time.

QUESTIONS AND CONCERNS

Mary Nelson commented on the fact that the numbers of voters Gary reported in his directors' report differed from the numbers that she had as far as voter turnout for the General Election. Mary also mentioned that there should be separate trainings for new vs returning judges. We informed her that is the way training is set up. Lastly, she brought up a concern that she had based on a statement Jared DeMarinis, State Board Administrator had made during the last Sate Board Meeting regarding BMDs. Her concerns were getting a response on the certification of the machines and the changes to results that we stated would happen because of new software. She had tried to reach him several times unsuccessfully, and hope that we might be able to reach out and get the answers from her. (Mr. DeMarinis mentioned in the December 5, 2025, State Board Meeting that they had receive information regarding new software from the BMDs from ES&S. This new software would allow for candidate's names to appear in 2 columns. It would also alter other processes such as election results. ... he continued with the fact that they did not need to be re-certified, but that the board would have a chance to evaluate them when they are used in the Prince Georges' special election.)

The board asked for more BMDs if possible due to the lines for them at polling sites on Election Day. The dates for MAEO have been confirmed for May 4-9, 2025 in Ocean City MD. More details to come.

Sean mentioned that he believed that the primary turn out was only in the 30 % range as opposed to the 73% for the General.

Board Folders:

December 19, 2024 – Board Meeting Agenda

- Director's Report
- September 18, 2024, Minutes for approval.

NEXT BOARD MEETING

The Board/ Board of Canvassers may convene at 3PM on January 15, 2025 in the North East room in the Cecil County Administrative Bldg..

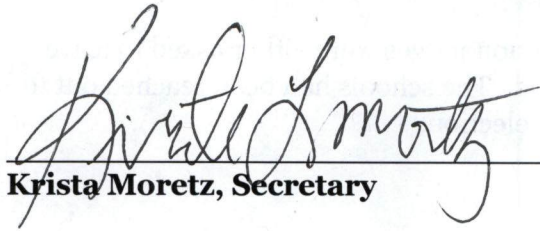
ADJOURNMENT

Holcombe Greir, motioned to adjourn the meeting.

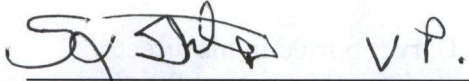
The motion was seconded by Krista Moretz.

The meeting adjourned at 4:22 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Krista Moretz, Secretary



Jennifer Graham, President

Meetings, Trainings, and Important Dates:

January 15, 2025 – Meeting with Chiefs / Board Meeting

January 20, 2025 – Office Closed MLK Jr Holiday

February 17, 2025- Office Closed Presidents Day

February 19, 2025 – Manual Audit / Board Meeting

March 19, 2025 - Board Meeting

April 23, 2025 - Board Meeting

May 4-9, 2025 – MAEO Conference Ocean City, MD

May 21, 2025 – Board Meeting

June 18, 2025 – Board Meeting

July 16, 2025 – Board Meeting

August 20, 2025 – Board Meeting

September 17, 2025 – Board Meeting

October 15, 2025 – Board Meeting

November 19, 2025 – Board Meeting

December 17, 2025 – Board Meeting