

Minutes

Talbot County Board of Elections
Conference Room 1
Easton, MD 21601
August 21, 2024

Present:

Board

Susan MacKinnon	(D)
Barbara H. Perry	(D)
Gugy Irving III	(R)

Staff

Tammy Stafford, Talbot County Election Director
Donna Hacker, staff member

Board Attorney

Lyndsey Ryan

Public Attending

Members of the public were in attendance

The monthly meeting of the Talbot County Board of Elections was held August 21, 2024, in the Conference Room indicated above. Ms. MacKinnon called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. and noted that a quorum was present. She welcomed guests and reminded all of Public Comment protocols.

Approval of Minutes

Ms. MacKinnon asked if the Board had any corrections or additions to the minutes of July 17, 2024. There were none. Mr. Irving moved to accept the minutes. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Changes to Agenda

Ms. MacKinnon asked if there were any changes to the agenda. There were none.

Approval of the Agenda

Ms. MacKinnon asked for a motion to approve the agenda. Ms. Perry moved to accept the agenda. Motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Public Comments

Mr. Judy mentioned that the Board of Elections might get calls about ballot measure 1 once sample ballots have been mailed out. He provided copies of an article to Ms. Stafford for all board members.

Mr. Bernard mentioned the need for a flag at meetings and an apology from a previous meeting.

Election Director's Report

Ms. Stafford provided the Board with a written Director's Report on activities since the last Board meeting. A copy of the report is attached to these minutes. Ms. Stafford provided updated information on personnel and upcoming meetings and events. Under personnel, Donna Hacker was congratulated on being accepted to the position of Election Program Manager II. Ms. Stafford is looking into filling Ms. Hacker's previous position. Under upcoming meetings and events, there will be a virtual meeting of election personnel on September 24 which Ms. Stafford is encouraging board members to attend. The first ballot canvass is set for October 15 with times to be determined. More dates will be provided at the board's September meeting. Ms. Stafford received a voice mail from Ms. Akridge asking for more open house events. Ms. Stafford will look into it but may not be able to do one before the election due to space constraints needed for the election and canvasses.

Board Attorney's Report

Ms. Ryan stated that she will participate in a conference call on September 10 and will update the board at the September meeting. Since not all board members are present, Ms. Ryan asked if the board wanted to table the discussion of the draft language for submission of letters and requests to the Board that will be posted on the website until the September meeting. Board members agreed to table the discussion.

Old Business

- A. Facility for Election Office** - Nothing to report.
- B. By-Laws** – Ms. Stafford stated that the State Board of Elections had approved our By-Laws on July 23, 2024. She will post them on the website and have copies for board members at the September meeting.
- C. MAEO Conference** – Three members attended in person on September 20, 2024, two attended virtually as did the attorney. This was an abbreviated conference with some overlap and no breakout sessions. Next year will be a week-long conference in Ocean City, MD.

New Business

A. Social Media Policy - Ms. Stafford is researching this and noted that the County has such a policy on their website but she feels that the Board of Elections should have one on our site as well. She will look at the State Board of Elections policy and will have more information for discussion at our September meeting.

Confirmation of next meeting

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Elections will be on Wednesday, September 18, 2024 at 9:30 a.m.

Meeting of Canvass Board – With Mr. Black, the chairman of the Canvass Board, not at this meeting, the untimely ballots will be addressed at a Canvass Board at the September meeting. Ms. Ryan concurred that this delay was acceptable since these are ballots that were not received by the required date.

Closed Session – No closed session was needed.

Adjournment

Ms. Perry moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously. Meeting was adjourned at 9:54 a.m.

Attested,

Respectfully submitted,



Susan MacKinnon, President



Barbara H. Perry, Secretary

TALBOT COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS
ELECTION DIRECTOR'S REPORT

August 21, 2024

Notice and Distribution of Materials

Meeting materials were prepared and mailed to Board Members August 13, 2024.

The Agenda for the August meeting was posted on the Board of Elections web page August 13, 2024. The agenda was posted on the office door and in the entrance of the building August 13, 2024.

Personnel:

Donna Hacker has accepted the position of Election Program Manager II. Her start date is August 21, 2024. Donna has been employed with the Board of Elections since 2022. Before working in elections, she previously worked for the Talbot County Health Department and the Local Management Board.

Meetings Attended:

I attended the July collaboration meeting with the State Board of Elections and the Local Boards. I also attended the monthly MAEO meeting.

I attended the iGo Conference held in New Orleans July 19-July 23. During the conference I was able to talk to election officials and other public officials from the U.S. and around the world. Session topics included emergency preparedness and mindful communication.

Correspondence:

All PIA requests have been answered at this time.
The office has not received any letters to the board for the month of July.

Voter Registration Activities:

Monthly Statistical Report- The Report was distributed to board members in the monthly packet. As of August 1, 2024, there were 28, 430 active registered voters in Talbot County.

The close of registration is October 15, 2024.

Voting System Activities:

Staff is conducting post-election maintenance (PEM) at this time.

Candidate Filing:

Nothing to report.

Precinct and Polling Issues:

The office is working on staffing for the 2024 Presidential General Election. At this time, we have no vacancies for election day. Most of the election judges who served during the Presidential Primary will be returning. We are working on compiling a standby list for election day.

A copy of the Election Connection Newsletter was included in your packets.

Budget:

A report documenting Board of Elections Expenditures for FY 2024 as of August 12, 2024 was included in the Board packets. We are awaiting final numbers from the County.

The FY2025 Budget report will be included in the September board packet.

Other projects:

The office conducted a Voter Registration Volunteer Training July 30.

We have been invited to a resource fair September 21 at Galloway Meadows. If time permits we will participate in this event.

Upcoming Meetings/Events:

Maryland State Board of Elections board meeting is September 24, 2024 at 2:00 p.m.

The first day of Canvass is October 15, 2024.