



Cecil County Board of Elections
March 15, 2023
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 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 15th day of March 2023 in the North East 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 and by phone, as noted below.

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| ATTENDEES: | Kelly Sengstock Nancy Simperts Diane Letts Jennifer Graham Stephen Stiles Doug Walker Cindy Remyey Jasmine Barnette Bradley Moore, Esq. | President Vice President Secretary Board Member Board Member Director Acting Deputy Director Election IT Specialistg Board Counsel |
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DECLARATION OF QUORUM

The meeting was called to order by President Kelly Sengstock at 3:00 p.m. Quorum was established with all five Board members present in person.

AGENDA

Director presented the attached Agenda.

PRESIDENT'S REMARKS

President Kelly Sengstock welcomed members and staff to the meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Minutes of the February 15, 2023 Board meeting were provided to the Board by electronic mail prior to this meeting and a copy was included in the Board folders.

- MOTION: Nancy Simperts motioned to approve the Minutes of the February 15, 2023 Board meeting.
- SECOND: Stephen Stiles
- ACTION: Favorable and unanimous, Motion carried

DIRECTOR'S REPORT – March 2023

Board Folders: Agenda, March 15, 2023 Board Meeting
Board Meeting Minutes February 15, 2023
Director's Report, March 2023
Monthly Statistical Report, February 2023
MAEO Conference Agenda, Information, Registration

Meetings, Trainings, and Important Dates:

February 15, 2023 Board Meeting
February 23, 2023 State Board Meeting (2:00 p.m.)

Upcoming:

March 15, 2023 Board Meeting
March 22, 2023 Posting of Manual Audit Deadline
March 29, 2023 State Board Meeting (2:00 p.m.)
April 19, 2023 Board Meeting
May 14-19, 2023 MAEO Conference
May 24, 2023 Board Meeting
June 21, 2023 Board Meeting
TBD Sept./Oct. 2023 SBE Biennial Meeting (Mandatory)
January 22, 2024 Candidate filing for 2024 Presidential Election ends (updated from Jan. 19)
April 11-18, 2024 Presidential Primary Early Voting (subject to current legislation)
April 23, 2024 Presidential Primary Election Day (subject to current legislation) (PP24)
October 24-31, 2024 Presidential General Early Voting
November 5, 2024 Presidential General Election Day (PG24)

Operational Budget

On Thursday, January 19, the Director met with County Finance Director Shon McCollum and the new Budget Manager to discuss the FY24 budget. They were joined by County Executive Hornberger and County Administrator Overbay, who observed but did not otherwise participate. The Director and Budget Manager had a follow-up meeting on January 27 to clear up unresolved questions of accounting for salaries/benefits of state employees, details of professional and related services relating to the SBE quarterly billing and updating projected costs for the MAEO Annual Meeting and SBE mandatory biennial training. The final budget meeting with the above listed parties scheduled for Tuesday, March 14 has been pushed back to Tuesday, March 21, 2023.

Election Deputy Director Vacancy

The Director has submitted an updated vacancy announcement to the SBE HR office for immediate posting this week.

Election IT Specialist Contractor

Jasmine Barnette, who served as SBE Regional Manager vice Russell Hicks, has joined our team as a State contractor. Jasmine had an in-person handoff from Nathan Reynolds with whom she worked throughout the Gubernatorial General Election and is now conducting the State-

required Post-Election Maintenance (PEM). Jasmine has also been a contractor for Election Systems and Software (ES&S) and an election program staffer for the Baltimore City LBE.

Pending Legislation

HB 410, the Election Reform Act and HB 1200 (SB 925) pertaining to minimum compensation for election judges received second readings on the House floor Tuesday, March 14. The election judge compensation bill (SB 925) is scheduled for a hearing in the Senate Wednesday, March 15. The proposal to change the date of the Presidential Primary has been attached to different bills, the Election Reform bill (HB 410) in the House and, in the Senate, it is attached to SB 379 the ballot processing and reporting procedures bill. Resolving the difference could make for interesting viewing.

SB 379, which alters the procedures for the canvassing of and curing of errors on absentee and provisional ballots has passed each chamber, though with different amendments, and is considered well on its way to final passage.

SB 750 (HB 1216) requiring proof of identity in order to vote is not expected to be passed out of committee.

HB 645 (SB 488) requiring the Department of Legislative Services (DLS) to complete a study on the creation of an electronic ballot return system and requiring SBE to issue a request for proposals for an electronic ballot return system by January 1, 2024 was referred for an interim study by the Ways and Means Committee, after an amendment providing for a MAEO seat at the DLS review table study was defeated.

Board Member Ethics Filing

After the April 30 Ethics Commission filing, Board members who are not serving another term will be required to submit an “end of service” ethics filing which can be completed on the same Commission web page you use for periodic filings.

SBE 2022 Gubernatorial Election Audit Report

Staff is reviewing and preparing a response to SBE’s audit of the 2022 Gubernatorial Election in Cecil County. The report and response will be shared with the Board under separate cover and the response requires the signature of the President and the Director.

2023 MAEO Conference

MAEO will convene the Annual Meeting May 14-19, 2023 in Worcester County. The MAEO board selected the theme: “MAEO—Making It Count” and approved a registration fee of \$250 per attendee. Single Day registration for Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday is \$165/day. Food costs are approximately \$500/person, so any guests will be required to pay the registration fee. The hotel room rate ranges from \$159/night Queen-\$179 for a suite. MAEO is negotiating with nearby hotels for overflow accommodations. Making reservations by phone will avoid the need to provide a personal credit card for a deposit. The deposit has been waived, but that waiver cannot be honored in online transactions. MAEO has just circulated a tentative agenda and updated registration for that are included in the meeting materials.

May Board Meeting Date

The May 17, 2023 Board meeting has, at the Board’s direction, been rescheduled for May 24 in order to avert conflict with the May 14-19 MAEO Conference.

MAEO Committee Work

The Director has accepted an invitation to co-chair MAEO's Constitution and Bylaws Committee with Anthony Gutierrez, Frederick County Deputy Election Director.

SBE Biennial Pre-Election Training

COMAR Title 33.02.02.01, Statewide Biennial Meeting, requires all local Board members, Board Counsel, Election Directors and Deputy Directors, and other staff as assigned by the State Administrator, or LBEs to attend a Statewide biennial meeting to instruct local board members, counsel, and staff on the proper conduct of elections. SBE would ordinarily conduct this session at the MAEO Annual Meeting. However, since MAEO has scheduled its meeting in May, prior to the seating of new LBEs, SBE will schedule the Biennial Meeting for September or October in Annapolis. We anticipate this will be a one-day meeting not requiring overnight accommodation.

BOARD COUNSEL'S REPORT

Counsel indicated there were no developments to report.

OLD BUSINESS

- a. Deputy Election Director Position
 - a. Position to be posted for a third time on SBE web page this week
- b. Legislative Update covered in Director's Report

NEW BUSINESS

- a. INFORMATION—Vice President Simperts reported that the County is seeking a domestic violence childcare provider at a salary of \$20/hr. The POC is Marion Gill, Family Violence Program Coordinator in the County Child Advocacy Center.
- b. ACTION—President Sengstock proposed that the Board invite members appointed to the incoming Board to attend the April 19 and May 24 Board meetings, as well as the MAEO Annual Meeting.
 - a. Action—Favorable and unanimous. Motion carried.

QUESTIONS AND CONCERNS

None at this time.

NEXT BOARD MEETING

The next Board meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 15, 2023. Board meetings will be available for public viewing in person.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, with a motion to adjourn by Vice President Simperts and a second by Jennifer Graham, the meeting adjourned at 3:31 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Diane Letts, Secretary



Kelly Sengstock, President

Approved this 19th day of April 2023

