



# Cecil County Board of Elections

June 26, 2024

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## **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 17<sup>th</sup> day of April 2024 in the North East Room on the 1<sup>st</sup> 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.

<b>ATTENDEES:</b>	Jennifer Graham	President
	Stephen Stiles	Vice President
	Krista Moretz	Secretary
	Eunice Grant	Board Member
	Holcombe Grier	Board Member
	Gary Holmes	Director
	Karen Benecewicz	Deputy Director
	Sheri Woodruff	Election Supervisor
	Duane Powell	Regional Manager, SBE
	Mary Nelson	Public
	Colleen Gray	Public
	Sean Brimm	Public
	Mary Stokes	Public
	Sharon Bathon	Public
	Ron Robusto	Public
	Martha	Public

## **DECLARATION OF QUORUM**

The meeting was called to order by President Jennifer Graham at 3:15 pm. Quorum was established with five (5) Board Members.

## **AGENDA**

Prior to the start of the meeting the Board of Canvassers held their Post Certification of Election meeting where the canvass minutes were signed. The Board Attorney was not available to attend today's meeting. There were no additions to the agenda.

## **PRESIDENT'S REMARKS**

President Jennifer Graham welcomed the public guests to the meeting. Jennifer also praised the staff for getting through the election with minimal errors and upholding the reputation of Cecil County.

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The Minutes of the April 17, 2024, Board meeting were provided to the Board a copy in each of their folders.

**MOTION:** Member, Cecil County Board of Elections Holcombe Grier motioned to approve Minutes for April 17, 2024.  
**SECOND:** Vice President, Stephen Stiles  
**ACTION:** Minutes approved and signed by Jennifer Graham, Board President and Krista Moretz, Board Secretary.

### **DIRECTOR' S REPORT**

Gary enclosed his director report in the folder along with a report from the Assistant Attorney General and the Administrator's report dated June 25, 2024. Gary went over voter turnout for the Primary Election – Cecil County had the 4<sup>th</sup> highest turn out for the state and the 4<sup>th</sup> highest turn out for early voting as well.

We have just begun processing batches within the last 2 weeks now that MDVOTERS has closed the election. Gary mentioned Clear Ballot which is a 3<sup>rd</sup> party auditor of the election. They reviewed the images against the totals and found that we have less than .5% error.

We have restarted the Voter Registration Volunteer training since the election and have trained 15 individuals.

Gary mentioned the new state telework policy and stated the elections were exempt from having to comply and that we will continue to use telework on a case-by-case basis. In addition, inventory was completed earlier in the week. There were some issues accessing the E-Quip system but that seems to have been resolved. We are now going to begin PEM (Post Election Maintenance). After touring the warehouse prior to the meeting, the board could see the space issues that will occur as we begin PEM.

We are continuing to remain active with our social media accounts. There was discussion regarding adding FAQ and a way to drive them to the website for answers. Also, whether comments to posts would be blocked on the page to avoid misinformation.

### **COUNSEL'S REPORT**

Since Bradley was not present there was no counsel report.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

Sheri Woodruff has been developing a program for schools that can be given to teachers or presented by staff. Also looking for outreach to publicize the page program. Jennifer Graham suggested the use of videos for training, educational and outreach purposes. Suggested that maybe holding a contest for school age students on different topics. There was also a thought on reaching out to Cecil Community College for assistance with videos as well.

### **OFFICE REPORT**

The office received tablets that were purchased initially for the new pollbook project which is no longer going forward. It was suggested that these be deployed to each polling site with videos and Smartsheet or Google docs to notify us of issues.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Page program promoted share flyer with board so that they can share with contacts and via social media. The page program is available for students who are 14 & 15 years old.

MAEO is now looking for officers and will be holding elections. The results of the election will be announced at the August meeting, which will be taking place at the Baltimore County Board of Elections.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS AND DISCLOSURES**

President, Jennifer Graham disclosed that she had been asked to speak at the Democratic Central Committee in early June. Some of the topics discussed were election day, registration, and changes. She also met with the Baltimore City Council as part of her job and maybe a meeting with Gov. Wes Moore, to discuss funding for HIV. Member, Eunice Grant was asked to serve on a judge nominating committee but declined.

## **QUESTIONS AND CONCERNS**

President Jennifer Graham gave the floor to the individuals private citizens who came with questions and concerns. Ron Robusto began with what was the purpose of social media. From there a discussion was brought up to have a policy not to allow comments from the public on the social media accounts, because it could lead to some misinformation. If this becomes policy, we will make clear where to obtain answers to questions that are frequently asked. Limiting comments meant less chance misinformation being posted. Limiting was defined as allowing for no comments. We would develop an auto response for messenger.

Sharon Bathon was concerned over the integrity of voting in Cecil Co as well as the state of Maryland. She discussed her experience at early voting when a young judge had a very difficult time finding her in the poll book after repeatedly giving him her information. Concerned that being allowed to register and work as a judge 16 was too much – that 16-year-old would have a hard time understanding the information in the election judge manual. She also wanted to let us know that she felt that IDs should be required to vote.

It was then discussed if signature matching is done on mail in ballots or just a signature verification. We discussed the process for provisional ballots stating that we look at to determine if that ballot is accepted or rejected. Inquired as to death records were only processed in odd months. And then back to the fact that IDs are needed for things like getting meds, visiting a doctor, and getting on a plane and it should be required for voting as well.

Ron then wanted to discuss how outreach and education were not part of our mission statement. Outreach at schools should be avoided as we could somehow bias the students. Jennifer Graham stated that there was no agenda for registering voters and that any member of the public is welcome to take our voter registration volunteer training. Outreach and voter education purpose is to give the community a clear picture of what we do, transparent in the services we provide and offering accessible options for registration and voting. Holcombe stated that we are performing a civic duty by educating the public on their options to register to vote, in addition to dispelling misinformation. Sean then mentions that this past Primary election is one of a very few Maryland elections to be held in May. The primary date was changed, having been originally scheduled for April. Primaries in Maryland are held between February and September.

Mary Nelson came to discuss the need for Confidential voters to have some type of PIN or Card to identify them when they are being checked in on election day by a judge. There is no information on the judge's end to verify and someone could easily check in as someone else because of this.

Mary Stoke called attention to the fact that Maryland holds a closed primary, and that more voter education is needed for the public to understand who votes in a primary. She was concerned with the deadline for party changes. Ms. Stokes said she had reached out to the Central Committee regarding the cutoff for party changes and making it more than 21 days as it is now.

The question was raised as to whether Kennedy would be on the ballot for the General Election in addition to what the ballot question would be. The staff could not provide an answer at the time.

**Board Folders:**

- June 26, 2024 – Board Meeting Agenda
  - Directors Report
  - Administrator Report
  - Attorney General Report
- April 17, 2024 -Board Meeting Minutes
- June 26,2024 – Canvass Board Meeting Agenda
  - Minutes from May 16, 22, 24 Canvasses

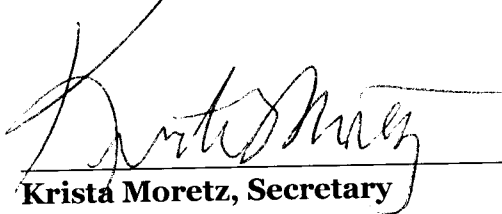
**NEXT BOARD MEETING**

The next Board Meeting is scheduled for July 17 ,2024 at 3PM in the Rising Sun Room on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of the Cecil County Administration Bldg. Stephen Stiles will be joining this meeting via phone.

**ADJOURNMENT**

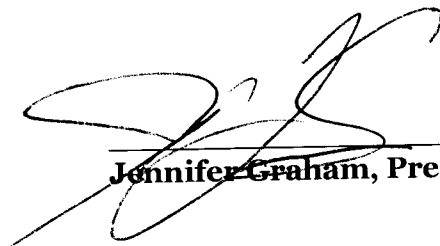
Stephen Stiles, Board Vice President moved to adjourn meeting.  
Seconded by Eunice Grant.  
The meeting adjourned at 4:41 pm.

**Respectfully submitted,**



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**Krista Moretz, Secretary**



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**Jennifer Graham, President**

**Meetings, Trainings, and Important Dates:**

July 1, 2024- Aug 5, 2024- PEM Post Election Maintenance  
July 23, 2024- SBE Board Meeting (Virtual)  
July 25, 2024 – Directors Meeting  
August 13, 2024 – Micro -TTX  
August 20, 2024 - MAEO  
August 21, 2024 – Board Meeting  
September 2, 2024- Labor Day  
September 9 – October 19, 2024 - Election Judge Training  
September 10, 2024- Board Counsel Briefing  
September 18, 2024 – Board Meeting  
September 19, 2024- SBE/LBE Collab (virtual)  
October 9, 2024 – Supply Cart Verification Deadline  
October 14, 2024 – Columbus Day  
October 15, 2024 – Voter Registration Closes / Board Counsel Briefing  
October 22, 2024 – L&A Public Demo Deadline  
October 24-31, 2024 – Early Voting  
October 29, 2024 – Ballot Request Deadline by Mail or Fax/ Board Counsel Briefing  
November 1, 2024 – Ballot Request Deadline delivered via web  
November 5, 2024- General Election Day  
November 7, 2024 – MIB 1 Canvass  
November 13, 2024 – Provisional Canvass  
November 15, 2024- MIB 2 Canvass  
December 18, 2024 – Board Meeting (Holiday Party)  
December 19, 2024- SBE/LBE Collab (virtual)