

Minutes

Talbot County Board of Elections
215 Bay Street, Suite 7
Easton, MD 21601
September 24, 2024

Present:

Board

Susan MacKinnon, President	(D)
Denise Lovelady	(R)
Walter Black	(D)
Barbara H. Perry	(D)
Gugy Irving	(R)

Staff

Tammy Stafford, Talbot County Election Director
Donna Hacker, Election Program Manager II

Board Attorney

Lyndsey Ryan

A special meeting of the Talbot County Board of Elections was held on September 24, 2024, in the meeting room indicated above. President MacKinnon called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. and noted that a quorum was present.

The Special Meeting was called for the general discussion of Election Judge assignments and to clarify instructions given by the Board concerning the balance of Election Judges.

At the regular meeting held on September 18, 2024, the Board instructed the Election Director to use the existing standby list to add, if possible, two more Republican Judges to Oxford. Since then, Ms. Stafford has had a request from a Republican Judge who was assigned to another precinct to move to Oxford. Ms. Stafford felt she could not do that without the approval of the Board based on the previous guidance. Members of the Board said that the intent was not to run the day-to-day operations and that if a judge requests to move that would help with the balance, then Ms. Stafford should do what is needed. Ms. Ryan said a meeting is not needed unless a lot of people changed party affiliation that affected the balance.

Ms. Lovelady asked about the out of county judges. There are two out of county judges. Ms. Stafford stated that one had moved out of the county recently. Both judges have served in previous elections with one being a Chief Judge and one a regular judge. One is a Democrat

and one is a Republican. Ms. Lovelady again stated that she felt the State Board of Elections provided guidance that is in contradiction of Maryland Law.

Ms. Lovelady moved to notify all county residents that the Talbot County Board of Elections is in compliance with Maryland law paragraphs 10-201 and 10-202 regarding the appointment of election judges. Mr. Irving seconded the motion. Discussion of the motion followed.

Ms. MacKinnon said that there has been progress towards a balance of judges with more interest now on the part of Republicans, which is a good thing. However, to try to completely redo the tentative assignment spread sheet this close to the election would be disruptive and could cause some judges to no longer agree to serve since a judge's willingness to drive to a location is taken into consideration when making assignments.

Ms. Lovelady asked if there is a deadline for training judges since the interest form remains online for people to fill out and submit. Ms. Stafford said that with the first Canvass being on October 15, 2024, that the last day that mandatory in person training could be done would be October 8, 2024 since the space used for training is the space needed for Canvass. Ms. Stafford had already added 10 more trained slots in hopes of not having shortages on election day.

With discussion over, Ms. MacKinnon called for a vote on the motion. Ms. Lovelady voted yes, Mr. Black, Ms. Perry and Ms. MacKinnon voted no and Mr. Irving voted present. The motion failed.

Ms. Ryan said the Board still needs to address the issue of the two out of county judges. Ms. MacKinnon asked if there are alternatives to replace these judges. Looking at the working spread sheet, these judges have been trained in specific jobs, as have all others, even though no exact assignments have been made right now. The spread sheet will be looked at to see if there are trained judges who could replace the out of county judges. Cannot state at this time that all efforts have been exhausted to find replacements.

There will be a Special Meeting on October 8 to approve the assignment of judges and if needed, specific names can be discussed in a closed session.

Adjournment

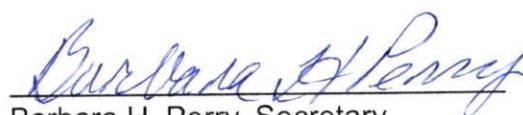
Ms. Black moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously. Meeting was adjourned at 10:29 a.m.

Attested,

Respectfully submitted,



Susan MacKinnon, President



Barbara H. Perry, Secretary