

Minutes

Talbot County Board of Elections
Conference Room 1
Easton, MD 21601
October 16, 2024

Present:

Board

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

Staff

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

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 October 16, 2024, in the Conference Room indicated above. Ms. MacKinnon called the meeting to order at 9:31 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 that the minutes from September 18, September 24 and October 7, 2024 be read since board members had not had a chance to review them. These minutes were read and Ms. MacKinnon asked if the Board had any corrections or additions to any of these three sets of minutes. There were none. Mr. Black moved to accept all three of the minutes. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Ms. Stafford brought up the need to have the August 21, 2024 minutes reapproved since Mr. Black, who had made the motion to approve them had not been present at that meeting. Ms. Perry moved to approve 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. Mr. Black moved to accept the agenda. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Public Comments

Mr. Judy mentioned there are more Democratic election judges than Republican judges even though there are more registered Republicans in Talbot County. He said they are tracking this and read letters from Republicans who were told all slots were filled and that they could be put on a standby list. He provided Ms. Stafford copies of a letter from the Maryland Republican Party to Mr. Jared DeMarinis, Director Maryland State Board of Elections concerning Talbot County election judges.

Ms. Wilcoxon asked if there were still two out of county persons being used as election judges. She mentioned an email that was sent to the board concerning judges. Ms. MacKinnon asked Ms. Stafford to respond which she did and said she was not aware of an email that was sent. She also stated that her office always takes interest forms from anyone who wants to be an election judge. There were interruptions and Ms. MacKinnon reminded all to not interrupt.

Ms. Noble stated she had applied and was told staffing was full. She did attend partial training but could not complete due to injury. She knows of others who were turned down.

Mr. Chase stated that respect goes a long way.

Mr. Bernard asked the County Council about getting a U.S. Flag for the conference room. Ms. Stafford responded that the Council did get both a U.S. flag and a Maryland flag but these were put outside on either side of the walkway entrance to the building. Mr. Bernard then presented the Board with a U.S. flag, Maryland flag and Talbot County flag.

Ms. MacKinnon thanked Mr. Bernard for his persistence in obtaining a flag for use in this conference room during board meetings.

Ms. Tillman said that the board does not respond to public comments and that the board's excuse is that they don't deal with the day-to-day operation of the office. Ms. Tillman felt the board should do so.

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 as follows: Meeting materials were not mailed out but were given to board members on October 16 and Voting System Activities – Ms. Lovelady asked if the Logic and Accuracy test that was done on September 16, 2024 was public, it was not. However, there is a public demonstration on Friday, October 18, 2024.

Board Attorney's Report

Ms. Ryan reported that the next LBE check in for board attorneys will be on October 29, 2024.

Old Business

- A. Facility for Election Office** - Nothing to report on new facility.
- B. Public Comment and Letters Policy** - Ms. MacKinnon proposed to postpone discussion on this until after the election at our December meeting to give board member time to study it. Mr. Black moved to postpone discussion of this policy until the December meeting. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.
- C. Board Duties for General Election** – Ms. Stafford indicated that the board needs to decide who will do the evaluations of the polling places for both early voting and election day. The assignments are as follows:

Early voting – Ms. MacKinnon
Tilghman and New St. John – Mr. Black
Trappe and Talbot Community Center – Ms. Lovelady
Oxford and St. Michaels – Mr. Irving
Easton High School and Royal Oak – Ms. MacKinnon
Cordova and Easton Fire Hall – Ms. Perry

In addition, the board members need to sign the Logic and Accuracy Voting Unit Testing Certification Letter. The Board agreed to sign at the close of the meeting.

New Business - None

Disclosures - Submitted from both Ms. Lovelady and Ms. Perry

Confirmation of next meeting

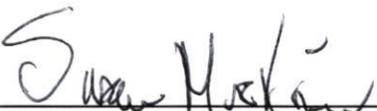
The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Elections will be on Wednesday, November 20, 2024 at 9:30 a.m.

Adjournment

Ms. Black moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously. Meeting was adjourned at 10:25 a.m.

Attested,

Respectfully submitted,



Susan MacKinnon, President



Barbara H. Perry, Secretary

TALBOT COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS
ELECTION DIRECTOR'S REPORT

October 16, 2024

Notice and Distribution of Materials

Meeting materials were prepared and given to Board Members October 15, 2024.

The Agenda for the October meeting was posted on the Board of Elections web page the entrance to the office, and entrances of the building at 215 Bay Street October 9, 2024.

Personnel:

Nothing to report at this time.

Meetings Attended:

I met with local law enforcement and the Department of Emergency Services October 1, 2024 to prepare for the Presidential General Election.

Correspondence:

The office received emails in regards to election judges .

Voter Registration Activities:

Monthly Statistical Report- The Report was distributed to board members in the monthly packet. As of October 14, 2024, there were 28, 787 active registered voters in Talbot County.

The early close of registration is October 15, 2024. After October 15 voters can register during Early Voting and on Election Day.

Voting System Activities:

Logics and Analytics testing on the election equipment was completed September 16, 2024 .

Candidate Filing:

Nothing to report.

Precinct and Polling Issues:

Due to construction for the new hospital, a postcard is being sent to Talbot County Community Center voters with alternate directions to the polling place.

Budget:

A report documenting Board of Elections Expenditures for FY 2025 as of October 14, 2024 was included in the Board packets.

Other projects:

Sample Ballots were mailed out last week.

Upcoming Meetings/Events:

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

The second day of Canvass is October 17, 2024 at 9:30 a.m.