

BOARD MEETING
BALTIMORE CITY BOARD OF ELECTIONS
AUGUST 20, 2020
301 N FRANKLINTOWN ROAD
BALTIMORE, MARYLAND 21223

The meeting of the Baltimore City Board of Elections was in person.

IN ATTENDANCE:

BOARD MEMBERS

Bruce Luchansky, President
Joyce Smith, Vice President
Tamara Purnell, Member
Arlene Fisher, Member

ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL

Alan Dunklow

STAFF

Armstead B. Crawley Jones, Sr., Election Director
Abigail Goldman, Deputy Director

VISITORS

Emily Opilo, Baltimore Sun
Philip a'Becket
Tasmin Swanson, Baltimore Votes
Julia Bryan, Baltimore Votes
Edward Johnson, Maryland Legislative Coalition

The meeting was called to order at 4:10 P.m. by Mr. Bruce Luchansky, Board President. A declaration of quorum was present.

The Board and staff stood and recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

There are no additions to the agenda. The agenda is approved as presented.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

The minutes of the June 18, 2020 were present. There being no changes to the minutes Ms. Joyce Smith made a motion to accept the minutes as presented. Ms. Arlene Fisher seconded the motion. Motion carried.

ELECTION DIRECTORS REPORT:

Mr. Jones told the Board that the staff and he are very busy getting ready for this election and things are changing daily. Each week all the directors and deputy directors meet with the State Board.

Mr. Jones presented to the Board the administrative staffs' suggestions for vote centers and early voting locations. This year we are planning to have 8 early voting locations. They will be open from 7 am to 8 pm. We hope to be using Oriole Park @ Camden Yards as a super vote center and early voting site. This will enable us to channel crowds there if the other locations get too crowded. Mr. Jones is doing a walk through of the site on Monday.

In addition we will be changing a few of our early voting sites this year since we can not use the League for People with Disabilities and Public Safety Training Center.

Drop Boxes – we previously had 15 boxes and we have ordered another 20 boxes to be deployed or as backups.

Mr. Jones asked the Board to approve the list and if changes are needed to be made then he will make the adjustments.

Mr. Jones informed the Board that all vote centers will have all ballot styles and we had to spend additional money for carts to hold these ballots. In addition, there will be additional cost for securing the ballot boxes. In the primary it ran us \$72,000.

The Board asked Mr. Jones if any of these costs will be covered by SBE and he replied no its all city cost.

Mr. Luchansky asked about the mailing of the absentee ballot applications. Mr. Jones suggested that the public make sure we have their current address on file. Ms. Fisher asked if they can call their change of address in. Mr. Jones said no but they can go to the SBE website and do it on line, send an email with their information and signature or write a letter or go to the LBE. Mr. Jones said as of today we have 23,000 applications for absentee ballots in the system and are backlogged with 8,000.

Mr. Luchansky asked how do we make sure the voter does not get a double ballot. Ms. Goldman explained the process of MDVOTERS issuance and ballot accounting.

Ms. Joyce Smith made a motion to accept the voter's centers as listed and if any changes need to be adjusted. Ms. Tamara Purnell seconded. Motion carried.

Election judges – As of 10:00 am we had 935 returning judges and 1970 interested voters who wish to be judges. We have reached out to Mr. John Willis to set up training. Judges who have worked previously this year can do a virtually training but new judges need to be done in person and hands on training. As for the training center we can not use the University of Baltimore but have made alternate plans to train at Mount Pleasant Church.

PRESIDENTS REMARKS

Mr. Luchansky reported on the Baltimore City Council hearing. It was primarily to get a report by SBE on the glitches that occurred. It was a zoom meeting. There was a heavy emphasis by the City Council to make it an all-mail election.

Mr. a'Becket had to resign due to work commitments. This job takes time and more time that anyone is told up front. The State Central Committee is in the process of appointing someone. Mr. Luchansky said he will be appearing at the Republican State Central Committee zoom meeting tonight.

ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL'S REPORT:

Mr. Dunklow is keeping abreast of changes and deadlines.
Mr. Luchansky thanked Mr. Dunklow for being on top of everything. His is new to this job and came on the same time as this Board did.

OLD BUSINESS:

MAEO Convention – The convention in Ocean City, Maryland has been cancelled this year and we will be holding a virtual one. Ms. Goldman reminded the Board that the sign in information is in their folders and asked all to make every effort to sign in and attend.

NEW BUSINESS:

None

NEXT BOARD MEETING:


The next meeting will be held on September 17, 2020 at 4:00 pm at the Warehouse.

Ms. Arlene Fisher made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Ms. Tamara Purnell. The meeting adjourned at 5:20 p.m.



President 9/17/20

Date



Secretary 9-17-20

Date