

BOARD MEETING
BALTIMORE CITY BOARD OF ELECTIONS
FEBRUARY 15, 2024

The meeting of the Baltimore City Board of Elections was held at the Baltimore City Board of Elections office at 417 E. Fayette, Street, Baltimore MD 21202

IN ATTENDANCE:

BOARD MEMBERS

Scherod Barnes, Board President
Terrence Thre watt Jr, Board Vice President
Maria Vismale, Board Member
Sam Novey, Board Secretary

ABSENT

Hope Williams, Board Member

ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL

Thomas Chapman

STAFF

Abigail Goldman, Acting Election Director
Lisa Stanley, Acting Election Deputy Director

GUESTS

Autumn Grant, Democratic State Central Committee
Easley, Democratic State Central Committee

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Scherod Barnes, Board President.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Ms. Novey made a motion to accept the minutes from the January 18, 2024 meeting which was seconded by Mr. Thre watt. The motion passed.

BOARD PRESIDENT REMARKS

Ms. Barnes shared a personnel update that Election Director Armstead B.C. Jones, Sr. had went out on FMLA on February 14, 2024 and that Abigail Goldman would serve as Acting Director and that Lisa Stanley would be acting Deputy Director until further notice.

Mr. Barnes also shared that he and Mr. Threweatt would review issues at the warehouse with Sam McAfee at the warehouse on February 20 at 11 am.

Mr. Barnes also shared that Director Jones had responded in writing to the questions raised by board members.

ELECTION DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

New office and warehouse: Ms. Goldman shared an update on the new office warehouse. There is an impasse between the city and the realtor. The realtor will not share how they are using the build out money and the city won't sign a contract unless there is clarity about what the build out money is for. The city is now looking at other options. The Montgomery Park building was discussed but there are no bay doors for the warehouse. They suggested yesterday exploring putting the city board of elections on the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th floor of the new Edmondson Village Shopping Center and warehouse in the basement. This option is problematic because it requires moving equipment between floors and separates staff between floors.

Voter Registration: Ms. Goldman shared that the office is up to date on various tasks related to voter registration including reporting for the Electronic Registration Information Center (ERIC) that helps clean the city voting records. Jury records are up to date. Records with department of corrections are also up to date.

Petitions: Ms. Goldman shared that the staff is working on two petitions that Thomas has been helpful for. One is to reduce the number of council districts and the other is for baby bonus. We know there are going to be eight petitions for us to do in August if they all pass. Ms. Goldman also shared that the state has received a petition from the No Labels Maryland party to get ballot access so our staff in Baltimore City has had to stop entering the city-only petitions and do work on signatures from city residents for the No Labels petition.

Mail-in ballot requests: Ms. Goldman shared that all the mailing of ballot request forms has been completed and that 42,000 requests came in on the first day alone.

Polling place / Early Vote / Drop Box locations: Ms. Goldman shared the list of ballot drop boxes and a list of proposed polling place changes. The only changes to the drop boxes are related to changes to the early voting sites.

Election Judge recruitment and training: Ms. Goldman shared that the Election Judge manual is ready to be printed. Election judge recruitment is ongoing

with 826 judges having filled out the application and 620 new applicants for 1,446 total judges. We need 2,014 total to have a good election this may. Lots of partners from state, city, and outside organizations (including police dept, rec centers) are helping recruit. There is a nice flyer that is being distributed around city offices.

Outreach: Ms. Goldman shared that they are continuing to encourage groups to come in and be trained to do voter outreach.

Mr. Thre watt made a motion to receive the written report from the acting director of the board of elections. Ms Vismale seconded the motion. The motion passed.

ATTORNEY GENERAL REMARKS

Mr. Chapman had nothing to share at this meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Barnes shared he and Ms. Goldman met with the AG's office and shared their gratitude for Thomas's work.

Mr. Novey followed up on Ms. Williams' questions about the election plan. Ms. Goldman shared that Jason from the election staff is working on the reports for that plan now. Ms. Goldman clarified that the plan has been submitted but not approved. Ms. Goldman shared that several other plans (security, etc.) have been submitted.

Mr. Barnes invited our guests - Ms. Autumn Grant (D46) and Mr. Brian Easley (D41) - to introduce themselves. Mr. Easley shared that the chair of the state central committee has appointed them to be representatives to the board of elections from the DSCC.

Mr. Novey moved to approve the polling place changes proposed by Ms. Goldman. Ms. Vismale seconded. The motion passed.

Mr. Thre watt asked outreach to community associations about these polling place changes. Mr. Novey shared that the board had taken on the responsibility to reach out to community associations on the Baltimore City Planning Dept List. Mr. Barnes shared his feeling that this outreach is something the board should take responsibility for. Ms. Goldman confirmed for Mr. Thre watt that the form to sign up for polling place updates had been posted repeatedly on social media. Mr. Barnes reiterated the importance of

board members serving as ambassadors to address misinformation and be advocates for the board of elections in the community.

Mr. Novey clarified that Mr. Jones had testified to City Council in October 2023.

Mr. Barnes shared that the next meeting would be March 21 4pm.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Barnes adjourned the meeting.

Minutes were approved at the March 21, 2024 meeting.