

St. Mary's County Board of Elections

23250 Leonardtown Hollywood Road
Leonardtown, MD 20650

Board Meeting Minutes of 05 June 2024

Present:

Board Members:

Rebecca Wathen, Board President (D)
Mary Coombs, Board Secretary (R)
Jack Payne, Member (R)
Darlene Johnson, Member (D)
Ann Raley, Member (D)

Staff Members:

Wendy Adkins, Director
Susan Julian, Deputy Director

Cynthia Panos, Board Attorney

Absent: None

At 09:00 AM, Ms. Rebecca Wathen, Board President, determined that there was a quorum present and called the meeting to order. President Wathen announced that the meeting was being recorded for the purpose of preparing the minutes.

Guests Present: Ann Marie Abell

Documents Distributed:

- Meeting Minutes for March 6, 2024
- Meeting Minutes for April 12, 2024
- Letter of April 25, 2024 from Crystal McGinn, State Board of Elections, Election Reform & Management
- State of Maryland Telework Policy
- Primary Pre-Mail in Ballot Canvas Minutes of April 22, 2024
- Special Board Meeting Minutes of May 14, 2024
- Primary Pre-Mail in Ballot Canvas Minutes of May 16, 2024
- Primary Provisional Ballot Canvas Minutes of May 22, 2024
- Primary Mail In Ballot Canvas Minutes of May 24, 2024
- Post Certification Minutes of June 5, 2024
- Clear Ballot Post Election Audit Phase 1 Report
- 2024 MAEO Election – Key Dates

Approval of Minutes:

- The minutes from the meeting held on March 6, 2024 were presented. Ms. Mary Coombs made a motion to approve the minutes, with corrections from the floor, seconded by Ms. Ann Raley. Motion carried 5-0.
- The minutes from the meeting held on April 12, 2024 were presented. Ms. Darlene Johnson made a motion to approve the minutes, with corrections from the floor, seconded by Ms. Ann Raley. Motion carried 5-0.

Meeting Agenda: The meeting agenda was reviewed. No changes were made.

Director's Report: Ms. Adkins reported the following:

- **April's Director's Meeting:** Ms. Adkins advised that if a member would like to get a "Maryland.gov" email account for Board of Election Correspondence, then to let her know. This is a good idea as your personal/work emails can be subpoenaed if a lawsuit is filed.
- **SBE Election Judges Training Audit:** Ms. Adkins advised that Ms. McGinn from the SBE of Elections attended the election judges training on March 25, 2024. The office was provided a very good rating. See attached letter for full narrative.
- **Maryland's Mandatory Telework Agreement:** On April 18, 2024, the Governor of Maryland implemented a new "hybrid telework policy" that became effective on May 15, 2024. The Elections Office needed to stay open with a full staff due to the impending election. Therefore this policy was not to take effect for this office until after the election was certified. The policy states that each state employee will have two (2) days of telework and then two (2) days in the office, with the fifth day being optional based on the supervisor. For this office, everyone will be in the office on the fifth day. The start date for this office will be June 10, 2024, and ending on August 30, 2024, in order to prepare for the General Election. The telework schedule will then go back into effect after the general election is certified. Employees will be working alternating days as assigned by Ms. Adkins.
- **MAEO Meeting:** MAEO will be a one-day conference this year due to the General Election. It will be August 20, 2024, at the Baltimore County Board of Elections. The time and virtual options (if any) will be forthcoming.

Old Business:

- **2024 Presidential Primary Meeting Minutes:** A motion was made by Ms. Coombs to approve the minutes of April 22, 2024, Special Board Meeting Minutes of May 14, 2024, Primary Pre-Mail in Ballot Canvas Minutes of May 16, 2024, Primary Provisional Ballot Canvas Minutes of May 22, 2024, and Primary Mail In Ballot Canvas Minutes of May 24, 2024, with corrections from the floor. Seconded by Mr. Jack Payne. Motion carried 5-0.
- **Ballot Disposition:** Ms. Adkins presented three (3) ballots that were received after Election Day. All three (3) are very clearly post marked after Election Day. A motion was made by Mr. Payne to reject the ballots as being untimely, seconded by Ms. Johnson. Motion carried 5-0.
- **Post Certification Election Minutes:** Minutes have been prepared and are ready for signature based upon this vote. A motion was made by Mr. Payne to accept the minutes as presented, Seconded by Ms. Coombs. Motion carried 5-0.

New Business:

- **Clear Ballot Post Election Audit Phase 1:** – Ms. Adkins provides a copy of the report to the Board members for review. The audit revealed no discrepancies.
- **Confidentiality Request Form:** A registered voter contacted the office to have her name and address classified as confidential, meaning that it would not be made public. Normally for Judges and Law Enforcement, this is standard practice to protect them. However, this is not the normal process for regular voters. The rationale from this voter was they no longer wanted to receive political mail and phone calls. The voter completed a form for Board consideration. The voters phone number has been removed from public access, but their address is public information and cannot be removed. After Board discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Payne to NOT accept her request for confidentiality, seconded by Ms. Coombs. Motion carried 5-0.

Next Meeting:

The next meeting would fall on July 3, 2024, which is the day before the Holiday. It was determined that a July meeting would not be needed. The next meeting will then be August 7, 2024, at 0900 AM.

A motion was made by Mr. Payne to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Ms. Coombs. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 09:18 AM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mary Coombs
Board Secretary

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mary Coombs". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "M" and a long, sweeping underline.

