



The Charles County Board of Elections held its regular monthly board meeting on January 19, 2023 at 201 East Charles Street, La Plata, Maryland, convening at 9:00 a.m.

**I. Declaration of Quorum Present:** The meeting was called to order by Board President Renner promptly at 9:00 a.m. Attendees present were:

Board Members: Craig Renner  
Fern Brown  
Norman Saunders  
Dorothy Duffield  
Louis Jenkins, via conference call

Staff: Tracy Dickerson  
Chris McDougal  
Wade Beswick

Public: Larry Clifford  
Jerry Feith  
Bernadette Smith  
Norris Haines

**II. Additions to the Agenda:** No additional agenda items.

**III. Old Business:** No old business to discuss.

**IV. Approval of December 15, 2022 minutes and the final Post Certification minutes:** A motion was made by Secretary Saunders to accept the minutes from the December meeting; motion seconded by Vice President Brown; unanimously approved. A motion was made by Vice President Brown to accept the minutes from the Post-Certification meeting; motion seconded by Member Duffield; unanimously approved.

**V. Election Director's Report:**

- Director Dickerson informed the Board that the office staff was being reclassified to better serve the current needs of the office. There will be two positions open with one being set to open for applicants in the near future.
- The Director also noted that the office technology & operations staff is preparing to begin State-mandated inventory on 01 February, and is also preparing to receive electronic pollbook replacements. President Renner inquired as to the timeline of the pollbook arrival and Director Dickerson replied that the expectation is approximately May.
- Director Dickerson inquired of Deputy McDougal how planning & preparation for 2024 judges training was proceeding. Deputy McDougal responded that planning was underway and on-schedule.

**VI. Board Attorney Report:** Mr. Jenkins informed the Board that he had no new business to report.



**VII. New Business:**

Members of the public who wished to speak were allowed to do so. Mr. Feith produced a list of questions that were asked and answered:

**Question:** Will the Board commit to removing ineligible voters if proven ineligible?

**Answer:** Yes, that is procedure that the Board follows, and ineligible voters are removed.

**Question:** Will the Board commit to transparency by providing copies of the voter rolls for free?

**Answer:** No, voter rolls are available for \$81.

**Question:** Will the Board delete existing voter rolls and re-register only voters that provide identification?

**Answer:** No, that is not the law.

**Question:** Will the Board commit to removing electronic voting equipment if proven unreliable?

**Answer:** No, the equipment is provided to comply with Americans with Disabilities Act requirements.

**Question:** Will the Board commit to only using paper ballots counted by hand?

**Answer:** No, ballots are tallied according to State laws.

**Question:** Will the Board commit to counting by hand ballots generated by electronic equipment?

**Answer:** If that is required by law.

**Question:** Will the Board ban use of unsupervised ballot drop boxes?

**Answer:** Ballot drop boxes are utilized as instructed by the State and are under video surveillance.

**Question:** Will the Board commit to withholding results until the ten most populous Maryland counties have tabulated & released their results?

**Answer:** No, the State releases county results upon tabulation and turnout results are available to the public throughout election day.

Ms. Smith inquired as to why the public was required to inform the Board of their intention to speak at a Board meeting, and was informed that per COMAR the requirement exists to allow the Board time to allot to the public's request to speak during meetings.

President Renner moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:17 a.m., just before Mr. Haines arrived; the meeting was not adjourned, and Mr. Haines was allotted the opportunity to make a brief presentation regarding his research into voter legitimacy, specifically out-of-state voters vs. new Maryland residents. The Director explained how NVRA functions with MVA, and also NCOA and ERIC. Director Dickerson offered to make paper copies of Mr. Haines' research available to the State Board of Elections.

**VIII. Next Board Meeting:** The next Board Meeting will be held on February 16 at 9:00 a.m.

**IX. Motion to Adjourn:** At 9:25 a.m. President Renner made a motion to adjourn the meeting which was seconded by Secretary Saunders and Vice President Brown. After the meeting was adjourned, President Renner read aloud a goodbye letter from a departing staff member, thanking the Board for their service.

