



The Charles County Board of Elections held a special board meeting on January 27, 2022 at 201 East Charles Street, La Plata, Maryland, 20646 at 11:30 a.m.

- I. Declaration of Quorum Present:** Craig Renner via conference call  
Fern Brown via conference call  
Norman Saunders via conference call  
Dorothy Duffield via conference call  
Mark Hashagen via conference call  
Louis Jenkins, Board Attorney via conference call

Staff: Tracy A. Dickerson  
Chris McDougal  
Stephanie Ramos-Santos

Public: Bernadette Smith via conference call  
Michelle Talkinton via conference call  
Roseanne (unknown last name) via conference call

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

- Mrs. Dickerson informed the Board of the polling places she would like to consolidate due to lack of election judge interest.
- Ms. Dickerson explained that the places to consolidate are relatively in the same parking lot or close together. Along with the consolidation, she will be merging equipment together and the places have adequate parking and space for the additional equipment.
- Ms. Dickerson informed the Board that she was notified of T.C. Martin Elementary School being under construction this year. Therefore, she recommends consolidating that polling place to go to St. Charles High School, the high school can handle the volume of voters.
- Mr. Craig Renner asked if the primary factor is the inability to recruit election judges and election workers to staff all these polling places. Ms. Dickerson said that was correct.
- Mrs. Dickerson added that there are different ways the office staff reaches out to recruit judges: posts on social media, interest form on the website, previous election judges get mail, and election judges get called and asked if there are family members or friends that would like to be election judges. Having the recommended polling places consolidated would alleviate the shortage of election judges by 130.

- Mr. Renner commented that this has been happening in different counties across the state. Ms. Dickerson agreed and said that elections officials in all twenty-four jurisdictions were hoping Legislature would go back to Vote Centers, where voters could go anywhere in their county to vote, however, legislature is staying with precinct-based locations.
- Mr. Renner informed everyone that voters with consolidated polling places would have a new location, and they would just need to go next door as the places are close to each other. But reminded everyone that voters can go vote during early voting.
- Mrs. Dickerson informed the Board that Early Voting will be from 7 a.m.- 8 p.m. for eight days and there will be three locations in Pomfret, north of Waldorf, and La Plata. Voters can vote anywhere during Early Voting. Ms. Dickerson also informed the Board of another way voters can cast their vote; mail-in-ballot applications will be mailed in February to voters. Voters who choose to vote by mail can fill out the application and return it. Election Day will be June 28, 2022.
- The Board President asked if any member of the public had any questions or concerns about the polling place consolidations.
- Ms. Bernadette Smith said that she had a statement she'd like to make but not specifically about the polling places. Mr. Renner told her that the meeting today is solely about the polling places. Ms. Smith stated, "I don't think that's right, any statement from public citizens should be brought up on any subject they'd like."
- Mr. Louis P. Jenkins, Board Attorney, informed everyone that this was a special meeting and they are limited to the topic at hand, any other comments will need to be reserved until the next meeting on February 17, 2022.
- Ms. Smith then said she would like to make a comment, she stated that she is the President of the Republican Women of Charles County, and there were a lot of members who signed up to be judges to participate in the election process but they were never contacted.
- Ms. Dickerson answered that in the 2020 General Election the state switched to Vote Centers due to the pandemic, and Charles County didn't need as many election judges as there were only nine Vote Centers on election day.
- Mr. Craig Renner told Ms. Smith that the Board of Elections is continuing to recruit election judges, and if her members would like to participate, to send a list of people interested to Ms. Dickerson. Ms. Dickerson informed everyone that a link to the interest form is on the website for anyone else wanting to participate.
- All members of the Board approved the polling place consolidations.

**III. Board Attorney Report:** N/A

**IV. Next Board Meeting:** The next Board Meeting will be held on February 17, 2022

**V. Motion to Adjourn:** Mr. Mark Hashagen made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Mrs. Fern Brown, unanimously approved.