



The Charles County Board of Elections held its regular monthly board meeting on February 17, 2022 at 201 East Charles Street, La Plata, Maryland, 20646 at 9:00 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
Wade Beswick
Chris McDougal
Stephanie Ramos-Santos

Public: Unknown Private Caller

II. Approval of December and January Special Meeting Minutes:

- Mr. Saunders made a motion to accept the December minutes; seconded by Ms. Brown. Unanimously approved.
- Ms. Brown made a motion to accept the January Special Meeting minutes; seconded by Ms. Duffield. Unanimously approved.

III. Additions to the Agenda: N/A

IV. Election Director's Report:

- Ms. Dickerson informed the Board that the Candidate Filing Deadline was moved from February 22, 2022 to March 22, 2022. Everything else pertaining to candidate filing will be moved as well, such as the Deadline to Withdraw.
- Ms. Dickerson informed the Board that there have been four lawsuits filed regarding redistricting. She received a copy of a Motion to Dismiss, which includes Charles County's legislative district. The Motion lists the issue of the lines drawn not being continuous; their issue is Calvert into St. Mary's and having to cross the bridge to be able to vote. Ms. Dickerson informed the Board a judge is supposed to make a motion on the Congressional districts sometime soon, and if it goes to court it will be on March 15th.
- Ms. Dickerson informed the Board that the only thing that changed in the Commissioner Districts is precinct 9-1; it will be changed from Commissioner District 3 to Commissioner District 1. Precinct 9 will be in the First Commissioner District; this change has been updated in the system. Commissioner redistricting will not be affected by the Legislative Districts.

- Ms. Dickerson informed the Board that the ballot request forms to vote by mail are being sent out. So far, the office has received a rough estimate of 3,300 request forms as of February 17th. About 60% of voters who returned their forms requested permanent mail-in ballots to vote all future elections by mail.
- Mr. Beswick informed the Board that the office has received seven DS200 scanners. Acceptance testing is complete; six scanners passed and have been added to inventory. One had an issue and has been addressed to the vendor ES&S. The office received six new Ballot Marking Devices that will undergo acceptance testing today. Electronic Pollbooks are in the process of software reinstallation, which had been removed in anticipation of receipt of new pollbooks, but that has been pushed back to 2024, therefore the office will be using the current pollbooks for another two election cycles.
- Ms. Dickerson explained to the Board that acceptance testing is a test that is done on any new equipment the office receives. Mr. Beswick follows SBE procedures to ensure the equipment can scan ballots and tabulate properly. If anything is not correct, he doesn't accept the equipment and gets the vendor in to fix it prior to the office putting the equipment into inventory. The additional equipment we received is required for the growth in Charles County. Ms. Dickerson informed the Board that the Department of Public Works approved the monies for new pollbooks on February 16, 2022.
- Mrs. Dickerson informed the Board that she will send a link to see the candidates that have filed. Ms. McDougal said candidate filing is increasing, as she had three people filing yesterday and four people today.
- Ms. Dickerson informed the Board about the State releasing the mask mandate as of the 22nd, however the State said offices must adhere if the county has a mask mandate in place for government buildings. She has called Ms. Crystal Hunt to ask about the mask mandate in Charles County, Ms. Hunt will call Ms. Dickerson back after she confers with the County Administrator, Mr. Mark Belton.
- Ms. Dickerson informed the Board that she received maps of what was passed through the Senate, she has begun doing the "leg work" and if the proposed maps are accepted, she will just need to input the information into the voter registration system.
- Ms. Dickerson informed the board that she will be going to St. Mary's County Board of Elections to help the Director there with redistricting.

V. Board Attorney Report: N/A

VI. Old Business: N/A

VII. New Business: N/A

VIII. Next Board Meeting: The next Board Meeting will be held on March 17, 2022.

IX. Motion to Adjourn: Mr. Mark Hashagen made a motion to adjourn; seconded by Ms. Duffield. Unanimously approved.

