



The Charles County Board of Elections held its regular monthly board meeting on August 18, 2022 at 201 East Charles Street, La Plata, Maryland, 20646 at 9:00 a.m.

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

Staff: Tracy A. Dickerson  
Wade Beswick  
Stephanie Ramos-Santos

Public: Jamila Smith

**II. Additions to the Agenda:** N/A

**III. Old Business:** N/A

**IV. Approval of June 16<sup>th</sup> and July 19<sup>th</sup> Minutes:** Ms. Brown made a motion to accept the June 16<sup>th</sup> and July 19<sup>th</sup> meeting minutes, seconded by Mr. Hashagen. Unanimously approved.

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

- Ms. Dickerson informed the Board that training for new and refresher election judges begins on September 6<sup>th</sup>.
- Ms. Dickerson informed the Board that they will be sworn in on October 20<sup>th</sup> at 10 a.m. for the General Election.
- Ms. Dickerson informed the Board that Charles County was certified in MDVOTERS on August 4<sup>th</sup>.
- Ms. Dickerson informed the Board that she and Stephanie will be going to Prince George's County to help with the recount on August 22<sup>nd</sup> through August 24<sup>th</sup>.
- Ms. Dickerson informed the Board that the State Board of Elections has petitioned the Circuit Court to seek approval to canvass Mail-in Ballots prior to Election Day.
- Mr. Renner asked what were the chances of the Court approving, Mr. Jenkins responded that a lot would have to be considered. Ms. Dickerson responded that although it could be approved, she would have to make time and find workers to canvass, ballots are not supposed to be counted during Early Voting thus, the only day would be Friday after Early Voting. She would have to know how far in advance canvassing can happen.

- Mr. Renner asked if this would affect the budget. Ms. Dickerson responded no. Mr. Renner asked if the office would be short volunteers, Ms. Dickerson responded that she wouldn't know that information yet because election judges are used for canvassing and some would be working early voting.
- Mr. Renner shared that he thinks it would be a challenge since ballots are received the last week leading up to the election and canvassing before would be difficult as the office will continue to be receiving ballots every day.
- Ms. Dickerson shared that in the 2020 Election, canvassing was done prior to election day, and everything went smoothly and the canvassing was split into one day of opening ballots and one day scanning the opened ballots. Results and the scanning units were locked and sealed until the end of election day when they ended the election and printed results. For the canvass, it would be stated "from this day to this day, we received X number of ballots that we will open". And save the rest for the other canvassing days.

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

**VII. New Business:** Ms. Jamila Smith asked to speak to the Board. Ms. Smith praised the Board of Elections' staff for doing a great job for the Gubernatorial Primary; she said there were phenomenal election judges and she knows all the work that goes into it as she used to be an election judge. Ms. Smith said that from a candidate's perspective, everything was very good and well communicated. Ms. Smith shared her concerns with the Board, about losing voters between the age of 18 and 25. She asked the Board if there was a way to get young adults to be more involved and engaged, such as registering at 16 and being interested in working as an election judge. She asked if, with school starting and the fair coming up, the Board of Elections could work with the public-school system to make sure that teens can register to vote in school, and make creative ways to register and get them involved.

- Ms. Dickerson responded that 16-year-olds can work as election judges as long as they get a signature from a parent saying they are allowed. She also stated most of the county's registrants come from MVA when they get their permit or license. Staff used to go to the school but students would pass by the booth or say they were already registered. Staff participated at this year's Project Graduation and there was a total of 10 registrations and only a few interested in working as Election Judges; at the fair, Central Committees are bound to get more registrations than the Board of Elections.
- Ms. Duffield shared with everyone that when she was Director, there were only 2 social studies teachers in the county that asked the Board to be guests in their classroom to teach their students about civic duty and how voting works, and to make sure every one of their students was registered.

Ms. Jamila Smith thanked the board, and said that even the Board of Elections being active on Facebook and using social media was a good way to get kids involved. Ms. Smith shared that maybe different schools and club groups could share information. The Board thanked Ms. Jamila and said it would be a good idea to get involved with different clubs and programs to get young adults involved.

**VIII. Next Board Meeting:** The next Board Meeting will be held on September 15, 2022.

**IX. Motion to Adjourn:** Mr. Saunders made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Ms. Brown. Unanimously approved.

