

Subject: Response to PIA Request
Date: Friday, October 11, 2024 at 6:03:15 PM Eastern Daylight Time
From: Danyelle Avery -SBE- <danyelle.avery3@maryland.gov>
To: AO Records <records@americanoversight.org>
Attachments: image001.png, 2024-113 Binder1_Redacted.pdf

EXTERNAL SENDER

Dear Ms. Adhoob, I received your PIA request stating in part "1. All email communications (including emails, email attachments, complete email chains, calendar invitations, and calendar invitation attachments) between (a) Board of Elections Member Diane Butler, and (b) any of the external entities or individuals listed below (including the listed email addresses and/or domains).

External Entities and Individuals:

- a. Alex Pacheco (aspacheco25@gmail.com)
- b. Anne Arundel County Republican Central Committee (aagop.org)
- c. Baltimore County Election Integrity Council
- d. Cause of America (causeofamerica@protonmail.com, causeofamerica.org)
- e. Center for Renewing America (americarenewing.com)
- f. Citizens for Renewing America (citizensrenewingamerica.com)
- g. Cleta Mitchell (cleta@cletamitchell.com)
- h. Conservative Partnership Institute (cpi.org, conservativepartnership.org)
- i. David Morsberger (dave@morsberger.com)
- j. Heather Honey (heather@verityvote.us, hhoney@haystackinvestigations.com, h2osint@protonmail.com)
- k. J. Christian Adams (a@electionlawcenter.com, adams@electionlawcenter.com)
- l. James Randisi (jamesrandisi1@gmail.com)
- m. Jim Shalleck (jimshalleck@hotmail.com)
- n. Jean Benhoff (jmbenhoff@gmail.com)
- o. Jolie McShane (jolie@healthmaniacs.net)
- p. Kate Sullivan (kate@sullyland.com)
- q. Michele Replogle (micrep@protonmail.com, micrep@pm.me)
- r. Nicolee Ambrose (nicolee@nicoleeambrose.com)
- s. Public Interest Legal Foundation (publicinterestlegal.org)
- t. Steve Brown (fstevebrown@protonmail.com)
- u. Susan McConkey (susandil@aol.com)
- v. Thomas Basile (tom@statecraftlaw.com)"

Pursuant to GP § 4-362, your client is entitled to seek judicial review of this decision. Alternatively, your client may file a request for mediation with the Public Access Ombudsman and, if the Ombudsman is unable to resolve the matter, may subsequently seek a resolution from the Public Information Act Compliance Board for those matters within the Compliance Board's jurisdiction. See GP §§ 4-1A-01 et seq. and 4-1B-01 et seq.

I have found the attached emails responsive to your request. If you have questions or concerns feel free to contact me.

--

Danyelle Avery
Election Reform and Management
Maryland State Board of Elections
410-269-2912
danyelle.avery3@maryland.gov





Re: Primary Debrief

From Jim Shalleck <[REDACTED]>
Date Wed 6/5/2024 5:59 PM
To Kate Strauch Sullivan <[REDACTED]>
Cc DIANE BUTLER <[REDACTED]>; Nicolee Ambrose <[REDACTED]>; Susan McConkey <[REDACTED]>; Alex Pacheco <[REDACTED]>; Adam Wood <[REDACTED]>; David Morsberger <[REDACTED]>; Shawn Poulson <shawn@kentcountyrc.com>

Let's try and conference call soon. Jim

Sent from my iPhone

On Jun 5, 2024, at 5:57 PM, Jim Shalleck <[REDACTED]> wrote:

Thank you very much. Very comprehensive and thoughtful. Jim

Sent from my iPhone

On Jun 5, 2024, at 4:14 PM, Kate Strauch Sullivan <kate@sullyland.com> wrote:

Diane and Jim-

First, congratulations on your selection to serve on our State Board of Elections. I hope the members of our State Board of Elections fully appreciate the expertise, intelligence and experience you bring to the table. Both of you are in a unique position to truly impact the professionalism and thoroughness with which the State Board of Elections oversees and manages the security of our elections. We know both of you will be vigilant in your stewardship. Last Sunday evening, the Grassroots Committee met to debrief on the past Primary Election and determine ways we can strengthen our election system as we move toward the 2024 General Election. It is in this spirit we would like to share with you a few critical vulnerabilities that surfaced from our most recent Primary Elections. These vulnerabilities can be easily remedied - and shouldn't be controversial - just helpful. We've identified a few issues we came upon as well as offered our recommendations.

- 1. ISSUE: Election judge no-shows:** In 15 or so polling precincts visited, ALL had election judge no-shows. One precinct had as high as 9 no shows!! This equalled half those who had signed up! While we would never applaud the low-turnout we saw in our recent Primary election, in this case, it was our saving grace. We cannot take the chance this will happen again.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Please encourage a **uniform response system** during the Election Judge sign up process!!! This is a no-brainer! I Not sure

MD-SBE-24-1890-A-000001

you're aware, but when you sign up to be a judge, the volunteer does not receive ANY automated system confirmation. I am assured from people who install and manage these types of systems that this is very easy to implement. It is simply a matter of setting up the auto-response parameters. This would go a long way to helping volunteers feel immediately engaged in their commitment.

- Please encourage a **UNIFORM system of reminders** of the volunteers commitment. As a bare minimum, volunteers should receive a reminder of the details of their commitment (DAY, TIME, LOCATION, and other pertinent details) directly after their training. The same reminder should go out 3 days in advance of their commitment and the night before their commitment. As it stands now, the local jurisdictions rely on the Chief Judges to send out manual reminders - it's a disaster! Many judges are good and responsible - but many are not! It creates an inconsistent process at best and a total lack of engagement at its worst.
2. **ISSUE: Chief judges not reconciling election counts on site.** We witnessed several precincts skip the reconciliation process!

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- *Emphasis on the importance of RECONCILIATION in the training process! See System of Checks and Balances below*
3. **ISSUE: Systemically broken chain of custody.** We witnessed several precincts send random volunteers with BOTH data sticks AND ballots in their personal car, alone. In one instance, the volunteer arrived at the processing center and was simply told to "drop them there" as someone casually pointed to a curb outside the processing center. No paperwork was filled out, no signature was required, no one checked what was being dropped off....IT WAS AN APPALLING LACK OF PROFESSIONALISM!!!

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- *Emphasis on proper maintenance of Chain of Custody in the training process. We need to enforce a System of Checks and Balances immediately. No person should ever drop off ballots without signing appropriate paperwork as to when, who, where, and how many ballots!*
4. **ISSUE:** Impossible commitment expected from volunteers. I fully realize this is, to some degree, out of your control, BUT I hope you will have an opportunity to guide this board to consider eliminating or greatly reducing Early Voting. Early voting turnout was abysmally low. 8 days of Early Voting is a ridiculous not to mention a waste of tax payer money AND it makes it very difficult to find good volunteers. If we had 1 day of voting, we would not find it as challenging to sign up voters. With mail-ins, Early Voting is not required.

RECOMMENDATION:

- At a bare minimum, we should reduce Early voting to 2-3 days.

KEY TAKEAWAY: In every case we have cited above, the issue was too much trust in the system. All too often, we have witnessed Board of Election officials point to their system and processes as the reason their system is secure. This circular argument may make them feel good, but it does not guarantee security in our election system which we know we don't need to remind you, is critical infrastructure.

Best said: We are only as strong as our weakest link and most vulnerable point in the system!

There are many great and professional volunteers and employees working in our elections. But there are also many untrained and complacent volunteers and election workers. Or worse - those who aim to take advantage of the lack of oversight and accountability. We hope you both will be able to drive this point home more successfully than we have been able to over the past 4 years.

On a side note, our team at SecuretheVoteMD will be presenting a full list of ineligible voters who requested ballots and voted with them. We will send them to you when we have the full list. As you may be aware, the State has been very slow to offer the fully reconciled number counts from the election. Another bit of information I find incredibly concerning in light of the fact they rushed to "certify" the election. Not sure how you certify an election when the votes have not yet been reconciled. Shake my head.

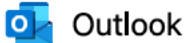
I would love an opportunity to speak with both of you if you have any questions or feedback for these issues and recommendations offered.

Thanks in advance for your attention to these matters,

Kate Sullivan

“The truth is like a lion; you don’t have to defend it. Set it free; it will defend itself.”

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Primary Debrief

From Kate Strauch Sullivan <kate@sullyland.com>

Date Wed 6/5/2024 4:14 PM

To DIANE BUTLER <[REDACTED]>; Jim Shalleck <[REDACTED]>; Nicolee Ambrose <[REDACTED]>; Susan McConkey <[REDACTED]>; Alex Pacheco <[REDACTED]>; Adam Wood <[REDACTED]>; David Morsberger <[REDACTED]>; Shawn Poulson <shawn@kentcountyrcc.com>

Diane and Jim-

First, congratulations on your selection to serve on our State Board of Elections. I hope the members of our State Board of Elections fully appreciate the expertise, intelligence and experience you bring to the table. Both of you are in a unique position to truly impact the professionalism and thoroughness with which the State Board of Elections oversees and manages the security of our elections. We know both of you will be vigilant in your stewardship.

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1. **ISSUE: Election judge no-shows:** In 15 or so polling precincts visited, ALL had election judge no-shows. One precinct had as high as 9 no shows!! This equalled half those who had signed up! While we would never applaud the low-turnout we saw in our recent Primary election, in this case, it was our saving grace. We cannot take the chance this will happen again.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- o Please encourage a **uniform response system** during the Election Judge sign up process!!! This is a no-brainer! I Not sure you're aware, but when you sign up to be a judge, the volunteer does not receive ANY automated system confirmation. I am assured from people who install and manage these types of systems that this is very easy to implement. It is simply a matter of setting up the auto-response parameters. This would go a long way to helping volunteers feel immediately engaged in their commitment.
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Re: Sample Ballots being voted and deposited in Drop Boxes

From David Morsberger <[REDACTED]>
Date Sun 5/5/2024 12:34 PM
To Diane Butler <[REDACTED]>
Cc Susan McConkey <[REDACTED]>; Nicolee Ambrose <[REDACTED]>; Alex Pacheco <[REDACTED]>; Kate Sullivan <[REDACTED]>; Jim Shalleck <[REDACTED]>

Just because they cannot doesn't mean they will not try.

On May 5, 2024, at 12:29 PM, DIANE BUTLER <[REDACTED]> wrote:

I am working on an answer to this. It was also discussed briefly at our last meeting, and I am looking at my notes. Sample ballots are not ballots and cannot be counted. The LBE will try and notify the voter to let them know that they have not actually voted.

The LBE's do not have time to do any more early canvasses as all of the staff is being used to facilitate early voting and voting day.

Diane

From: David Morsberger <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Sunday, May 5, 2024 9:15 AM
To: Susan McConkey <[REDACTED]>
Cc: Nicolee Ambrose <[REDACTED]>; Alex Pacheco <[REDACTED]>; Kate Sullivan <[REDACTED]>; Diane Butler <[REDACTED]>; Jim Shalleck <[REDACTED]>
Subject: Re: Sample Ballots being voted and deposited in Drop Boxes

That is the action Bianca has. I will reiterate the importance to her.

On May 5, 2024, at 8:52 AM, Susan Mcconkey <[REDACTED]> wrote:

Doesn't look like Baltimore City canvasses any more Mail-In Ballots until after the Election. State Board's next meeting is Election Day, does Diane just have the ability to add this to the agenda?

David - can you find out from Bianca what the City Board decided while canvassing on the first day?

I'll share as soon as I hear from the local Board members Terry and Maria.

Thanks all,
 Susan

On Sunday, May 5, 2024 at 02:07:35 AM EDT, Nicolee Ambrose <[REDACTED]> wrote:

FYI that this needs to be clearly decided by the BOE and should not be able to count.

There have been years where people would submit Trone's sample campaign mailer ballots as actual ballots, and Frederick County BOE would seemingly pass a number of them through. If Trone ends up on the ballot statewide, we have to expect them to use this technique statewide.

From: David Morsberger <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Saturday, May 4, 2024 4:36 PM
To: Susan Mcconkey <[REDACTED]>
Cc: Nicolee Ambrose <[REDACTED]>; Kate Strauch Sullivan <[REDACTED]>; DIANE BUTLER <[REDACTED]>
Subject: Re: Sample Ballots being voted and deposited in Drop Boxes

Bianca in Baltimore City reported that she saw that during canvassing. I requested she go to website. She is the one who said City wasn't an option.

I also asked he to find out how they processed/adjudicated the sample ballots. They cannot claim intent and mark an official. I am in no way implying or insinuating they are doing that.

AMERICAN
 OVERSIGHT
 Sent from my iPhone

On May 4, 2024, at 15:52, Susan Mcconkey <[REDACTED]> wrote:

MD-SBE-24-1890-A-000006

Just FYI but wanted to let you know in case you see the same news story

----- Forwarded Message -----

From: Susan McConkey [REDACTED]
To: mariavismale37@ [REDACTED] <[@](mailto:)> [REDACTED] <tthweatt@> [REDACTED] <[@](mailto:)> [REDACTED]
Cc: Alex Pacheco <[@](mailto:)> [REDACTED] Tom Kennedy <[@](mailto:)> [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, May 4, 2024 at 03:44:13 PM EDT
Subject: Sample Ballots being voted and deposited in Drop Boxes

Maria & Terry,

My name is Susan McConkey and I am working the Election Hotline for the Maryland Republican Party.

The news story carried by Fox 45 this morning was brought to our attention about voters voting their sample ballots and placing them in the drop boxes.

The news story was unclear how big an issue this is. Are the voters that have voted using their sample ballot being contacted? Will the deposit of the sample ballot impact a voter if they later turn in their mail-in ballot or go to vote in person?

Thanks so much for your time,

Susan McConkey
MDGOP Election Integrity Committee
[SUBMIT A REPORT – MARYLAND | PROTECT THE VOTE](#)
410-210-4450





RE: Sample Ballots being voted and deposited in Drop Boxes

From Nicolee Ambrose <[REDACTED]>
Date Sun 5/5/2024 2:07 AM
To David Morsberger <[REDACTED]>; Susan Mcconkey <[REDACTED]>
Cc [REDACTED]; DIANE BUTLER <[REDACTED]>; Jim Shalleck <[REDACTED]>

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Sent: Saturday, May 4, 2024 4:36 PM
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Cc: Nicolee Ambrose <[REDACTED]>; Kate Strauch Sullivan <[REDACTED]>; DIANE BUTLER <[REDACTED]>
Subject: Re: Sample Ballots being voted and deposited in Drop Boxes

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Sent from my iPhone

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----- Forwarded Message -----

From: Susan Mcconkey <[REDACTED]>
To: [mariavismale37@\[REDACTED\]](mailto:mariavismale37@[REDACTED]) <[REDACTED]>; [tthreweatt@\[REDACTED\]](mailto:tthreweatt@[REDACTED]) <[REDACTED]>
Cc: Alex Pacheco <alex.pacheco25@gmail.com>; Tom Kennedy <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Saturday, May 4, 2024 at 03:44:13 PM EDT
Subject: Sample Ballots being voted and deposited in Drop Boxes

AMERICAN
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MDGOP Election Integrity Committee
[SUBMIT A REPORT – MARYLAND | PROTECT THE VOTE](#)
410-210-4450



RE: Board Members at Polling Locations

From Nicolee Ambrose <[REDACTED]>
Date Tue 5/14/2024 6:40 AM
To James Ashburn <[REDACTED]>; Norris Hanes <[REDACTED]>;
normajejanwillnot <[REDACTED]>
Cc Susan Mcconkey <[REDACTED]>; DIANE BUTLER <[REDACTED]>

FYI on Section 10-308(a) of the Election Law Article states that:

“An election judge shall allow the following individuals to have access to the voting room at a polling place:

- (1) a voter;
- (2) an individual who accompanies a voter in need of assistance in accordance with § 10-310(c) of this subtitle;
- (3) polling place staff;
- (4) a member or other representative of the State Board or local board;
- (5) an accredited watcher or challenger under § 10-311 of this subtitle;
- (6) an individual under the age of 18 who accompanies a voter in accordance with § 10-310(c) of this subtitle, provided that:
 - (i) the individual is in the care of the voter and does not disrupt or interfere with normal voting procedures; and
 - (ii) the individual is not eligible to vote in that election; and
- (7) any other individual authorized by the State Board or local board.”

Md. Code., Elec. Law § 10-308(a). The Election Law Article clearly permits members of the State or local boards of elections to have access to voting room at a polling place.

From: Nicolee Ambrose
Sent: Tuesday, May 14, 2024 6:09 AM
To: James Ashburn <[REDACTED]>; Norris Hanes <[REDACTED]>;
normajejanwillnot <[REDACTED]>
Cc: Susan Mcconkey <[REDACTED]>
Subject: FW: Board Members at Polling Locations

Hello Norris and Norma Jean,

Good luck today and thank you for all you are doing!

Please let Susan and I know if you received the below email, where we believe the instructions are a direct violation of Maryland law. See attached.

This affects Dems, Republicans, everyone. If Mr. DeMarinis doesn't correct this language first thing this morning, we have additional plans. Please let us know if as a BOE Member with standing whether you would be willing to be a Plaintiff. (We are asking several BOE members across the state, and have received some affirmative responses already.)

AMERICAN
Best,
Nicolee
OVERSIGHT

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Katherine Berry** <katherine.berry@maryland.gov>

Date: Mon, May 13, 2024 at 4:07 PM

Subject: Board Members at Polling Locations

To: Diane Loibel -SBE- <diane.loibel@maryland.gov>, David Garreis -SBE- <david.garreis@maryland.gov>, Abigail Goldman -SBE- <abigail.goldman@maryland.gov>, Ruie LaVoie <rlavoie@baltimorecountymd.gov>, Ruie Lavoie -SBE- <ruie.lavoie@maryland.gov>, Gail Hatfield -SBE- <gail.hatfield@maryland.gov>, Allison Murphy -SBE- <allison.murphy@maryland.gov>, Erin E. Perrone -SBE- <erine.perrone@maryland.gov>, Gary Holmes -SBE- <Gary.Holmes1@maryland.gov>, Tracy Dickerson -SBE- <tracy.dickerson@maryland.gov>, Gwendolyn Dales -SBE- <gwendolyn.dales@maryland.gov>, Barbara Wagner -SBE- <barbara.wagner@maryland.gov>, Steve Fratz -SBE- <steve.fratz@maryland.gov>, Stephanie Taylor -SBE- <stephanie.taylor@maryland.gov>, Guy Mickley -SBE- <guy.mickley@maryland.gov>, Cheemoandia Blake -SBE- <cheemoandia.blake@maryland.gov>, Boris Brajkovic -SBE- <boris.brajkovic@maryland.gov>, Wendy Day -SBE- <wendy.day@maryland.gov>, Christine Jones <christine.jones@maryland.gov>, Wendy Adkins -SBE- <wendy.adkins@maryland.gov>, Julia Cox <julia.cox@maryland.gov>, Tammy Stafford -SBE- <tammy.stafford@maryland.gov>, Barry Jackson -SBE- <barry.jackson@maryland.gov>, Dionne Church -SBE- <dionne.church@maryland.gov>, Patricia Jackson -SBE- <patricia.jackson@maryland.gov>, Wendy Maddux -SBE- <wendy.maddux@maryland.gov>, Richard Siejack -SBE- <richard.siejack@maryland.gov>, Lisa Stanley -SBE- <lisa.stanley@maryland.gov>, Rena Waggoner <rwaggoner@baltimorecountymd.gov>, Rena Waggoner -SBE- <rena.waggoner1@maryland.gov>, Kristen Scott -SBE- <kristen.scott@maryland.gov>, Jennifer Bartholow -SBE- <jennifer.bartholow@maryland.gov>, Karen Benecewicz -SBE- <karen.benecewicz@maryland.gov>, Mary McDougal -SBE- <mary.mcdougal@maryland.gov>, Anthony Gutierrez -SBE- <anthony.gutierrez@maryland.gov>, Karen Perry -SBE- <karen.perry@maryland.gov>, Charlotte Davis -SBE- <charlotte.davis1@maryland.gov>, Janet Ross -SBE- <janet.ross@maryland.gov>, Demetra K.M. Hutchinson -SBE- <demetra.hutchinson@maryland.gov>, Kim Spence -SBE- <Kim.spence@maryland.gov>, Susan Julian -SBE- <susan.julian@maryland.gov>, Teresa Morningstar -SBE- <teresa.morningstar1@maryland.gov>, Bill A. Blockston -SBE- <bill.blockston@maryland.gov>, Teresa Riggan -SBE- <teresa.riggin@maryland.gov>

Cc: Crystal McGinn -SBE- <crystal.mcginn@maryland.gov>, MaryAnn Mogavero -SBE- <maryann.mogavero@maryland.gov>, Melissa Dorsey -SBE- <melissia.dorsey1@maryland.gov>, James Harris -SBE- <james.harris2@maryland.gov>, Jared DeMarinis -SBE- <jared.demarinis@maryland.gov>

Election Directors/Deputy Directors:

To clarify the role of Board Members on Election Day, unless they have been given a direct responsibility or role such as serving as a polling place evaluator or to deliver extra ballots/supplies, Board Members have no special authority to observe polling places, direct operations in a polling place, or instruct election judges in their duties. Like any member of the public, a Board Member may visit a polling place to vote. If the Board Member is not voting at that polling place, they have no special privilege to be present inside a polling place during election operations. They are also not eligible to be a Challenger & Watcher because of the inherent conflict that role could cause with their responsibilities as a Board Member.

If a Board Member is so inclined to see a polling location, they can go as far as the entrance of the polling room, but are not permitted to go any further. While at the polling location, Board Members must respect the "no-electioneering" boundary just like any other member of the public.

Katie

Katherine Berry

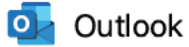
Deputy Administrator

Phone. (410)269-2843 Mobile. (667)314-5015

Web. www.elections.maryland.gov

Address. 151 West Street, Suite 200,
Annapolis, MD 21401

____ _



Re: BOE

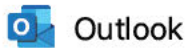
From DIANE BUTLER <[REDACTED]>
Date Thu 6/6/2024 12:25 PM
To Jim Shalleck [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]. Give me a call

From: Jim Shalleck [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, June 6, 2024 12:07 PM
To: DIANE BUTLER [REDACTED]
Subject: BOE

Diane - Being sworn-in tomorrow. Excited to be working with you. What's your cell ? Jim

Sent from my iPhone



Re: Monday's headlines from MoCo360

From DIANE BUTLER [REDACTED] >

Date Tue 6/11/2024 10:00 AM

To Jim Shalleck <[REDACTED]>

Hi Jim,

That wasn't too bad, but you may have annoyed some Republicans now, also. I will read it again and give you a few pointers a little later. But don't talk to the press again until we talk, if you can avoid it.

Diane

From: Jim Shalleck [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, June 10, 2024 5:23 PM
To: DIANE BUTLER [REDACTED]
Subject: Fw: Monday's headlines from MoCo360

FYI

From: MoCo360 <newsletters@moco360.media>
Sent: Monday, June 10, 2024 11:46 AM
To: Friends of Jim Shalleck <[REDACTED]>
Subject: Monday's headlines from MoCo360

[VIEW IN BROWSER](#)

TODAY



MONDAY, JUNE 10, 2024

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Local elections board officials express concern over former GOP member's comments about voter fraud

Jim Shalleck is nominee for Maryland State Board of Elections seat [Full details »](#)

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MCPS pauses search for new Montgomery Blair High principal

Damascus High's Kevin Yates to take on acting role at Silver Spring school



County Council to interview police chief candidate Marc Yamada

Plus: New bill to allow campgrounds in more areas, public hearing on proposed tax credit for disabled veterans



Motorcyclist dies in White Oak collision

Incident occurred early Saturday

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A campaign graphic for Lynne Harris for School Board. It features a central portrait of Lynne Harris, a woman with short brown hair and glasses, wearing a blue and white striped shirt. To the left is the SEIU Local 500 Endorsed logo, and to the right is a circular logo for 'MOM DEMAND ACTION OUR SENSE CANDIDATE 2024'. Below the portrait, the text reads 'Lynne Harris for School Board' in large white letters. Underneath that, it says 'TEACHER • LAWYER • NURSE' and 'WWW.LYNNE4STUDENTS.ORG'. A quote from Lynne Harris is included: 'I joined the BOE in 2020 to ensure every student feels safe and valued and gets an exceptional education. There is still work to be done and I am ready to continue doing it.' At the bottom, it says 'Paid for by Friends of Lynne Harris, Oriole Saah, Treasurer'.



Downtown Silver Spring's Station Square office complex on auction block

Plus: Four injured in Brookeville two-vehicle crash; downtown Bethesda mourns loss of beloved dog who rode on pedicab



Proposed 393-unit housing development in North Bethesda office park moves forward

Project includes creation of a public urban park with bocce courts, play areas

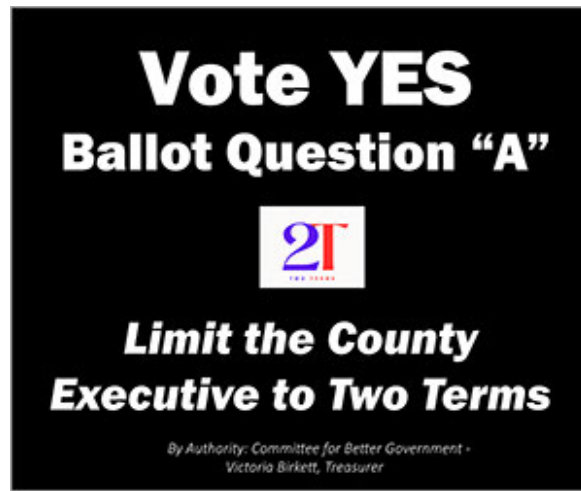


Layoffs of up to 150 MCPS educators 'unlikely,' county teachers union says

MCPS predicted loss of jobs to help close spending gap for next fiscal year

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Reza Golesorkhi
Divorce Attorney



Former Wootton High student indicted by grand jury on threats of mass violence charge

Hearing to set trial date postponed to June 21



A livable arboretum: Welcome to Garrett Park

The town borders Rock Creek Park



Opinion: Demand a future free from gun violence

Saturday's Wear Orange event in Wheaton urged action by lawmakers



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Re: Info

From DIANE BUTLER [REDACTED]
Date Sun 8/18/2024 11:07 AM
To Jim Shalleck [REDACTED]

Hi Jim,

I made a comment back, but my email to Nicole bounced back. I think you received this.

Diane

From: Jim Shalleck <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Sunday, August 18, 2024 10:12 AM
To: nicole@mdgop.org <[REDACTED]>; DIANE BUTLER [REDACTED]
Subject: Fwd: Info

FYI. Sent again. Had computer issues. Jim

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Jim Shalleck <[REDACTED]>
Date: August 16, 2024 at 2:09:11 PM EDT
To: Nicole [REDACTED]
Cc: DIANE BUTLER <[REDACTED]>
Subject: Fw: Info

Nicole/Diane - Robyn Sachs sent me two concerns from Voter Integrity groups.

A study from a researcher in Wisconsin, Peter Bernegger, ran

Maryland

voting data through a "Titan" system finding significant problems (in the thousands) regarding bad addresses, bad registrations, etc. Second, Kent County Voter Integrity was denied access to video surveillance of all of their drop boxes and areas at their BOE where

voters

deliver ballots. I forwarded these inquiries to Jared. His responses

below. Jim

From: Jim Shalleck <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, August 16, 2024 1:49 PM
To: Robyn Sachs [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: Info

Robyn - Spoke to Jared. His responses to your two inquiries:

- We don't know what this Titan system is or does ? What algorithms it uses, data it receives, or anything else to substantiate its claims.

- Videos at schools are privileged for security reasons of schools and videos of children.

- The entrances have security features not for public disclosure. Video surveillance of drop boxes is for the protection of the physical box from damage and destruction of ballots.

Jim

From: Robyn Sachs <[REDACTED]@[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, August 8, 2024 3:00 PM
To: Jim Shalleck [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: Info

Sounds good

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From: Jim Shalleck <[REDACTED]@[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, August 8, 2024 2:59:56 PM
To: Robyn Sachs <[REDACTED]@[REDACTED]>
Subject: Re: Info

I'll talk to Jared. Jim

Sent from my iPhone

On Aug 8, 2024, at 2:50 PM, Robyn Sachs <[REDACTED]@[REDACTED]> wrote:

Hi Jim,

I think Nicolee Ambrose & Kate Sullivan are going to be meeting with Jared soon. Should we coordinate the meeting for everyone?

I'll cc them here. They are aware of this report.

Let us know if you like that idea.

Thanks so much! Robyn

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From: Jim Shalleck <[REDACTED]@[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, August 8, 2024 2:16 PM
To: Robyn Sachs <[REDACTED]@[REDACTED]>
Subject: Info

Robyn - I should share this info with Jared and our senior staff. I want this investigated. Your thoughts? Jim

Sent from my iPhone



Re: Maryland: EI Concerns

From DIANE BUTLER <[REDACTED]>
Date Wed 5/22/2024 10:01 AM
To Nicolee Ambrose <[REDACTED]>

Thank you,

Can you explain #6 to me, please.

Diane

From: Nicolee Ambrose <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Tuesday, May 21, 2024 9:21 PM
To: DIANE BUTLER <[REDACTED]>
Subject: Maryland: EI Concerns

Hello Diane,

Fantastic chatting this evening!

Attached is our one-page list of Maryland's most significant EI problems. Our state's EI Committee prepared this as a quick snapshot for the NRSC.

Also here is my mail-in ballot op-ed that was shockingly enough published by the historically liberal Baltimore Sun:

[Maryland mail-in ballots vulnerable to theft \(baltimoresun.com\)](https://www.baltimoresun.com/story/news/politics/elections/2024/05/21/maryland-mail-in-ballots-vulnerable-to-theft/7288242002/)

The text is below, as well. I'm delighted they have asked for a follow-up op-ed on Maryland's vast election integrity problems.

All the best,
Nicolee

Nicolee Ambrose

National Committeewoman, Maryland GOP
Chairman Emeritus, Young Republican National Federation

[REDACTED]
C: 410-419-6726

+++++

Maryland mail-in ballots vulnerable to theft

Count me in as one of the millions of Americans who think it's vitally important to have fair and transparent elections. Imagine my shock when I learned anyone can order my Maryland mail-in ballot by just using my name, address, and date of birth.

How can this be?

It should be as hard to take my vote away as it should be to get into my bank account or board a plane in my name, right? Not in Maryland.

Simply look at the Maryland State Board of Elections (SBE) [Mail-In Ballot Request form](#).

Sections 1 and 2: Provide your name, address, and date of birth. These are facts anyone can pull up in a remedial Google search.

MD-SBE-24-1890-A-000025

Then in Section 5, the SBE allows the individual filling out the form to have the form sent to a different address or faxed to any number. To round out this pitiful one-page document, there is no need to verify who is requesting this form. Maryland does not match signatures. Maryland does not require identification to vote, much less to request this form. Maryland does require the address to match your voter registration address on file, however, someone could still order my ballot to be sent to a different address or faxed halfway around the world.

But fear not! If you request your ballot by email, then the SBE does require your driver's license number or the last four digits of your Social Security number. It's heartening to know that the state cares about personally identifiable information for only one method of ballot delivery.

Though this process has been lax for years, COVID exacerbated the situation. In 2020, the SBE sent ballots to every registered voter. Simultaneously, the SBE ordered 19 million in-person ballots for our state, which has a population of just over 6 million, and only 4.1 million registered voters. How do approximately 4 million voters need 19 million ballots? In 2020, the SBE said the additional ballots were needed to facilitate voting during the pandemic, when voters were allowed to fill out a ballot at any in-person voting center in their county, according to [a report in Maryland Matters](#). But what happened with those excess ballots?

Also, given that the SBE automatically sends mail-in ballot request forms to the entire list of registered voters, which they have already done again in 2024, they must maintain pristine voter rolls. But this is not the case, as exemplified by one county alone. By unanimous bipartisan vote in 2022, the Anne Arundel County Board of Elections asked SBE to work with them in eliminating thousands of names from the voter rolls, for which the local board had documented receiving rejected mail for five years. This was an effort to comply with the National Voter Registration Act of 1993. Nearly two years later, SBE has done no further work to investigate.

Just when you thought the situation could not get worse, the SBE has confirmed their policy to not notify voters if their ballot has been voted multiple times.

The truly important question is what are the implications of the Maryland State Board of Elections literally giving away our hard-fought right to vote?

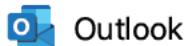
In the near term, this could significantly affect the outcome of the Democrat primary coming up on May 14. The U.S. Senate primary on the Democrat side is a heated battle between the endlessly self-funded David Trone and Prince George's County Executive Angela Alsobrooks. The results will reverberate for years to come.

There are a host of local races for county leadership positions, few of which might be more important for crime statistics in the state than the outcome of the Baltimore race. In the Democratic primary, sitting Mayor Brandon Scott is facing off against former Mayor Sheila Dixon, among others.

With our new mail-in ballot application, if someone has intentions to [illegally cast ballots](#) for others, no one needs to have actual people showing up at polls to vote. Instead, a bad actor can simply order voters' ballots. The unaware voter, whose ballot was ordered and sent to a different address or fax number, would only learn their ballot was taken if they showed up to vote in person and were given a provisional ballot instead because the system showed them as already having voted.

Shouldn't Maryland voters have confidence that they will be the one and only person allowed to cast their ballot? Don't we all want clean voter rolls? It is time for the new leadership at the Maryland State Board of Elections to prove they do, too.

Nicolee Ambrose (@NicoleeAmbrose on X) is the Republican National Committeewoman for Maryland.



Meeting with Jared notes

From DIANE BUTLER <[REDACTED]@[REDACTED]>
Date Thu 8/29/2024 9:55 PM
To Nicolee Ambrose <[REDACTED]>; Adam Wood <[REDACTED]>
Cc nicolee@[REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>

Hi Nicolee and Adam,

My main concerns are the cleaning of the voter rolls, and the chain of custody of ballots. We need to see actual numbers of how many voter's names have been removed from the rolls this year alone. We should be able to see these listed by death (more than 10,000 people have died in MD this year. How many have been removed from the voter rolls), moved away (Eric is only applicable to 25 states. How are we vetting the other 25 states?), fraudulent voters (IE addresses that are commercial addresses or non-existent, etc.), and especially voters that are not citizens. We need to know exactly how citizens are being vetted to prove citizenship and what processes are being used to weed out non-citizens from voting. The MVA is not doing that. This is a must. Other Governors in different states have published the results of their roll cleaning anywhere from the tens of thousands to nearly a million "bad" registrations have been removed. How many have we cleaned out?

When it comes to people double voting we are counting the first vote that came in, so if a voter goes to the polls and they are told that they have already voted by mail, they have to vote provisionally. The fraudulent mail in vote may have already been counted in the early canvass. How are we removing the fraudulent vote? What is the process? Why are we allowing anyone to vote twice? Are we prosecuting everyone that has voted more than once, in a timely manner? And if not, why?

Are we mailing out any voter registration forms to "Current Resident" followed by an address, as has been seen in other states. If we are, why?

Have we found a way to automatically let citizens who want to be election judges know if they have an assignment, or at least an acknowledgment that their application to be a judge has been looked at. We still have volunteers that have not been contacted about being a judge even though they are willing to work, and willing to work in Baltimore.

Are we allowing any other groups (IE supposed voter participation groups) that are not the Board of Elections to mail out voter registration forms?

Are we allowing any groups other than Board of Election employees or Board members to harvest votes from senior living facilities, or from any residences?

Have we, in Maryland, prohibited private election funding? 6 million dollars worth of Zuckerbucks are back in play in at least three states, two of them swing states, this election. Have we outlawed this, as 28 other states have?

The instructions for accepting ballots state that the earliest ballot received from a voter with a signed oath should be counted. How is a voter getting more than one ballot to send in, to start with. The chain of custody of ballots needs to be addressed immediately.

The instructions for printing your own ballot need to be terse and followed correctly, at all times. All ballots should be printed on white paper and no other marks should be allowed on the ballots, for both printing your own and mailing in a ballot. At the polls, if you make an error, you are supposed to get a new ballot and have the improperly marked ballot spoiled. We need to tighten what we are accepting, especially with so many ways to get a ballot.

Thank you,
Diane

Board of Election Members in polling locations

Alex Pacheco <[REDACTED]>

Tue 5/14/2024 11:42 AM

Cc: Adam Katora <[REDACTED]>; Susan Mcconkey <[REDACTED]>

 1 attachments (139 KB)

Board of Election Member Ltr to DeMarinis 5-14-2024.pdf;

Republican Members of the Boards of Elections,

I wanted to make you all aware of a letter that the Maryland Republican Party sent to the State Board of Elections regarding the email that went out yesterday to the election directors directing them to bar the local board members from being in the voting room and observing. I have attached the letter that was sent to the State Board describing the infringement upon your rights as proscribed in the statute. At this time, we do not have any update/ further information from Mr. DeMarinis. We have reached out and have not heard back. We will update you if and when we hear anything further. Do not hesitate to reach out if you have any questions.

Regards,

Alex Pacheco
Chairman,
MD GOP Election Integrity Committee
General Counsel
MD GOP

Re: Board of Election Members in polling locations

Alex Pacheco <[REDACTED]@[REDACTED]>

Thu 5/16/2024 9:38 AM

Cc: Adam Katora <[REDACTED]@[REDACTED]>; Susan Mcconkey <[REDACTED]@[REDACTED]>

Republican Members of the Boards of Elections,

I wanted to follow up, and say thank you to you all for your hard work and help on Tuesday. The work that you all do is invaluable. I wanted to also let you all know that if there is anything that you may need throughout the canvassing process, do not hesitate to reach out.

Regards,

Alex Pacheco
Chairman,
MD GOP Election Integrity Committee
General Counsel
MD GOP

On Tue, May 14, 2024 at 1:59 PM Alex Pacheco <[REDACTED]@[REDACTED]> wrote:

Republican Members of the Boards of Elections,

I wanted to provide you an update that was received from the State Board of Elections. I am not aware as to whether or not this information has been provided to you all yet from your election directors; however an email went out earlier to the election directors correcting the prior instructions and allowing board of election members to go into the voting rooms to observe the election processes. I have copied the body of the email below. Let me know if you have any questions.

Regards,

Alex Pacheco
Chairman,
MD GOP Election Integrity Committee
General Counsel
MD GOP

Email Below:

"The Office of the Attorney General has updated the advice it gave to the State Board yesterday to clarify the specific role a Board Member may play at a polling place on election day. Board Members may have access to voting rooms, but they have no authority to direct judges or change processes. Their role is observational only. If they have questions, they should be referred to the Election Director or the State Board."



MARYLAND STATE
BOARD OF ELECTIONS

Katherine Berry

Deputy Administrator

Phone. (410)269-2843 Mobile. (667)314-5015

Web. www.elections.maryland.gov

Address. 151 West Street, Suite 200, Annapolis, MD 21401



On Tue, May 14, 2024 at 11:41 AM Alex Pacheco <[REDACTED]@[REDACTED]; [REDACTED]> wrote:
Republican Members of the Boards of Elections,

I wanted to make you all aware of a letter that the Maryland Republican Party sent to the State Board of Elections regarding the email that went out yesterday to the election directors directing them to bar the local board members from being in the voting room and observing. I have attached the letter that was sent to the State Board describing the infringement upon your rights as proscribed in the statute. At this time, we do not have any update/ further information from Mr. DeMarinis. We have reached out and have not heard back. We will update you if and when we hear anything further. Do not hesitate to reach out if you have any questions.

Regards,

Alex Pacheco
Chairman,
MD GOP Election Integrity Committee
General Counsel
MD GOP

Board of Election Members in polling locations

Alex Pacheco <[REDACTED]>

Tue 5/14/2024 11:42 AM

Cc: Adam Katora <[REDACTED]>; Susan Mcconkey <[REDACTED]>

📎 1 attachments (139 KB)

Board of Election Member Ltr to DeMarinis 5-14-2024.pdf;

Republican Members of the Boards of Elections,

I wanted to make you all aware of a letter that the Maryland Republican Party sent to the State Board of Elections regarding the email that went out yesterday to the election directors directing them to bar the local board members from being in the voting room and observing. I have attached the letter that was sent to the State Board describing the infringement upon your rights as proscribed in the statute. At this time, we do not have any update/ further information from Mr. DeMarinis. We have reached out and have not heard back. We will update you if and when we hear anything further. Do not hesitate to reach out if you have any questions.

Regards,

Alex Pacheco
Chairman,
MD GOP Election Integrity Committee
General Counsel
MD GOP



MARYLAND
REPUBLICAN
PARTY

May 14, 2024

Mr. Jared DeMarinis, Director
Maryland State Board of Elections
151 West Street Suite 200
Annapolis, MD 21401

Re: Observation Rights

Dear Mr. Demarinis,

It has come to our attention that Ms. Berry sent an email yesterday May 13, 2024, to all the election directors and deputy election directors around the State. Notably the email discussed the role of board of election members, and informing the directors that board of election members have no authority to observe polling places. The email went on to instruct directors to limit members of the board of elections to the entrance of the polling room.

This email sent out by the State Board of Elections directly cuts against the Maryland Election Law Article. Section 10-308(a) of the Election Law Article states that:

“An election judge shall allow the following individuals to have access to the voting room at a polling place:

- (1) a voter;
- (2) an individual who accompanies a voter in need of assistance in accordance with § 10-310(c) of this subtitle;
- (3) polling place staff;
- (4) a member or other representative of the State Board or local board;
- (5) an accredited watcher or challenger under § 10-311 of this subtitle;
- (6) an individual under the age of 18 who accompanies a voter in accordance with § 10-310(c) of this subtitle, provided that:
 - (i) the individual is in the care of the voter and does not disrupt or interfere with normal voting procedures; and
 - (ii) the individual is not eligible to vote in that election; and
- (7) any other individual authorized by the State Board or local board.”

Md. Code., Elec. Law § 10-308(a). The Election Law Article clearly permits members of the State or local boards of elections to have access to the voting room at a polling place. As such, it is concerning that the email sent by Ms. Berry on behalf of the State Board of Elections is contrary to what is proscribed in the statute and infringes upon the rights of the members of the State and local board of elections.

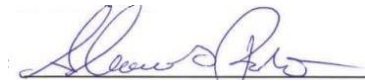
MD-SBE-24-1890-A-000033

The Maryland Republican Party is requesting that you send a notice correcting the email sent on May 13, 2024, by Ms. Berry, informing the election directors that board of election members are permitted to be in the voting room at the polling place. Should there be any questions, please free to contact us at info@mdgop.org.

Respectfully,



Nicole Harris
Chairwoman
Maryland Republican Party



Alessandro S. Pacheco
General Counsel
Maryland Republican Party

cc: Board of Elections Members

Re: Election Judge Recruitment and Placement

David Morsberger <[REDACTED]>

Wed 8/28/2024 12:29 PM

To: Jim Shalleck <[REDACTED]>
Cc: DIANE BUTLER <[REDACTED]>; CitizenVoter2024 Sullivan <[REDACTED]>; Susan Mcconkey <[REDACTED]>; Shawn Poulson <shawn@kcvoterintegrity.group>; Patty Fallon <[REDACTED]>; Nicolee Ambrose <nicolee@insiderambrose.com>; uncapher <[REDACTED]>; aspacheco25 <[REDACTED]>

Jim,

Is the procurement currently underway?

- Has the RFP been released?
- Have vendor proposals been submitted?
- Have vendor proposals been reviewed?
- Has a vendor been selected?

Any public involvement?

Two years is a very short time frame to replace something as large, complex, and important as the statewide voting system.

David Morsberger

On 2024-08-28 12:20, Jim Shalleck wrote:

Kate - As you know, the State BOE will be purchasing ALL new voting equipment for ALL the Counties for 2026 Election. Your suggestion for automation is exactly what is needed. Will inquire if such an automated system can be incorporated in this huge and expensive procurement. Jim

From: DIANE BUTLER <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Wednesday, August 28, 2024 11:09 AM
To: CitizenVoter2024 Sullivan <[REDACTED]>
Cc: jimshalleck@[REDACTED]; David Morsberger <[REDACTED]>; Susan Mcconkey <[REDACTED]>; Shawn Poulson <shawn@kcvoterintegrity.group>; Patty Fallon <[REDACTED]>; Nicolee Ambrose <[REDACTED]>; uncapher <[REDACTED]>; aspacheco25 <[REDACTED]>
Subject: Re: Election Judge Recruitment and Placement

Also, there is a state site to sign up to be a judge as well as individual county sites to sign up. I have found, in the past, that the county sites were much more responsive than the state site. I have no idea if that has been remedied, but I will check.

Diane

From: CitizenVoter2024 Sullivan <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Wednesday, August 28, 2024 12:10 AM
To: DIANE BUTLER <[REDACTED]>
Cc: jimshalleck@[REDACTED]; David Morsberger <[REDACTED]>; Susan Mcconkey <[REDACTED]>; Shawn Poulson <shawn@kcvoterintegrity.group>; Patty Fallon <[REDACTED]>; Nicolee Ambrose <[REDACTED]>; uncapher <[REDACTED]>; aspacheco25 <[REDACTED]>
Subject: Re: Election Judge Recruitment and Placement



Thank you Diane. Great idea to dispatch people to attend meetings and make a public offering of our volunteers. Will do.

I hope SBOE figures out it's response system. Many people are frustrated they haven't heard back from their local jurisdictions. I know they are busy which is why it would be so much easier if this were all automated.

Kate

On Tue, Aug 27, 2024 at 3:46 PM DIANE BUTLER <[REDACTED]@[REDACTED]> wrote:

Hi Kate,

My first thought is to attend each of the LBE monthly meetings with your list of volunteers for each specific district. That should not be too many meetings as most of these districts are probably in one or two areas, or counties. Make sure to list if these volunteers are available every day to work, and if not, which shifts they are available. Make sure to list that they are willing to travel to these areas to fill out the complement of Republican judges. If you attend the board meeting, it will then have to be put in the minutes that you had offered Republican judges. This is important. This has to be done ASAP though as judge training is starting, I believe, in the beginning of September. If that county (or Baltimore City), still has a need for judges you can email the list of judges directly to them for consideration. All judge assignments are done by county. Or you might want to just contact the county by phone as we are so late in the process.

I discussed the contact issue with Jared and will bring it back up again, as soon as I speak to him next. I do know that some people that I know that signed up for judges in Howard County have received their assignments already. If people have not heard back, have them contact the county where they applied to work and find out why they have not received an assignment. Unfortunately, there is not a drop dead deadline date for judge notification, as each county sets up their own judge plans and recruitment plans.

Definitely start with your vulnerable precincts.

Diane

From: CitizenVoter2024 Sullivan <[REDACTED]@[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, August 26, 2024 1:15 PM
To: Diane Butler <[REDACTED]@[REDACTED]> [jimshalleck@\[REDACTED\]](mailto:jimshalleck@[REDACTED]) <[REDACTED]@[REDACTED]>
 David Morsberger <[REDACTED]@[REDACTED]> Susan Mcconkey <[REDACTED]@[REDACTED]> Shawn Pouison <shawn@kcvoterintegrity.group>; Patty Fallon <[REDACTED]@[REDACTED]> Nicolee Ambrose <[REDACTED]@[REDACTED]> [uncapher@\[REDACTED\]](mailto:uncapher@[REDACTED]) <[REDACTED]@[REDACTED]> [aspacheco25@\[REDACTED\]](mailto:aspacheco25@[REDACTED]) <[REDACTED]@[REDACTED]>
Subject: Election Judge Recruitment and Placement

Diane and Jim-

I am checking in to see if you have made any progress with the MSBE/LBEs in setting their system up to automatically respond to those citizens who sign up to be Election Judges? Feedback continues to be that when people sign up, no one contacts them - or contact is inconsistent. This is not good management and it's a simple fix: Can't we set up an automated system so at least people know they have been successful in signing up???

As well -- Diane, when we spoke a few weeks ago, I mentioned the need to triage our best election judges and place them in our most vulnerable precincts. Below is a summary of this strategy and we would love both your feedback.

1. We currently have a list of 146 citizens who have signed up to be election judges to date. We expect this list to grow exponentially over the next few weeks and our goal is to have a minimum of 1000 across all 24 jurisdictions.
2. **It is critical we make sure the BOEs are drawing from our volunteer list FIRST before they hire 3rd party staffers as they seem to love to do.**
3. Finally, through a combined qualitative and quantitative analysis, we have identified a list of "vulnerable precincts" in need of good election judges. Our goal is to encourage the local

boards of elections to place their best judges (volunteers from our list and those Dems and Reps they know are competent and seasoned) in these vulnerable precincts.
We want to support our local BOEs by providing them well-trained, competent judges in all the precincts that need them the most! Please share your thoughts on this plan?

Kate

Re: Primary Debrief

David Morsberger <[REDACTED]@[REDACTED]>

Sat 6/22/2024 10:46 AM

To: Kate Sullivan <[REDACTED]@[REDACTED]>

Cc: Diane Butler <[REDACTED]@[REDACTED]>; Jim Shalleck <[REDACTED]@[REDACTED]>; Nicolee Ambrose <[REDACTED]@[REDACTED]>; Susan McConkey <[REDACTED]@[REDACTED]>; Alex Pacheco <[REDACTED]@[REDACTED]>; Adam Wood <[REDACTED]@[REDACTED]>; Shawn Poulson <shawn@kentcountyrcc.com>

Resend: Sorry, Original send on 6/10 appeared to fail

Kate,

Great job capturing the issues.

One thing they can do is create the "Top 5" issues for Chief Judges that they summarize in training and include in all reminders. There is a lot to do and they need to make sure the top issues are complete.

1. Complete reconciliation of all voters, ballots, and machines is MANDATORY. No judge leaves until the polling place is reconciled.
2. The two chief judges must together in the same vehicle returned the necessary to the local board of elections office
3. All public reports at the beginning of the day, throughout the day, and during closing must be displayed for the public to review
- 4.
- 5.

David Morsberger

On 2024-06-05 16:14, Kate Strauch Sullivan wrote:

Diane and Jim-

First, congratulations on your selection to serve on our State Board of Elections. I hope the members of our State Board of Elections fully appreciate the expertise, intelligence and experience you bring to the table. Both of you are in a unique position to truly impact the professionalism and thoroughness with which the State Board of Elections oversees and manages the security of our elections. We know both of you will be vigilant in your stewardship.

Last Sunday evening, the Grassroots Committee met to debrief on the past Primary Election and determine ways we can strengthen our election system as we move toward the 2024 General Election. It is in this spirit we would like to share with you a few critical vulnerabilities that surfaced from our most recent Primary Elections. These vulnerabilities can be easily remedied - and shouldn't be controversial - just helpful. We've identified a few issues we came upon as well as offered our recommendations.

1. **ISSUE: Election judge no-shows:** In 15 or so polling precincts visited, ALL had election judge no-shows. One precinct had as high as 9 no shows!! This equalled half those who had signed up! While we would never applaud the low-turnout we saw in our recent Primary election, in this case, it was our saving grace. We cannot take the chance this will happen again.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Please encourage a **uniform response system** during the Election Judge sign up process!!! This is a no-brainer! I'm not sure you're aware, but when you sign up to be a judge, the volunteer does not receive ANY automated system confirmation. I am assured from people who install and manage these types of systems that this is very easy to implement. It is simply a matter of setting up the auto-response parameters. This would go a long way to helping volunteers feel immediately engaged in their commitment.

MD-SBE-24-1890-A-000038

- Please encourage a **UNIFORM system of reminders** of the volunteers commitment. As a bare minimum, volunteers should receive a reminder of the details of their commitment (DAY, TIME, LOCATION, and other pertinent details) directly after their training. The same reminder should go out 3 days in advance of their commitment and the night before their commitment. As it stands now, the local jurisdictions rely on the Chief Judges to send out manual reminders - it's a disaster! Many judges are good and responsible - but many are not! It creates an inconsistent process at best and a total lack of engagement at its worst.
2. **ISSUE: Chief judges not reconciling election counts on site.** We witnessed several precincts skip the reconciliation process!

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Emphasis on the importance of RECONCILIATION in the training process! See System of Checks and Balances below
3. **ISSUE: Systemically broken chain of custody.** We witnessed several precincts send random volunteers with BOTH data sticks AND ballots in their personal car, alone. In one instance, the volunteer arrived at the processing center and was simply told to "drop them there" as someone casually pointed to a curb outside the processing center. No paperwork was filled out, no signature was required, no one checked what was being dropped off....IT WAS AN APPALLING LACK OF PROFESSIONALISM!!!

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Emphasis on proper maintenance of Chain of Custody in the training process. We need to enforce a System of Checks and Balances immediately. No person should ever drop off ballots without signing appropriate paperwork as to when, who, where, and how many ballots!
4. **ISSUE:** Impossible commitment expected from volunteers. I fully realize this is, to some degree, out of your control, BUT I hope you will have an opportunity to guide this board to consider eliminating or greatly reducing Early Voting. Early voting turnout was abysmally low. 8 days of Early Voting is a ridiculous not to mention a waste of tax payer money AND it makes it very difficult to find good volunteers. If we had 1 day of voting, we would not find it as challenging to sign up voters. With mail-ins, Early Voting is not required.

RECOMMENDATION:

- At a bare minimum, we should reduce Early voting to 2-3 days.

KEY TAKEAWAY: In every case we have cited above, the issue was too much trust in the system. All too often, we have witnessed Board of Election officials point to their system and processes as the reason their system is secure. This circular argument may make them feel good, but it does not guarantee security in our election system which we know we don't need to remind you, is critical infrastructure.

Best said: We are only as strong as our weakest link and most vulnerable point in the system!

There are many great and professional volunteers and employees working in our elections. But there are also many untrained and complacent volunteers and election workers. Or worse - those who aim to take advantage of the lack of oversight and accountability. We hope you both will be able to drive this point home more successfully than we have been able to over the past 4 years.

On a side note, our team at SecuretheVoteMD will be presenting a full list of ineligible voters who requested ballots and voted with them. We will send them to you when we have the full list. As you may be aware, the State has been very slow to offer the fully reconciled number counts from the election. Another bit of information I find incredibly concerning in light of the fact they rushed to "certify" the election. Not sure how you certify an election when the votes have not yet been reconciled. Shake my head.

I would love an opportunity to speak with both of you if you have any questions or feedback for these issues and recommendations offered.

Thanks in advance for your attention to these matters,

Kate Sullivan

"The truth is like a lion; you don't have to defend it. Set it free; it will defend itself."



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Real ID

Nicolee Ambrose <[REDACTED]>

Wed 7/10/2024 3:24 AM

To: Jim Shalleck <[REDACTED]>; DIANE BUTLER <[REDACTED]>

📎 1 attachments (120 KB)

AAMVA Letter to Linda Lamone on Real ID 050123.pdf;

Hello Jim and Diane,

I hope this email finds you well!

I wanted to attach a letter sent from the Anne Arundel BOE to the State BOE about Real ID being used to also apply maintaining voter rolls. Very logical!

Best,
Nicolee

Thank you + Meet Darrell Issa, Dr. Ben Carson, & Senator Joni Ernst!

Nicolee Ambrose <[redacted]@[redacted]>
via mailchimpapp.net
Tue 6/4/2024 9:29 AM
To: [redacted]@[redacted] <[redacted]@[redacted]>

Nicolee's newsletter for the MDGOP. [View this email in your browser](#)



Hello Friends,

At this May's Maryland GOP Convention, I was re-elected to serve as your National Committeewoman. I thank our county leaders for placing faith in me to represent Maryland, and it is my honor to serve and fight for our Old Line State!

In the meantime, we've been working hard to bring some great Republican leaders to Maryland and here's your chance to hear from Congressman Darrell Issa, Dr. Ben Carson, & Senator Joni Ernst.

Here are all the details on how you can hear from and even meet these impressive conservative minds:

33rd Annual Red, White, & Blue Dinner

Join the Maryland GOP for our 33rd Annual Red, White, & Blue Dinner. We will hear from U.S. Senator Joni Ernst of Iowa.

This event is on Wednesday, June 19th at the Doubletree in Annapolis. The Private Reception begins at 5:30, the General Reception at 6:00, and the Dinner at 6:30.

[Get your tickets here!](#)



69th Annual Prince George's County Lincoln Day Dinner

Join the Prince George's GOP at Martin's Crosswinds to hear from California's conservative Congressman and the former Chair of the House Oversight Committee during the Obama Administration, Rep. Darrell Issa.

Get your tickets here!

Baltimore County GOP Lincoln-Reagan Dinner

Join the Baltimore County GOP at the Woodholme Country Club in Pikesville, MD for their 2024 Lincoln Reagan Dinner and hear from world-renowned brain surgeon, 2016 Presidential candidate, and former U.S. Secretary of Housing & Urban Development, Dr. Ben Carson!

Get your tickets here!

I hope to see you in June at one of these stellar events!

Nicolee Ambrose

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Our mailing address is:

Nicolee Ambrose
1109 Bellemore Road
Baltimore, MD 21210

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June 19th --> Dinner w Senator Joni Ernst

Nicolee Ambrose <[REDACTED]@[REDACTED].[REDACTED]>

Tue 5/28/2024 5:58 PM

To:DIANE BUTLER <[REDACTED]@[REDACTED]>;scorin1@[REDACTED] <scorin1@[REDACTED]>;Jesse Peed <[REDACTED]@[REDACTED]>;ricmetzgarsr@[REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@[REDACTED]>;Johnny Salling <[REDACTED]@[REDACTED]>
Surajit Sengupta <[REDACTED]@[REDACTED]>;Lisa Grogan <[REDACTED]@[REDACTED]>;Devine, Scott <[REDACTED]@[REDACTED]>;faith loudon <[REDACTED]@[REDACTED]>

Hello Friends,

Please consider joining my table for the Maryland GOP's annual Red, White, and Blue Dinner with Senator Joni Ernst on June 19th!

Early bird pricing ends soon, and here is the link to reserve your ticket: [Support Maryland Republican Party — Anedot](#)

After indicating the number of tickets you are reserving, scroll down and under the "Table of Ten," please note "Ambrose table."

Thank you!
Nicolee



RE: Board Members at Polling Locations

Nicolee Ambrose <[REDACTED]@[REDACTED]>

Tue 5/14/2024 6:40 AM

To: James Ashburn <[REDACTED]@[REDACTED]>; Norris Hanes <[REDACTED]@[REDACTED]>; normajeannot@[REDACTED]>

Cc: Susan Mcconkey <[REDACTED]@[REDACTED]>; DIANE BUTLER <[REDACTED]@[REDACTED]>

FYI on Section 10-308(a) of the Election Law Article states that:

“An election judge shall allow the following individuals to have access to the voting room at a polling place:

- (1) a voter;
- (2) an individual who accompanies a voter in need of assistance in accordance with § 10-310(c) of this subtitle;
- (3) polling place staff;
- (4) a member or other representative of the State Board or local board;
- (5) an accredited watcher or challenger under § 10-311 of this subtitle;
- (6) an individual under the age of 18 who accompanies a voter in accordance with § 10-310(c) of this subtitle, provided that:
 - (i) the individual is in the care of the voter and does not disrupt or interfere with normal voting procedures; and
 - (ii) the individual is not eligible to vote in that election; and
- (7) any other individual authorized by the State Board or local board.”

Md. Code., Elec. Law § 10-308(a). The Election Law Article clearly permits members of the State or local boards of elections to have access to voting room at a polling place.

From: Nicolee Ambrose**Sent:** Tuesday, May 14, 2024 6:09 AM**To:** James Ashburn <[REDACTED]@[REDACTED]>; Norris Hanes <[REDACTED]@[REDACTED]>; normajeannot@[REDACTED]>**Cc:** Susan Mcconkey <[REDACTED]@[REDACTED]>**Subject:** FW: Board Members at Polling Locations

Hello Norris and Norma Jean,

Good luck today and thank you for all you are doing!

Please let Susan and I know if you received the below email, where we believe the instructions are a direct violation of Maryland law. See attached.

This affects Dems, Republicans, everyone. If Mr. DeMarinis doesn't correct this language first thing this morning, we have additional plans. Please let us know if as a BOE Member with standing whether you would be willing to be a Plaintiff. (We are asking several BOE members across the state, and have received some affirmative responses already.)

Best,
Nicolee

Subject: Board Members at Polling Locations

To: Diane Loibel -SBE- <diane.loibel@maryland.gov>, David Garreis -SBE- <david.garreis@maryland.gov>, Abigail Goldman -SBE- <abigail.goldman@maryland.gov>, Ruie LaVoie <rlavoie@baltimorecountymd.gov>, Ruie Lavoie -SBE- <ruie.lavoie@maryland.gov>, Gail Hatfield -SBE- <gail.hatfield@maryland.gov>, Allison Murphy -SBE- <allison.murphy@maryland.gov>, Erin E. Perrone -SBE- <erine.perrone@maryland.gov>, Gary Holmes -SBE- <Gary.Holmes1@maryland.gov>, Tracy Dickerson -SBE- <tracy.dickerson@maryland.gov>, Gwendolyn Dales -SBE- <gwendolyn.dales@maryland.gov>, Barbara Wagner -SBE- <barbara.wagner@maryland.gov>, Steve Fratz -SBE- <steve.fratz@maryland.gov>, Stephanie Taylor -SBE- <stephanie.taylor@maryland.gov>, Guy Mickley -SBE- <guy.mickley@maryland.gov>, Cheemoandia Blake -SBE- <cheemoandia.blake@maryland.gov>, Boris Brajkovic -SBE- <boris.brajkovic@maryland.gov>, Wendy Day -SBE- <wendy.day@maryland.gov>, Christine Jones <christine.jones@maryland.gov>, Wendy Adkins -SBE- <wendy.adkins@maryland.gov>, Julia Cox <julia.cox@maryland.gov>, Tammy Stafford -SBE- <tammy.stafford@maryland.gov>, Barry Jackson -SBE- <barry.jackson@maryland.gov>, Dionne Church -SBE- <dionne.church@maryland.gov>, Patricia Jackson -SBE- <patricia.jackson@maryland.gov>, Wendy Maddux -SBE- <wendy.maddux@maryland.gov>, Richard Siejack -SBE- <richard.siejack@maryland.gov>, Lisa Stanley -SBE- <lisa.stanley@maryland.gov>, Rena Waggoner <rwaggoner@baltimorecountymd.gov>, Rena Waggoner -SBE- <rena.waggoner1@maryland.gov>, Kristen Scott -SBE- <kristen.scott@maryland.gov>, Jennifer Bartholow -SBE- <jennifer.bartholow@maryland.gov>, Karen Benecewicz -SBE- <karen.benecewicz@maryland.gov>, Mary McDougal -SBE- <mary.mcdougal@maryland.gov>, Anthony Gutierrez -SBE- <anthony.gutierrez@maryland.gov>, Karen Perry -SBE- <karen.perry@maryland.gov>, Charlotte Davis -SBE- <charlotte.davis1@maryland.gov>, Janet Ross -SBE- <janet.ross@maryland.gov>, Demetra K.M. Hutchinson -SBE- <demetra.hutchinson@maryland.gov>, Kim Spence -SBE- <Kim.spence@maryland.gov>, Susan Julian -SBE- <susan.julian@maryland.gov>, Teresa Morningstar -SBE- <teresa.morningstar1@maryland.gov>, Bill A. Blockston -SBE- <bill.blockston@maryland.gov>, Teresa Riggin -SBE- <teresa.riggin@maryland.gov>

Cc: Crystal McGinn -SBE- <crystal.mcginn@maryland.gov>, MaryAnn Mogavero -SBE- <maryann.mogavero@maryland.gov>, Melissa Dorsey -SBE- <melissia.dorsey1@maryland.gov>, James Harris -SBE- <james.harris2@maryland.gov>, Jared DeMarinis -SBE- <jared.demarinis@maryland.gov>

Election Directors/Deputy Directors:

To clarify the role of Board Members on Election Day, unless they have been given a direct responsibility or role such as serving as a polling place evaluator or to deliver extra ballots/supplies, Board Members have no special authority to observe polling places, direct operations in a polling place, or instruct election judges in their duties.

MD-SBE-24-1890-A-000047

Like any member of the public, a Board Member may visit a polling place to vote. If the Board Member is not voting at that polling place, they have no special privilege to be present inside a polling place during election operations. They are also not eligible to be a Challenger & Watcher because of the inherent conflict that role could cause with their responsibilities as a Board Member.

If a Board Member is so inclined to see a polling location, they can go as far as the entrance of the polling room, but are not permitted to go any further. While at the polling location, Board Members must respect the “no-electioneering” boundary just like any other member of the public.

Katie

Katherine Berry

Deputy Administrator

Phone. (410)269-2843 Mobile. (667)314-5015

Web. www.elections.maryland.gov

Address. 151 West Street, Suite 200,
Annapolis, MD 21401

____ _

RE: Board Barred from Polls

Nicolee Ambrose <[redacted]>

Mon 5/13/2024 9:22 PM

To: Jim Shalleck <[redacted]>; DIANE BUTLER <[redacted]>; Adam Wood <[redacted]>; Alex Pacheco <[redacted]>; Susan Mcconkey <[redacted]>; kate@[redacted] <[redacted]>; David Morsberger <[redacted]>; mark uncapher <[redacted]>
Cc: nicole@[redacted] <[redacted]>

1 attachments (581 KB)

Screenshot of BOE Member Duties Section 10-308.jpg;

Input coming in from wise counsel... see attached.

From: Nicolee Ambrose

Sent: Monday, May 13, 2024 9:10 PM

To: Jim Shalleck <[redacted]>; DIANE BUTLER <[redacted]>; Adam Wood <[redacted]>; Alex Pacheco <[redacted]>; Susan Mcconkey <[redacted]>; kate@[redacted] <[redacted]>; David Morsberger <[redacted]>

Cc: nicole@[redacted]

Subject: FW: Board Barred from Polls

FYI on the below... apparently the first email was sent by the State BOE's Katie Berry to Election Directors/Deputies. The second email was sent by the Frederick Co BOE Director.

Sent: Monday, May 13, 2024 9:03 PM

Subject: Board Barred from Polls

Election Directors/Deputy Directors:

To clarify the role of Board Members on Election Day, unless they have been given a direct responsibility or role such as serving as a polling place evaluator or to deliver extra ballots/supplies, Board Members have no special authority to observe polling places, direct operations in a polling place, or instruct election judges in their duties. Like any member of the public, a Board Member may visit a polling place to vote. If the Board Member is not voting at that polling place, they have no special privilege to be present inside a polling place during election operations. They are also not eligible to be a Challenger & Watcher because of the inherent conflict that role could cause with their responsibilities as a Board Member.

If a Board Member is so inclined to see a polling location, they can go as far as the entrance of the polling room, but are not permitted to go any further. While at the polling location, Board Members must respect the "no-electioneering" boundary just like any other member of the public.



In response to why board members only handled early voting-

The League of Women Voters is performing the role of Polling Place Evaluators on Election Day. The Board does evaluations just for Early Voting. Now that this has come to pass, we can rethink your role for the general election.

Best,
Barbara Wagner
Election Director

Maryland's Election Integrity Issues – April 2024

1) Mail-in ballot application: With simply a name, address, and DOB, anyone can request that a voter's ballot be sent to a different address or a fax number. (Ballots requested to arrive via email do require driver's license number and issue data OR last four of SSN.) Since COVID, the Maryland State Board of Elections (SBE) has been emailing mail-in ballot request forms to every one of Maryland's 4 million+ registered voters.

- There is no signature or any other verification of received mail-in ballots as to who signed the ballot.
- Voters who request mail-in ballots for every election may have died or moved since their request. The request should be for the current election not future elections because the voter may not be at that address in future elections.

2) Poorly maintained voter rolls.

- a. The BOE does not sync data with the Motor Vehicle Administration (i.e. when a voter's driver's license is revoked due to receiving a driver's license in another state).
- b. The rolls are not synced with Social Security death roles.
- c. The BOE has not been following NVRA and moving voters to inactive status whose mail is returned to the Board of Elections. Prohibits inactive voters from being removed after two federal election cycles. The BOE has actively chosen not to take action, and is fighting key counties that are trying to update their rolls.
- d. There is an active lawsuit reflecting a 15% error rate in cast ballots over the past two election cycles (2020 and 2022), based on visits to voters' home who claim they did not vote, despite their ballot being voted.

3) Observer Rights: key Maryland counties act completely unaware of this and do not allow observers adequate access (Baltimore County)

4) Reconciliation of total number of ballots submitted in each category (i.e. in person, mail-in, etc.)

5) Loose protocols when polling locations close.

6) 1st Amendment rights about voters talking to other voters: COMAR Oath lawsuit

These are the counties which have problematic track records:

Large Counties of Concern	Smaller Counties of Concern
Baltimore City	Charles
Baltimore County	Kent
Frederick	Talbot
Montgomery	
Prince George's	



P.O. BOX 490
GLEN BURNIE, MARYLAND 21060-0490
PHONE: (410) 222-6600
EMAIL: elections@aacounty.org

Brenda Yarema, President
Anne Arundel County Board of Elections
6740 Baymeadow Drive
Glen Burnie, MD 21060

April 13, 2023

Ms. Linda Lamone, Administrator
Maryland State Board of Elections
151 West Street, Suite 200
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Ms. Lamone:

During the March 9, 2023 regular business meeting of the Anne Arundel County Board of Elections, the Board discussed the topic of voter registration. Specifically, it has been recently reported that several states had notified ERIC of the intention to withdraw from membership in the organization. It is our understanding that currently about 25 states utilize the services of ERIC. Although our Board recognizes that ERIC may be one resource for the purposes of compiling an accurate voter database, we question the proficiency of the service if only half of the states share data in this manner. How is data shared with the states that do not subscribe to ERIC?

The Anne Arundel County Board would like to offer another approach to help ensure the accuracy of the voter registration database. It is our understanding that since the passage of the REAL ID Act by Congress, each state's motor vehicle agency must compile, store, and share its drivers' license database with all of the other states through the American Association of Motor Vehicles Administration (AAMVA). It is our understanding that the Maryland MVA already utilizes this database to cancel the Maryland drivers' license of someone who has moved to another state and applied for a license there.

It seems logical to utilize this same method of data sharing to manage the voter rolls as well. An individual can only reside in one state, therefore, when he or she applies for a license, the old license and, with this proposal, their voter registration information is accurately updated. The necessary verifications would need to be conducted, however, the concept is straightforward. The cost to the state will be minimal because the MVA already receives this information on a regular basis. The MVA would merely have to share this information with the State Board of Elections and, in turn, the local boards for processing in MDVOTERS.

CONCLUSION

We believe that SBE should utilize every tool at its disposal to ensure the accuracy of its voter registration process. The AAMVA report provides a cost effective, minimally disruptive way to improve the accuracy of the voter registration rolls. We request the State Board of Elections to look into the feasibility of utilizing the AAMVA in the immediate future. We look forward to your attention to this matter. If you have any questions, please feel free to email me at eoyare21@aacounty.org.

Sincerely,

Brenda Yarema, President
Anne Arundel County Board of Elections

cc: Anne Arundel County Board of Elections Board
David Garreis, Director

article and regulations adopted by th
d ensure that the elections process is

4m ⓘ

(b) Each local board, in accordance with the provisions of this article and regulations adopted by the State Board, shall:

(1) oversee the conduct of all elections held in its county and ensure that the elections process is conducted in an open, convenient, and impartial manner; § 2-202(b)(1). Powers and duties of local boards

3m ⓘ

Here it is:

(a) An election judge shall allow the following individuals to have access to the voting room at a polling place:...

(4) a member or other representative of the State Board or local board;

Now ⓘ

Section 10-308(a)(4) Now ⓘ

Canvassing in target Counties

Susan Mcconkey <[REDACTED]@[REDACTED]>

Thu 5/16/2024 12:30 AM

To: Alex Pacheco <[REDACTED]@[REDACTED]>; Nicolee Ambrose <[REDACTED]@[REDACTED]>; Kate Strauch Sullivan <[REDACTED]@[REDACTED]>; David Morsberger <[REDACTED]@[REDACTED]>; Jim Shalleck <[REDACTED]@[REDACTED]>; DIANE BUTLER <[REDACTED]@[REDACTED]>; Jim Wass <[REDACTED]@[REDACTED]>; Mark Uncapher <[REDACTED]@[REDACTED]>; Adam Wood <[REDACTED]@[REDACTED]>

While nothing is close, we should make sure we have folks stop by each of these to ensure our observer rights are being honored. Do we have anyone on the google signup for these?

I've had someone at least stop in each day in Anne Arundel (3 canvasses so far and Anne White is going back tomorrow, of course we have Brenda Yarema and others as canvass judges in addition to our wonderful Board members).

Canvass Schedule:

Baltimore City: [Welcome | Baltimore City Board of Elections](#) May 16 9AM, Baltimore City Board of Elections - Warehouse, 301 N Franklinton Rd

Baltimore County: [Board of Elections - Baltimore County \(baltimorecountymd.gov\)](#) May 16, 17 & 22 - 10AM to 8PM, Board of Elections Office

Frederick: emailed asking Nate for schedule

Montgomery: [Primary Election Mail-In Ballot Canvass - Board of Elections - Montgomery County, Maryland \(montgomerycountymd.gov\)](#) May 16th 10-6; May 18th 10-6, May 21 10-6

Prince George's: [Board of Elections | Prince George's County \(princegeorgescountymd.gov\)](#) May 16 10AM, May 17 thru May 24 9AM, First Baptist Church of Glenarden - Family Life Center 600-J Watkins Park Drive,

Directions:

From Watkins Park Drive, turn into Gate 3 Keep straight until you come to a fork in the road, take a slight right and Pass Lot 2 (on the right), continue straight down to Lot 3 (on the right). Lot 3 is the parking lot in front of the Family Life Center which is on the left. Please enter through the double doors on the side of the bldg. where **First Baptist Church of Glenarden FAMILY LIFE CENTER** is displayed at the top of the bldg.

Fw: Fwd: Board Members at Polling Locations

Susan Mcconkey <[REDACTED]@[REDACTED]>

Tue 5/14/2024 12:37 PM

To: Nicolee Ambrose <[REDACTED]@[REDACTED]>; Adam Wood <[REDACTED]@[REDACTED]>; Alex Pacheco <[REDACTED]@[REDACTED]>; Mark Uncapher <[REDACTED]@[REDACTED]>; Jim Wass <[REDACTED]@[REDACTED]>; Jim Shalleck <[REDACTED]@[REDACTED]>; DIANE BUTLER <[REDACTED]@[REDACTED]>; Kate Strauch Sullivan <[REDACTED]@[REDACTED]>; David Morsberger <[REDACTED]@[REDACTED]>

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Katherine Berry** <katherine.berry@maryland.gov>

Date: Tue, May 14, 2024 at 10:04 AM

Subject: Re: Board Members at Polling Locations

To: Diane Loibel -SBE- <diane.loibel@maryland.gov>, David Garreis -SBE- <david.garreis@maryland.gov>, Abigail Goldman -SBE- <abigail.goldman@maryland.gov>, Ruie LaVoie <rlavoie@baltimorecountymd.gov>, Ruie Lavoie -SBE- <ruie.lavoie@maryland.gov>, Gail Hatfield -SBE- <gail.hatfield@maryland.gov>, Allison Murphy -SBE- <allison.murphy@maryland.gov>, Erin E. Perrone -SBE- <erine.perrone@maryland.gov>, Gary Holmes -SBE- <Gary.Holmes1@maryland.gov>, Tracy Dickerson -SBE- <tracy.dickerson@maryland.gov>, Gwendolyn Dales -SBE- <gwendolyn.dales@maryland.gov>, Barbara Wagner -SBE- <barbara.wagner@maryland.gov>, Steve Fratz -SBE- <steve.fratz@maryland.gov>, Stephanie Taylor -SBE- <stephanie.taylor@maryland.gov>, Guy Mickley -SBE- <guy.mickley@maryland.gov>, Cheemoandia Blake -SBE- <cheemoandia.blake@maryland.gov>, Boris Brajkovic -SBE- <boris.brajkovic@maryland.gov>, Wendy Day -SBE- <wendy.day@maryland.gov>, Christine Jones <christine.jones@maryland.gov>, Wendy Adkins -SBE- <wendy.adkins@maryland.gov>, Julia Cox <julia.cox@maryland.gov>, Tammy Stafford -SBE- <tammy.stafford@maryland.gov>, Barry Jackson -SBE- <barry.jackson@maryland.gov>, Dionne Church -SBE- <dionne.church@maryland.gov>, Patricia Jackson -SBE- <patricia.jackson@maryland.gov>, Wendy Maddux -SBE- <wendy.maddux@maryland.gov>, Richard Siejack -SBE- <richard.siejack@maryland.gov>, Lisa Stanley -SBE- <lisa.stanley@maryland.gov>, Rena Waggoner <rwaggoner@baltimorecountymd.gov>, Rena Waggoner -SBE- <rena.waggoner1@maryland.gov>, Kristen Scott -SBE- <kristen.scott@maryland.gov>, Jennifer Bartholow -SBE- <jennifer.bartholow@maryland.gov>, Karen Benecewicz -SBE- <karen.benecewicz@maryland.gov>, Mary McDougal -SBE- <mary.mcdougal@maryland.gov>, Anthony Gutierrez -SBE- <anthony.gutierrez@maryland.gov>, Karen Perry -SBE- <karen.perry@maryland.gov>, Charlotte Davis -SBE- <charlotte.davis1@maryland.gov>, Janet Ross -SBE- <janet.ross@maryland.gov>, Demetra K.M. Hutchinson -SBE- <demetra.hutchinson@maryland.gov>, Kim Spence -SBE- <Kim.spence@maryland.gov>, Susan Julian -SBE- <susan.julian@maryland.gov>, Teresa Morningstar -SBE- <teresa.morningstar1@maryland.gov>, Bill A. Blockston -SBE- <bill.blockston@maryland.gov>, Teresa Riggan -SBE- <teresa.riggin@maryland.gov>

Cc: Crystal McGinn -SBE- <crystal.mcginn@maryland.gov>, MaryAnn Mogavero -SBE- <maryann.mogavero@maryland.gov>, Melissia Dorsey -SBE- <melissia.dorsey1@maryland.gov>, James Harris -SBE- <james.harris2@maryland.gov>, Jared DeMarinis -SBE- <jared.demarinis@maryland.gov>

The Office of the Attorney General has updated the advice it gave to the State Board yesterday to clarify the specific role a Board Member may play at a polling place on election day. Board Members may have access to voting rooms, but they have no authority to direct judges or change processes. Their role is observational only. If they have questions, they should be referred to the Election Director or the State Board.



Katherine Berry

Deputy Administrator

Phone. (410)269-2843 Mobile. (667)314-5015

Web. www.elections.maryland.gov

Address. 151 West Street, Suite 200, Annapolis, MD 21401



On Mon, May 13, 2024 at 4:07 PM Katherine Berry <katherine.berry@maryland.gov> wrote:
Election Directors/Deputy Directors:

To clarify the role of Board Members on Election Day, unless they have been given a direct responsibility or role such as serving as a polling place evaluator or to deliver extra ballots/supplies, Board Members have no special authority to observe polling places, direct operations in a polling place, or instruct election judges in their duties. Like any member of the public, a Board Member may visit a polling place to vote. If the Board Member is not voting at that polling place, they have no special privilege to be present inside a polling place during election operations. They are also not eligible to be a Challenger & Watcher because of the inherent conflict that role could cause with their responsibilities as a Board Member.

If a Board Member is so inclined to see a polling location, they can go as far as the entrance of the polling room, but are not permitted to go any further. While at the polling location, Board Members must respect the "no-electioneering" boundary just like any other member of the public.

Katie



Katherine Berry

Deputy Administrator

Phone. (410)269-2843 Mobile. (667)314-5015

Web. www.elections.maryland.gov

Address. 151 West Street, Suite 200, Annapolis, MD 21401



Republican BoE Members

Susan Mcconkey <[REDACTED]>

Mon 5/13/2024 11:53 PM

To: Alex Pacheco <[REDACTED]>; Nicolee Ambrose <[REDACTED]>; Kate Strauch Sullivan <[REDACTED]>; David Morsberger <[REDACTED]>; Mark Uncapher <[REDACTED]>; Jim Wass <[REDACTED]>; Jim Shalleck <[REDACTED]>; DIANE BUTLER <[REDACTED]>

📎 1 attachments (16 KB)

Republican Board of Election Members.xlsx;

For reference for tomorrow and canvassing days ahead if needed. Please share with anyone I forgot.

Thanks,
Susan
410-340-7768

MDGOP Election Integrity Zoom Call Now

Susan Mcconkey <[REDACTED]@[REDACTED]>

Mon 5/13/2024 9:29 PM

To: Jim Shalleck <[REDACTED]@[REDACTED]>; DIANE BUTLER <[REDACTED]@[REDACTED]>; Adam Wood <[REDACTED]@[REDACTED]>
Alex Pacheco <[REDACTED]@[REDACTED]>; kate@[REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@[REDACTED]>; David Morsberger <[REDACTED]@[REDACTED]>;
Nicolee Ambrose <[REDACTED]@[REDACTED]>
Cc: nicole@[REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@[REDACTED]>; Susan Mcconkey <[REDACTED]@[REDACTED]>

Susan McConkey is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: MDGOP Election Integrity

Time: May 13, 2024 09:30 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/2595453132?omn=84220551515>

Meeting ID: 259 545 3132

One tap mobile

+13017158592,,2595453132# US (Washington DC)

+16469313860,,2595453132# US

Dial by your location

• +1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)

•

Meeting ID: 259 545 3132

On Monday, May 13, 2024 at 09:24:34 PM EDT, Nicolee Ambrose <nicolee@nicoleeambrose.com> wrote:

FYI on the below...apparently the first email was sent by the State BOE's Katie Berry to Election Directors/Deputies. The second email was sent by the Frederick Co BOE Director.

Sent: Monday, May 13, 2024 9:03 PM

Subject: Board Barred from Polls

Election Directors/Deputy Directors:



To clarify the role of Board Members on Election Day, unless they have been given a direct responsibility or role such as serving as a polling place evaluator or to deliver extra ballots/supplies, Board Members have no special authority to observe polling places, direct operations in a polling place, or instruct election judges in

MD-SBE-24-1890-A-000060

their duties. Like any member of the public, a Board Member may visit a polling place to vote. If the Board Member is not voting at that polling place, they have no special privilege to be present inside a polling place during election operations. They are also not eligible to be a Challenger & Watcher because of the inherent conflict that role could cause with their responsibilities as a Board Member.

If a Board Member is so inclined to see a polling location, they can go as far as the entrance of the polling room, but are not permitted to go any further. While at the polling location, Board Members must respect the "no-electioneering" boundary just like any other member of the public.

Katie

In response to why board members only handled early voting-

The League of Women Voters is performing the role of Polling Place Evaluators on Election Day. The Board does evaluations just for Early Voting. Now that this has come to pass, we can rethink your role for the general election.

Best,

Barbara Wagner

Election Director

Re: Sample Ballots being voted and deposited in Drop Boxes

Susan Mcconkey <[redacted]@[redacted]>

Sun 5/5/2024 1:01 PM

To: Diane Butler <[redacted]@[redacted]>; David Morsberger <[redacted]@[redacted]>
Cc: Am <[redacted]@[redacted]>; Alex Pacheco <[redacted]@[redacted]>; Kate Sullivan <[redacted]@[redacted]>; Jim Shalleck <[redacted]@[redacted]>

Anne Arundel is canvassing on the 7th, others may be. I asked Jason if they have received any sample ballots, he certainly has said anything about that being an issue.

On Sunday, May 5, 2024 at 12:33:55 PM EDT, David Morsberger <[redacted]@[redacted]> wrote:

Just because they cannot doesn't mean they will not try.

On May 5, 2024, at 12:29 PM, DIANE BUTLER <[redacted]@[redacted]> wrote:

I am working on an answer to this. It was also discussed briefly at our last meeting, and I am looking at my notes. Sample ballots are not ballots and cannot be counted. The LBE will try and notify the voter to let them know that they have not actually voted.

The LBE's do not have time to do any more early canvasses as all of the staff is being used to facilitate early voting and voting day.

Diane

From: David Morsberger <[redacted]@[redacted]>
Sent: Sunday, May 5, 2024 9:15 AM
To: Susan McConkey <[redacted]@[redacted]>
Cc: Nicolee Ambrose <[redacted]@[redacted]>; Alex Pacheco <[redacted]@[redacted]>; Kate Sullivan <[redacted]@[redacted]>; Diane Butler <[redacted]@[redacted]>; Jim Shalleck <[redacted]@[redacted]>
Subject: Re: Sample Ballots being voted and deposited in Drop Boxes

That is the action Bianca has. I will reiterate the importance to her.

On May 5, 2024, at 8:52 AM, Susan Mcconkey <[redacted]@[redacted]> wrote:

Doesn't look like Baltimore City canvasses any more Mail-In Ballots until after the Election. State Board's next meeting is Election Day, does Diane just have the ability to add this to the agenda?

David - can you find out from Bianca what the City Board decided while canvassing on the first day?

I'll share as soon as I hear from the local Board members Terry and Maria.

Thanks all,
Susan

On Sunday, May 5, 2024 at 02:07:35 AM EDT, Nicolee Ambrose <[redacted]@[redacted]> wrote:

FYI that this needs to be clearly decided by the BOE and should not be able to count.

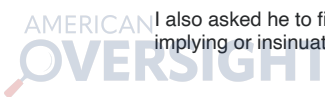
There have been years where people would submit Trone's sample campaign mailer ballots as actual ballots, and Frederick County BOE would seemingly pass a number of them through. If Trone ends up on the ballot statewide, we have to expect them to use this technique statewide.

From: David Morsberger <[redacted]@[redacted]>
Sent: Saturday, May 4, 2024 4:36 PM
To: Susan Mcconkey <[redacted]@[redacted]>
Cc: Nicolee Ambrose <[redacted]@[redacted]>; Kate Strauch Sullivan <[redacted]@[redacted]>; DIANE BUTLER <[redacted]@[redacted]>
Subject: Re: Sample Ballots being voted and deposited in Drop Boxes

Bianca in Baltimore City reported that she saw that during canvassing. I requested she go to website. She is the one who said City wasn't an option.

I also asked he to find out how they processed/adjudicated the sample ballots. They cannot claim intent and mark an official. I am in no way implying or insinuating they are doing that.

Sent from my iPhone



Subject: Response to PIA Request
Date: Friday, October 11, 2024 at 5:59:22 PM Eastern Daylight Time
From: Danyelle Avery -SBE- <danyelle.avery3@maryland.gov>
To: AO Records <records@americanoversight.org>
Attachments: image001.png, PIA 2024-114 Binder1_Redacted.pdf

EXTERNAL SENDER

Dear Ms. Adhoob, I received your PIA request stating in part “All email communications (including emails, email attachments, complete email chains, calendar invitations, and calendar invitation attachments) between (a) Board of Elections Member Diane Butler, and (b) any of the external entities or individuals listed below (including the listed email addresses and/or domains).

External Entities and Individuals:

- a. Election Integrity Network (electionintegrity.network)
- b. Virginia Institute of Public Policy (virginiainstitute.org)
- c. Voter Rolls Working Group (voter-rolls@googlegroups.com)”

Pursuant to GP § 4-362, your client is entitled to seek judicial review of this decision. Alternatively, your client may file a request for mediation with the Public Access Ombudsman and, if the Ombudsman is unable to resolve the matter, may subsequently seek a resolution from the Public Information Act Compliance Board for those matters within the Compliance Board’s jurisdiction. See GP §§ 4-1A-01 et seq. and 4-1B-01 et seq.

I have found the attached emails responsive to your request. If you have questions or concerns feel free to contact me.

--

Danyelle Avery
Election Reform and Management
Maryland State Board of Elections
410-269-2912
danyelle.avery3@maryland.gov



Board of Election Members in polling locations

Alex Pacheco <[REDACTED]>

Tue 5/14/2024 11:42 AM

Cc: Adam Katora <[REDACTED]>; Susan Mcconkey <[REDACTED]>

📎 1 attachments (139 KB)

Board of Election Member Ltr to DeMarinis 5-14-2024.pdf;

Republican Members of the Boards of Elections,

I wanted to make you all aware of a letter that the Maryland Republican Party sent to the State Board of Elections regarding the email that went out yesterday to the election directors directing them to bar the local board members from being in the voting room and observing. I have attached the letter that was sent to the State Board describing the infringement upon your rights as proscribed in the statute. At this time, we do not have any update/ further information from Mr. DeMarinis. We have reached out and have not heard back. We will update you if and when we hear anything further. Do not hesitate to reach out if you have any questions.

Regards,

Alex Pacheco
Chairman,
MD GOP Election Integrity Committee
General Counsel
MD GOP

Re: Board of Election Members in polling locations

Alex Pacheco <[REDACTED]@[REDACTED]>

Thu 5/16/2024 9:38 AM

Cc: Adam Katora <[REDACTED]@[REDACTED]>; Susan Mcconkey <[REDACTED]@[REDACTED]>

Republican Members of the Boards of Elections,

I wanted to follow up, and say thank you to you all for your hard work and help on Tuesday. The work that you all do is invaluable. I wanted to also let you all know that if there is anything that you may need throughout the canvassing process, do not hesitate to reach out.

Regards,

Alex Pacheco
Chairman,
MD GOP Election Integrity Committee
General Counsel
MD GOP

On Tue, May 14, 2024 at 1:59 PM Alex Pacheco <aspacheco25@gmail.com> wrote:

Republican Members of the Boards of Elections,

I wanted to provide you an update that was received from the State Board of Elections. I am not aware as to whether or not this information has been provided to you all yet from your election directors; however an email went out earlier to the election directors correcting the prior instructions and allowing board of election members to go into the voting rooms to observe the election processes. I have copied the body of the email below. Let me know if you have any questions.

Regards,

Alex Pacheco
Chairman,
MD GOP Election Integrity Committee
General Counsel
MD GOP

Email Below:

"The Office of the Attorney General has updated the advice it gave to the State Board yesterday to clarify the specific role a Board Member may play at a polling place on election day. Board Members may have access to voting rooms, but they have no authority to direct judges or change processes. Their role is observational only. If they have questions, they should be referred to the Election Director or the State Board."



MARYLAND STATE
BOARD OF ELECTIONS

Katherine Berry

Deputy Administrator

Phone. (410)269-2843 Mobile. (667)314-5015

Web. www.elections.maryland.gov

Address. 151 West Street, Suite 200, Annapolis, MD 21401



On Tue, May 14, 2024 at 11:41 AM Alex Pacheco <[REDACTED]@[REDACTED]; [REDACTED]> wrote:
Republican Members of the Boards of Elections,

I wanted to make you all aware of a letter that the Maryland Republican Party sent to the State Board of Elections regarding the email that went out yesterday to the election directors directing them to bar the local board members from being in the voting room and observing. I have attached the letter that was sent to the State Board describing the infringement upon your rights as proscribed in the statute. At this time, we do not have any update/ further information from Mr. DeMarinis. We have reached out and have not heard back. We will update you if and when we hear anything further. Do not hesitate to reach out if you have any questions.

Regards,

Alex Pacheco
Chairman,
MD GOP Election Integrity Committee
General Counsel
MD GOP

Board of Election Members in polling locations

Alex Pacheco <aspacheco25@gmail.com>

Tue 5/14/2024 11:42 AM

Cc: Adam Katora <[REDACTED]>; Susan Mcconkey <[REDACTED]>

📎 1 attachments (139 KB)

Board of Election Member Ltr to DeMarinis 5-14-2024.pdf;

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Regards,

Alex Pacheco
Chairman,
MD GOP Election Integrity Committee
General Counsel
MD GOP



MARYLAND
REPUBLICAN
PARTY

May 14, 2024

Mr. Jared DeMarinis, Director
Maryland State Board of Elections
151 West Street Suite 200
Annapolis, MD 21401

Re: Observation Rights

Dear Mr. Demarinis,

It has come to our attention that Ms. Berry sent an email yesterday May 13, 2024, to all the election directors and deputy election directors around the State. Notably the email discussed the role of board of election members, and informing the directors that board of election members have no authority to observe polling places. The email went on to instruct directors to limit members of the board of elections to the entrance of the polling room.

This email sent out by the State Board of Elections directly cuts against the Maryland Election Law Article. Section 10-308(a) of the Election Law Article states that:

“An election judge shall allow the following individuals to have access to the voting room at a polling place:

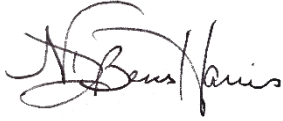
- (1) a voter;
- (2) an individual who accompanies a voter in need of assistance in accordance with § 10-310(c) of this subtitle;
- (3) polling place staff;
- (4) a member or other representative of the State Board or local board;
- (5) an accredited watcher or challenger under § 10-311 of this subtitle;
- (6) an individual under the age of 18 who accompanies a voter in accordance with § 10-310(c) of this subtitle, provided that:
 - (i) the individual is in the care of the voter and does not disrupt or interfere with normal voting procedures; and
 - (ii) the individual is not eligible to vote in that election; and
- (7) any other individual authorized by the State Board or local board.”

Md. Code., Elec. Law § 10-308(a). The Election Law Article clearly permits members of the State or local boards of elections to have access to the voting room at a polling place. As such, it is concerning that the email sent by Ms. Berry on behalf of the State Board of Elections is contrary to what is proscribed in the statute and infringes upon the rights of the members of the State and local board of elections.

MD-SBE-24-1891-A-000005

The Maryland Republican Party is requesting that you send a notice correcting the email sent on May 13, 2024, by Ms. Berry, informing the election directors that board of election members are permitted to be in the voting room at the polling place. Should there be any questions, please free to contact us at info@mdgop.org.

Respectfully,



Nicole Harris
Chairwoman
Maryland Republican Party



Alessandro S. Pacheco
General Counsel
Maryland Republican Party

cc: Board of Elections Members



MARYLAND
REPUBLICAN
PARTY

May 14, 2024

Mr. Jared DeMarinis, Director
Maryland State Board of Elections
151 West Street Suite 200
Annapolis, MD 21401

Re: Observation Rights

Dear Mr. Demarinis,

It has come to our attention that Ms. Berry sent an email yesterday May 13, 2024, to all the election directors and deputy election directors around the State. Notably the email discussed the role of board of election members, and informing the directors that board of election members have no authority to observe polling places. The email went on to instruct directors to limit members of the board of elections to the entrance of the polling room.

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- (1) a voter;
- (2) an individual who accompanies a voter in need of assistance in accordance with § 10-310(c) of this subtitle;
- (3) polling place staff;
- (4) a member or other representative of the State Board or local board;
- (5) an accredited watcher or challenger under § 10-311 of this subtitle;
- (6) an individual under the age of 18 who accompanies a voter in accordance with § 10-310(c) of this subtitle, provided that:
 - (i) the individual is in the care of the voter and does not disrupt or interfere with normal voting procedures; and
 - (ii) the individual is not eligible to vote in that election; and
- (7) any other individual authorized by the State Board or local board.”

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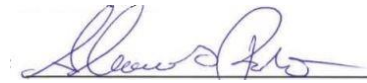
MD-SBE-24-1891-A-000007

The Maryland Republican Party is requesting that you send a notice correcting the email sent on May 13, 2024, by Ms. Berry, informing the election directors that board of election members are permitted to be in the voting room at the polling place. Should there be any questions, please free to contact us at info@mdgop.org.

Respectfully,



Nicole Harris
Chairwoman
Maryland Republican Party



Alessandro S. Pacheco
General Counsel
Maryland Republican Party

cc: Board of Elections Members

Canvassing in target Counties

Susan Mcconkey <susandil@aol.com>

Thu 5/16/2024 12:30 AM

To: Alex Pacheco <a[REDACTED]>; Nicolee Ambrose <[REDACTED]@[REDACTED]>; Kate Strauch Sullivan <[REDACTED]@[REDACTED]>; David Morsberger <[REDACTED]@[REDACTED]>; Jim Shalleck <[REDACTED]@[REDACTED]>; DIANE BUTLER <[REDACTED]@[REDACTED]>; Jim Wass <[REDACTED]@[REDACTED]>; Mark Uncapher <[REDACTED]@[REDACTED]>; Adam Wood <[REDACTED]@[REDACTED]>

While nothing is close, we should make sure we have folks stop by each of these to ensure our observer rights are being honored. Do we have anyone on the google signup for these?

I've had someone at least stop in each day in Anne Arundel (3 canvasses so far and Anne White is going back tomorrow, of course we have Brenda Yarema and others as canvass judges in addition to our wonderful Board members).

Canvass Schedule:

Baltimore City: [Welcome | Baltimore City Board of Elections](#) May 16 9AM, Baltimore City Board of Elections - Warehouse, 301 N Franklinton Rd

Baltimore County: [Board of Elections - Baltimore County \(baltimorecountymd.gov\)](#) May 16, 17 & 22 - 10AM to 8PM, Board of Elections Office

Frederick: emailed asking Nate for schedule

Montgomery: [Primary Election Mail-In Ballot Canvass - Board of Elections - Montgomery County, Maryland \(montgomerycountymd.gov\)](#) May 16th 10-6; May 18th 10-6, May 21 10-6

Prince George's: [Board of Elections | Prince George's County \(princegeorgescountymd.gov\)](#) May 16 10AM, May 17 thru May 24 9AM, First Baptist Church of Glenarden - Family Life Center 600-J Watkins Park Drive,

Directions:

From Watkins Park Drive, turn into Gate 3 Keep straight until you come to a fork in the road, take a slight right and Pass Lot 2 (on the right), continue straight down to Lot 3 (on the right). Lot 3 is the parking lot in front of the Family Life Center which is on the left. Please enter through the double doors on the side of the bldg. where **First Baptist Church of Glenarden FAMILY LIFE CENTER** is displayed at the top of the bldg.

Fw: Fwd: Board Members at Polling Locations

Susan Mcconkey <[REDACTED]@[REDACTED]>

Tue 5/14/2024 12:37 PM

To: Nicolee Ambrose <[REDACTED]@[REDACTED]>; Adam Wood <[REDACTED]@[REDACTED]>; Alex Pacheco <[REDACTED]@[REDACTED]>; Mark Uncapher <[REDACTED]@[REDACTED]>; Jim Wass <[REDACTED]@[REDACTED]>; Jim Shalleck <[REDACTED]@[REDACTED]>; DIANE BUTLER <[REDACTED]@[REDACTED]>; Kate Strauch Sullivan <[REDACTED]@[REDACTED]>; David Morsberger <[REDACTED]@[REDACTED]>

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Katherine Berry** <katherine.berry@maryland.gov>

Date: Tue, May 14, 2024 at 10:04 AM

Subject: Re: Board Members at Polling Locations

To: Diane Loibel -SBE- <diane.loibel@maryland.gov>, David Garreis -SBE- <david.garreis@maryland.gov>, Abigail Goldman -SBE- <abigail.goldman@maryland.gov>, Ruie LaVoie <rlavoie@baltimorecountymd.gov>, Ruie Lavoie -SBE- <ruie.lavoie@maryland.gov>, Gail Hatfield -SBE- <gail.hatfield@maryland.gov>, Allison Murphy -SBE- <allison.murphy@maryland.gov>, Erin E. Perrone -SBE- <erine.perrone@maryland.gov>, Gary Holmes -SBE- <Gary.Holmes1@maryland.gov>, Tracy Dickerson -SBE- <tracy.dickerson@maryland.gov>, Gwendolyn Dales -SBE- <gwendolyn.dales@maryland.gov>, Barbara Wagner -SBE- <barbara.wagner@maryland.gov>, Steve Fratz -SBE- <steve.fratz@maryland.gov>, Stephanie Taylor -SBE- <stephanie.taylor@maryland.gov>, Guy Mickley -SBE- <guy.mickley@maryland.gov>, Cheemoandia Blake -SBE- <cheemoandia.blake@maryland.gov>, Boris Brajkovic -SBE- <boris.brajkovic@maryland.gov>, Wendy Day -SBE- <wendy.day@maryland.gov>, Christine Jones <christine.jones@maryland.gov>, Wendy Adkins -SBE- <wendy.adkins@maryland.gov>, Julia Cox <julia.cox@maryland.gov>, Tammy Stafford -SBE- <tammy.stafford@maryland.gov>, Barry Jackson -SBE- <barry.jackson@maryland.gov>, Dionne Church -SBE- <dionne.church@maryland.gov>, Patricia Jackson -SBE- <patricia.jackson@maryland.gov>, Wendy Maddux -SBE- <wendy.maddux@maryland.gov>, Richard Siejack -SBE- <richard.siejack@maryland.gov>, Lisa Stanley -SBE- <lisa.stanley@maryland.gov>, Rena Waggoner <rwaggoner@baltimorecountymd.gov>, Rena Waggoner -SBE- <rena.waggoner1@maryland.gov>, Kristen Scott -SBE- <kristen.scott@maryland.gov>, Jennifer Bartholow -SBE- <jennifer.bartholow@maryland.gov>, Karen Benecewicz -SBE- <karen.benecewicz@maryland.gov>, Mary McDougal -SBE- <mary.mcdougal@maryland.gov>, Anthony Gutierrez -SBE- <anthony.gutierrez@maryland.gov>, Karen Perry -SBE- <karen.perry@maryland.gov>, Charlotte Davis -SBE- <charlotte.davis1@maryland.gov>, Janet Ross -SBE- <janet.ross@maryland.gov>, Demetra K.M. Hutchinson -SBE- <demetra.hutchinson@maryland.gov>, Kim Spence -SBE- <Kim.spence@maryland.gov>, Susan Julian -SBE- <susan.julian@maryland.gov>, Teresa Morningstar -SBE- <teresa.morningstar1@maryland.gov>, Bill A. Blockston -SBE- <bill.blockston@maryland.gov>, Teresa Riggan -SBE- <teresa.riggin@maryland.gov>

Cc: Crystal McGinn -SBE- <crystal.mcginn@maryland.gov>, MaryAnn Mogavero -SBE- <maryann.mogavero@maryland.gov>, Melissia Dorsey -SBE- <melissia.dorsey1@maryland.gov>, James Harris -SBE- <james.harris2@maryland.gov>, Jared DeMarinis -SBE- <jared.demarinis@maryland.gov>

The Office of the Attorney General has updated the advice it gave to the State Board yesterday to clarify the specific role a Board Member may play at a polling place on election day. Board Members may have access to voting rooms, but they have no authority to direct judges or change processes. Their role is observational only. If they have questions, they should be referred to the Election Director or the State Board.



MARYLAND STATE
BOARD OF ELECTIONS

Katherine Berry

Deputy Administrator

Phone. (410)269-2843 Mobile. (667)314-5015

Web. www.elections.maryland.gov

Address. 151 West Street, Suite 200, Annapolis, MD 21401



On Mon, May 13, 2024 at 4:07 PM Katherine Berry <katherine.berry@maryland.gov> wrote:
Election Directors/Deputy Directors:

To clarify the role of Board Members on Election Day, unless they have been given a direct responsibility or role such as serving as a polling place evaluator or to deliver extra ballots/supplies, Board Members have no special authority to observe polling places, direct operations in a polling place, or instruct election judges in their duties. Like any member of the public, a Board Member may visit a polling place to vote. If the Board Member is not voting at that polling place, they have no special privilege to be present inside a polling place during election operations. They are also not eligible to be a Challenger & Watcher because of the inherent conflict that role could cause with their responsibilities as a Board Member.

If a Board Member is so inclined to see a polling location, they can go as far as the entrance of the polling room, but are not permitted to go any further. While at the polling location, Board Members must respect the "no-electioneering" boundary just like any other member of the public.

Katie



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Republican BoE Members

Susan Mcconkey <susandil@aol.com>

Mon 5/13/2024 11:53 PM

To: Alex Pacheco <aspacheco25@gmail.com>; Nicolee Ambrose <nicolee@nicoleeambrose.com>; Kate Strauch Sullivan <kate@sullyland.com>; David Morsberger <dave@morsberger.com>; Mark Uncapher <uncapher@gmail.com>; Jim Wass <jim@jimwass.com>; Jim Shalleck <[REDACTED]@[REDACTED]>; DIANE BUTLER <[REDACTED]@[REDACTED]>

 1 attachments (16 KB)

Republican Board of Election Members.xlsx;

For reference for tomorrow and canvassing days ahead if needed. Please share with anyone I forgot.

Thanks,
Susan
410-340-7768

MDGOP Election Integrity Zoom Call Now

Susan Mcconkey <susandil@aol.com>

Mon 5/13/2024 9:29 PM

To: Jim Shalleck <[REDACTED]@[REDACTED]>; DIANE BUTLER <[REDACTED]@[REDACTED]>; Adam Wood <[REDACTED]@[REDACTED]>
Alex Pacheco <aspacheco25@gmail.com>; kate@sullyland.com <kate@sullyland.com>; David Morsberger <[REDACTED]@[REDACTED]>; Nicolee Ambrose <[REDACTED]>
Cc: nicole@[REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@[REDACTED]>; Susan Mcconkey <[REDACTED]@[REDACTED]>

Susan McConkey is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: MDGOP Election Integrity

Time: May 13, 2024 09:30 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/2595453132?omn=84220551515>

Meeting ID: 259 545 3132

One tap mobile

+13017158592,,2595453132# US (Washington DC)

+16469313860,,2595453132# US

Dial by your location

• +1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)

•

Meeting ID: 259 545 3132

On Monday, May 13, 2024 at 09:24:34 PM EDT, Nicolee Ambrose <nicolee@nicoleeambrose.com> wrote:

FYI on the below...apparently the first email was sent by the State BOE's Katie Berry to Election Directors/Deputies. The second email was sent by the Frederick Co BOE Director.

Sent: Monday, May 13, 2024 9:03 PM

Subject: Board Barred from Polls

Election Directors/Deputy Directors:



To clarify the role of Board Members on Election Day, unless they have been given a direct responsibility or role such as serving as a polling place evaluator or to deliver extra ballots/supplies, Board Members have no special authority to observe polling places, direct operations in a polling place, or instruct election judges in

their duties. Like any member of the public, a Board Member may visit a polling place to vote. If the Board Member is not voting at that polling place, they have no special privilege to be present inside a polling place during election operations. They are also not eligible to be a Challenger & Watcher because of the inherent conflict that role could cause with their responsibilities as a Board Member.

If a Board Member is so inclined to see a polling location, they can go as far as the entrance of the polling room, but are not permitted to go any further. While at the polling location, Board Members must respect the "no-electioneering" boundary just like any other member of the public.

Katie

In response to why board members only handled early voting-

The League of Women Voters is performing the role of Polling Place Evaluators on Election Day. The Board does evaluations just for Early Voting. Now that this has come to pass, we can rethink your role for the general election.

Best,

Barbara Wagner

Election Director

Re: Sample Ballots being voted and deposited in Drop Boxes

Susan McConkey <[redacted]@[redacted]>

Sun 5/5/2024 1:01 PM

To: Diane Butler <[redacted]@[redacted]>; David Morsberger <[redacted]@[redacted]>
C: Am <[redacted]@[redacted]>; Alex Pacheco <[redacted]@[redacted]>; Kate Sullivan <[redacted]@[redacted]>; Jim Shalleck <[redacted]@[redacted]>

Anne Arundel is canvassing on the 7th, others may be. I asked Jason if they have received any sample ballots, he certainly has said anything about that being an issue.

On Sunday, May 5, 2024 at 12:33:55 PM EDT, David Morsberger <[redacted]@[redacted]> wrote:

Just because they cannot doesn't mean they will not try.

On May 5, 2024, at 12:29 PM, DIANE BUTLER <[redacted]@[redacted]> wrote:

I am working on an answer to this. It was also discussed briefly at our last meeting, and I am looking at my notes. Sample ballots are not ballots and cannot be counted. The LBE will try and notify the voter to let them know that they have not actually voted.

The LBE's do not have time to do any more early canvasses as all of the staff is being used to facilitate early voting and voting day.

Diane

From: David Morsberger <[redacted]@[redacted]>
Sent: Sunday, May 5, 2024 9:15 AM
To: Susan McConkey <[redacted]@[redacted]>
Cc: Nicolee Ambrose <[redacted]@[redacted]>; Alex Pacheco <[redacted]@[redacted]>; Kate Sullivan <[redacted]@[redacted]>; Diane Butler <[redacted]@[redacted]>; Jim Shalleck <[redacted]@[redacted]>
Subject: Re: Sample Ballots being voted and deposited in Drop Boxes

That is the action Bianca has. I will reiterate the importance to her.

On May 5, 2024, at 8:52 AM, Susan McConkey <[redacted]@[redacted]> wrote:

Doesn't look like Baltimore City canvasses any more Mail-In Ballots until after the Election. State Board's next meeting is Election Day, does Diane just have the ability to add this to the agenda?

David - can you find out from Bianca what the City Board decided while canvassing on the first day?

I'll share as soon as I hear from the local Board members Terry and Maria.

Thanks all,
Susan

On Sunday, May 5, 2024 at 02:07:35 AM EDT, Nicolee Ambrose <[redacted]@[redacted]> wrote:

FYI that this needs to be clearly decided by the BOE and should not be able to count.

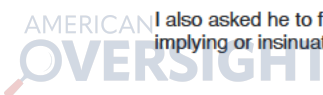
There have been years where people would submit Trone's sample campaign mailer ballots as actual ballots, and Frederick County BOE would seemingly pass a number of them through. If Trone ends up on the ballot statewide, we have to expect them to use this technique statewide.

From: David Morsberger <[redacted]@[redacted]>
Sent: Saturday, May 4, 2024 4:36 PM
To: Susan McConkey <[redacted]@[redacted]>
C: Nicolee Ambrose <[redacted]@[redacted]>; Kate Strauch Sullivan <[redacted]@[redacted]>; DIANE BUTLER <[redacted]@[redacted]>
Subject: Re: Sample Ballots being voted and deposited in Drop Boxes

Bianca in Baltimore City reported that she saw that during canvassing. I requested she go to website. She is the one who said City wasn't an option.

I also asked he to find out how they processed/adjudicated the sample ballots. They cannot claim intent and mark an official. I am in no way implying or insinuating they are doing that.

Sent from my iPhone



On May 4, 2024, at 15:52, Susan McConkey <[REDACTED]@[REDACTED]> wrote:

Just FYI but wanted to let you know in case you see the same news story

----- Forwarded Message -----

From: Susan McConkey <[REDACTED]@[REDACTED]>
To: [mariavismale37@\[REDACTED\]](mailto:mariavismale37@[REDACTED]), [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@[REDACTED]>, [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@[REDACTED]>, [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@[REDACTED]>
Cc: Alex Pacheco <[REDACTED]@[REDACTED]>, Tom Kennedy <[REDACTED]@[REDACTED]>
Sent: Saturday, May 4, 2024 at 03:44:13 PM EDT
Subject: Sample Ballots being voted and deposited in Drop Boxes

Maria & Terry,

My name is Susan McConkey and I am working the Election Hotline for the Maryland Republican Party.

The news story carried by Fox 45 this morning was brought to our attention about voters voting their sample ballots and placing them in the drop boxes.

The news story was unclear how big an issue this is. Are the voters that have voted using their sample ballot being contacted? Will the deposit of the sample ballot impact a voter if they later turn in their mail-in ballot or go to vote in person?

Thanks so much for your time,

Susan McConkey
MDGOP Election Integrity Committee
[SUBMIT A REPORT – MARYLAND | PROTECT THE VOTE](#)
410-210-4450