

MINUTES
KENT COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS
135 Dixon Drive, Chestertown MD 21620
February 1st, 2024

Present:

Lisa Thompson, President
Scott Lockerman, Vice President
Mary Walker, Member
Barbara Reed, Member

Staff:

Cheemoandia Blake, Election Director

I. Call Meeting to Order

Meeting called to order at 8:30 A.M. by Lisa Thompson, seconded Scott Lockerman.

II. Welcome Guest(s)

Eric Colliflower – Voter Integrity Group
Shawn Polson – Republican Central Committee
Dawn Jacobs – Republicans of Kent

III. Report Board Absences

Paul Showalter, Secretary

IV. Approval of Minutes

Approved by Lisa Thompson, seconded by Scott Lockerman.

V. Directors Report/Attorneys Report

VI. Documents

- a. Board Minutes – February 2023
- b. Blank Ballots – Eric Colliflower- Voter Integrity Group
- c. Maryland Blank Ballot Procedures
- d. Absentee Document -Dawn Jacobs
- e. SB1 Firearm/Gun Safety Act Notice
- f. Health Department/Wells Recovery Center Information
- g. Election Judges Needed Signs
- h. Precinct Voter Count as of February 2024

VII. Old Business

- a. Pollbook Statewide Testing – completed
- b. KRM – USA Fulfillment -310 Talbot – met with Will from KRM to tour a possible location to relocate the election office and warehouse. The current warehouse has reached storage capacity due to additional equipment and changes in record retention. At this time, we must move most of the equipment out of the warehouse into the office or board room to perform tasks mandated by SBE. Letter from board regarding additional space. Estimate is listed below:
 - Current space \$14.75 per sf x 3,000sf = \$44,250.00/year = \$3,687.50/month
 - 313 Talbot 1 Bay \$14.75 per sf x 4,500sf = \$66,375.00/year = \$5,531.25/month
 - Small 2 Bay \$14.75 per sf x 8,000sf = \$118,000.00/year = \$9,833.34/month
 - Normal 2 Bay \$14.75 per sf x 9,000sf = \$132,750.00/year = \$11,062.50/month
 - *These numbers do not include CAM or utilities.
- c. Approval of EV and ED sites – approved by board.
- d. County Commissioners – considering increasing from 3 to 5.
- e. HAVA College Poll Worker Program – assist with funding to recruit college students as election judges.
- f. Pollbook Battery Testing – completed.
- g. Suspicious Mailing/Fentanyl Laced Letters – reached out to KCHD Wellness Recovery Center for substance training.
- h. PEP (Mid-Cycle) – closed meeting, once reopen board discussed PEP with Election Director, Cheemoandia Blake. Documents submitted to SBE.

VIII. New Business

- a. Vacant – Election Trainee Position, contractual position.
- b. Eric Colliflower- Blank Ballots – presented his concerns regarding blank ballot voted in the previous election. Eric pointed out the high number of blank ballots voted in Betterton. The Election Director, Mrs. Blake, explained the reason for the high numbers.
- c. Shawn Polson – requested EL68A reports, Election Director Mrs. Blake stated that the LBE do not have such reports and referred Shawn to SBE. SBE does not require the local elections offices to generate EL68A reports from the ERM. An email was sent to Mr. Polson stating there are no responsive documents. SBE also made Mr. Polson aware that they do have machine logs from ElectionWare. If Mr. Polson can clarify his request, SBE will add the request to their PIA log, and we will provide all responsive documents within their custodianship within 30 days.
- d. Dawn Jacobs – presented the importance of mail in ballot voting.
- e. Election Judges – in need of Republican Judges.

- Currently applications for 2024 Primary election - Democratic 51, Republican 29 Other 11 applications
 - Reached out to judges that had worked in the past, as far back as 2016.
 - Reached out to judges that sent in interest letters from past elections, or was not able to work 2020 due to covid, etc.
 - VNC – Voter Notification Card has election judge QR code.
 - Sent an election judge needed QR code sign to every department head in Kent County, including Dem, Republican Central Committees, Washington College, Kent County High School, and the League of Woman Voters.
 - Reached out to the college and high school for election judge recruitment. Will need board members to assist with outreach.
- f. Election Judge Training – board members and election judges only
- March 19th – March 21st, 2024
 - 9:00 am or 1:00 pm class
 - Barbara Reed will be attending the March 19th class.
- g. Financial Disclosure – Due April 30th, 2024.
- h. Badge- contact Jennifer White (HR Department) at 400 High Street to get your picture taken, please bring the badge to the election office. These badges are only to be utilized during early voting and election day.
- i. Kent County Fair – Wednesday July 17th, - Saturday July 20th. Scott Lockerman recommended that we try recruiting in the evening. There will be a signup sheet, please mark your calendar.


Closed Session: None

X. Adjournment

There being no further business, Lisa Thompson made a motion at 10:45 am. to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mary Walker. Motion passed by all. Next meeting is scheduled for March 7th, 2024.

Respectfully submitted,


President


Secretary