

## St. Mary's County Board of Elections

23250 Leonardtown Hollywood Road  
Leonardtown, MD 20650

### Board Meeting Minutes of 02 February 2022

#### Present:

##### **Board Members:**

Jack Payne, Board President (R)  
Rebecca Wathen, Board Secretary (D)  
Kenneth Boothe, Member (R)  
Mary Coombs, Member (R) (Dialed-In)  
Ann Raley, Member (D)

##### **Staff Members:**

Wendy Adkins, Director  
Susan Julian, Deputy Director  
  
Cynthia Panos, Board Attorney (Dialed In)

#### Absent:

At 09:02 AM, Mr. Jack Payne, Board President, determined that there was a quorum present and called the meeting to order.

Guests Present: None

#### Documents Distributed:

- Meeting Minutes of December 1, 2021
- Meeting Minutes of December 13, 2021
- SBE Announcement regarding Mail-In Ballot Requests
- DRAFT Legislative District map
- 2022 Gubernatorial Election Information
- Copies of HB328, SB352, HB327,

Approval of Minutes: The minutes of the December 1, 2021 and December 13, 2021 meetings were presented. A motion was made by Ms. Wathen to approve the minutes, with corrections from the floor, seconded by Mr. Boothe. Motion carried.

Meeting Agenda: The meeting agenda was reviewed. The Ballot Drop Box Assignments were added under New Business and the New Hire was moved to the last item under New Business.

Director's Report: Ms. Adkins reported the following:

- **2022 MAEO Meeting:** The date for the one-day conference is September 29, 2022. It is going to be a hybrid conference. A virtual link will be set up in the Leonardtown Office for all Board and Staff members to attend.
- **Election Judges:** As of last week, there are 135 judges needed throughout the County. Public Service Announcements will be posted, flyer's will be included in the outgoing ID cards, and Social Media Posts will be used.
- **Ballot Drop Box Locations:** All of the proposed ballot drop box locations approval documentation have been submitted to the State Board of Elections. Ms. Adkins advised that locations would only need to be approved by the State Administrator and not the entire State Board.
- **Mail In Applications:** As per the legislation that was approved, all registered voters will be receiving a mail-in ballot application. The first round of mailings were sent on January 31, 2022 to Democrats and

Republicans only. A second mailing will be sent in mid-March and will include the unaffiliated voters. This proposed mailing date is after the candidate filing deadline to determine if there will be a unaffiliated ballot style.

- **Building Renovations Update:** Ms. Adkins reported that upgrades will be starting soon. Floors are to be replaced, a wall added to separate the training area from the warehouse storage area, and new locks and doorbells will be installed.

#### Old Business:

- **Early Voting Centers:** The State Board of Elections approved the three early voting centers for St. Mary's County on December 16, 2021. The SBE did ask if a governing body did approve the optional third site. The St. Mary's County Commissioner's Approval letter was provided to the SBE.

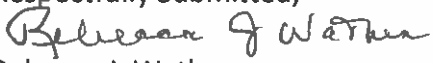
#### New Business:

- **Commissioner's Redistricting:** The Commissioner' Redistricting Board submitted their final proposed plan to the Commissioners on December 14, 2021. Sixty (60) days after the plan is submitted it will become the new districts. The staff is in the process of researching the changes but formal notification will not be made until the Legislative redistricting maps are approved. Ms. Adkins is also requesting guidance from the SBE on procedure to notify current candidates to advise which district they are residing. Ms. Adkins has requested that the Information Technology Department place an interactive map on the website that people can access to determine which Commissioner District they reside. It is hoped that this will work with the Legislative Districts as well.
- **2022 Election Information:** The SBE has approved the three (3) early voting center locations and we are still waiting for approval of the drop box sites.
- **2022 Legislation:** The session is in full swing and all bills are available for review on the Maryland General Assembly website. Bills of interest include:
  - **HB328 – Polling Place Location restrictions repealed.** They want to repeal the restriction of holding an election in a building used, owned, or occupied by an establishment that holds an alcoholic beverages license.
  - **SB352 – Ballot, Processing, and Reporting Procedures.** Contains provisions to alter the way canvassing, mail-in, and provisional ballots are opened and processed. Also provides opportunities to contact voters if there is an issue with their ballot and provides the ability to open and process ballots eight (8) days prior to early voting. Also will allow the ability to county either a mail-in or provisional ballot based on the tie of submission and not have to reject both ballots.
  - **HB327 – Election Judges minimum compensation.** Bill would set the minimum compensation of no less than \$200 per day.
  - **HB65 – Early Voting Sites that Have Public Transportation Accessibility.** Requires early voting sites to have local transportation stops directly at the facility by public transportation. Ms. Adkins advised that she has contacted the STS Director to add these stops for the early b=voting centers for the duration of Early Voting.
- **Ballot Drop Boxes:** The SBE released the ballot drop box site selection forms last week. Another Board meeting will be held to approve the locations which will include a few changes based upon the usage during the last election. This meeting will be open for public comment.
- **New Employee:** Interviews were completed on November 9, 2021 and a new hire was selected. Shane Blankenship, our former temporary employee was selected to fill the permanent position. Board President Jack Payne swore in Mr. Blankenship.

**Next Meeting:** There will be no meeting in March. The next meeting will be on April 6, 2022 at 9:00 AM. Board members should report to the Court House to be sworn.

A motion was made by Ms. Wathen to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Ms. Raley. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 09:32 AM.

Respectfully Submitted,

  
Rebecca J. Wathen  
Board Secretary

