

MINUTES
Wicomico County Board of Elections
345 Snow Hill Road, Salisbury, MD 21804
Thursday May 7, 2020

ATTENDEES: Brad Bellacicco, Board President, Republican Member, via phone
Joseph Collins, Republican Member, via phone
Catherine Keim, Republican Member, via phone
Sharon Morris, Democratic Member, via phone
Katrina Purnell, Board Secretary, Democratic Member, via phone
Peter Golba, Board Attorney, via phone
Anthony Gutierrez, Election Director, via phone
Dionne Church, Deputy Director, via phone

ABSENT: None

GUESTS: None

The Wicomico County Board of Elections met Thursday May 7, 2020 at 1:00 p.m.

Public notice was given and the agenda was posted at the Board of Elections office the week prior to the meeting. Additionally, a special public notice that, in compliance with the Governor's Order to prevent of spreading the COVID-19 virus, and in compliance with a directive from the State Board of Elections office, the board would not meet in-person but the public would have a way to call-in and listen to the meeting if they would like. No member of the public has contacted the office to obtain the call-in information for this morning's meeting

Brad Bellacicco, Board President, called the meeting to order, conducting a roll call of the board members, and declared that there was a quorum present. There were no recommendations for additions or changes to the agenda.

OLD BUSINESS:

The Director explained the process of joining the meeting on the computer using Google Meets and calling in to the meeting via phone. He also stated that the Wicomico County Board of Elections has Facebook and Twitter accounts, and the State Board is in the process of authenticating them.

Per the Wicomico Board's direction, communications from the local board office have reflected information which includes the fact that only voters registered as Democrat or Republican may participate in the June 2, 2020 Primary Election.

The Board agreed that that canvass workers working at the local office will earn the same hourly wage as the starting hourly wage for part-time seasonal office employees, \$12.00 per hour. SBE has stated that the current pay for election judges in the voting center for this election will remain the same as before.

There was discussion concerning procedures for entry of persons coming to the office. The Deputy Director explained that, per county policy, all persons entering the building must complete a self-reporting form indicating that they are not symptomatic and have not been in known contact with persons who have tested positive for COVID-19.

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Masks and gloves are on order for use during the canvass process and at the in-person voting center. Katrina Purnell emphasized the importance of wearing masks for persons participating in the canvass process.

ESS will be providing cleaning supplies for voting equipment.

Guidelines implemented during the Congressional District 7 special election are being reviewed and considered for implementation during the Primary.

The Director stated that we are still receiving direction from SBE concerning processes pertaining to vote centers, the canvass process, challengers and watchers, and ballot drop boxes.

The floor plans for the voting center and for canvassing areas incorporate social distancing considerations.

PAC-14 has submitted a proposal for providing live stream services which will cover the canvassing areas.

The State will be providing a machine to open ballots.

Sharon Morris made a motion to request that SBE allow 4 Ballot Marking Device units at the in-person voting center; seconded by Catherine Keim, passed unanimously.

The Director explained that the State will be providing the ballot drop boxes (which will be located at the local board office and at the main entrance of the Wicomico Civic Center) as well as personal protective equipment. Also, because there will not be multiple polling places for this election and there will be fewer election judges, the budget is projected to reflect fewer expenditures. Moreover, the Director will be submitting to SBE the bill for the cost of the PAC-14 live stream services for possible reimbursement.

The Director and Deputy Director are in contact with personnel at SBE and USPS regarding the status of mailed ballots.

The Board also discussed details of the live stream of the Congressional District 7 special election canvasses.

NEW BUSINESS:

None.

MISCELLANEOUS:

None.

CLOSED SESSION:

None.

MEMBERS TIME:

None.

BOARD ATTORNEY'S REPORT:

None.

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ADJOURNMENT:

Brad Bellacicco announced that the next special meeting will be Tuesday, May 12, 2020 at 9:00 a.m.

Katrina Purnell made a motion to adjourn, passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 1:56 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Brad Bellacicco 5-22-20
Brad Bellacicco, Board President Date

Bill Blockston 5/22/20
Bill Blockston, Recorder Date