

MINUTES
KENT COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS
135 Dixon Drive, Chestertown MD 21620
October 3rd, 2024

Present:

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

Staff: Cheemoandia Blake, Election Director

I. Call Meeting to Order

Lisa Thompson called the meeting to order at 8:40 am and declared a quorum was present.

II. Welcome Guest(s)

Dawn Jacobs
Dawn Wright
Tom Gross
Barbara Flook – League of Woman Voters
Jackie Adams – League of Woman Voters

III. Report Board Absences

N/A

IV. Approval of Minutes

Lisa Thompson made a motion to approve the minutes from September 3rd, 2024. Paul Showalter seconded the motion; the motion passes unanimously.

V. Directors Report/Attorneys Report - none

VI. Documents

- a. Board Minutes – September 5th, 2024
- b. Polling Place Law Enforcement Guidance
- c. September Newsletter Update & Events

- d. 2024 Voting Supplies Checklist and Certification for ED/EV
- e. Precinct Voter Count – September 2024
- f. Law is Being Broken – request to added to the agenda/submitted by Dawn Jacobs and Scott Lockerman
- g. SBE Statement on Recruiting and Assigning Election Judges

VII. Old Business

- a. Ballot Approved/ Ordered – ballots approved, and orders sent to SBE.
- b. Jazz Festival – board agreed to not have a voter information table at this event in the future.
- c. Board Members Duties/Reimbursement – a hard copy was provided to the board and a short discussion was held as to what the board duties consisted of.
- d. Election Judges – 71 Democrats, 44 Republicans, 11 Other parties as of September.
- e. Worton Elementary School – the board agreed Worton Elementary School would not be an ideal location for the election office due to multiple factors. Talbot Blvd would be a better location. Miss. Blake plans to recruit 2 additional full-time permanent employees between FY 2025 -2026. Also, during the election cycle SBE provides a county tech and support tech to assist the election office, therefore additional space would be needed at Talbot Blvd.
- f. Trainers – Cindy Davis and Rhonda Greene. Both are great trainers and have trained for Kent County in the past.
- g. Ballot Drop Box - located at Kent County Public Library, Galena Fire Department and Rock Hall Fire Department. Atlantic Security has installed cameras and monitors at each location. The election office will utilize the CT/ST to assist with picking up ballots M-F and board members on the weekend as needed.
- h. CTCL Grant – Election Director, Cheemoandia Blake has applied for a grant from the Center for Tech and Civic Life. This is a nonprofit organization. The grant will be used for security related expenses that are not covered in the county budget.
- i. Gearld Dockstader – stated that he was told by the public that Election Director, Cheemoandia Blake was hard to get in contact with. The Election Director assured Mr. Dockstader that this was the first time she

had heard of this. She also assured Mr. Dockstader that she can be reached by calling the office's main number, via email or via business cellphone. Election Director, Cheemoandia Blake also stated that her contact information is in the election judge manual, Chief Judge Binder and on the BMD instruction which is posted on the BMD on during all 8 days of EV and Election Day.

- j. Brief discussion – regarding Barbara Reed contacting/communicating with election judges at Kent County Public Library after the primary election regarding complaints. Paul Showalter stated that the board member should be listeners not talkers, any complaints should be directed to the Election Director and handled professionally. Dawn Wright stated that the board members should communicate with one another and be able to trust one another. Board members should not be going to other counties bashing the election office and other board members. Dawn Wright also stated she has never seen such confusion within the board in all the years she has been involved with the election process. Thomas McGinnis stated that if it wasn't for Barbara Reed we would have lost election judges at the KCPL polling location.

VIII. New Business

- a. Voting Supplies Checklist and Certification ED/EV – D/R board members are required to view election supplies and sign off, verifying that all supplies have been packed and ready to be delivered to each site. The deadline is October 7th, 2024.

- b. Law is Being Broken – Dawn Jacobs and Scott Lockerman request to add the documents to the agenda. Scott Lockerman asked if the election office had been trying to recruit republican election judges. Election Director, Cheemoandia advised Mr. Lockerman, that election judge application was sent out to all republican households in 2020 and 2022, majority of the application returned stated that the voter was not interested in serving as an election judge. Cheemoandia also advised the board that she has consistently asked the board and the republican central committee to help with election judges' recruitment.

Scott Lockerman also had concerns about out-of-country election judges working in Kent County, he requested to see this in writing. Election Director, Cheemoandia explain that if the citizen is a registered voter in Maryland, the voter is allowed to work in any county if needed. Election Director, Cheemoandia Blake advised the board they can review the document sent over by election administrator Jared DeMarinis "Issues Statement on Recruiting and Assigning Election Judges".

Scott Lockerman also stated that Election Director, Cheemoandia Blake was jumping down his throat, Miss. Blake was not aware of why Mr. Lockerman made this statement. Miss. Blake stated that was not her character and she was not jumping down his throat. Miss. Blake stated that she and Scott Lockerman have never had any issues in the 12 years he has been on board.

c. SBE Statement on Recruiting and Assigning Elections Judges - recruitment of election judges have always been a difficult and trying task. The law permits the appointment of an election judge from outside the county in which they are serving and election judges who are not affiliated with either party to serve as an election judge. There are never enough election judges on call to serve, individuals get sick, have emergencies, transportation issues and other issues that may prevent them from serving on election day. An election judge partisan affiliation does not impact or determine the outcome of the election. The party affiliation of an election judge does not stop the voter from casting their ballot or disenfranchise a voter.

d. Law enforcement at polling places – The sheriff office does not have any legal authority to conduct security checks or a role in securing the ballots. Nor does the sheriff enforce the requirements of the election law article A police officer must obey the order of the election judge at the polling place.

IX. Closed Session:

No closed session.

X. Adjournment

There being no further business, Paul Showalter made a motion at 9:45 am. to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Lisa Thompson. Motion passed by all. There will be no board meeting held in the month of November due to the upcoming PG2024 election. The next meeting is scheduled for December 5th, 2024, at 8:30 am.

Respectfully submitted,



President



Secretary