

Howard County Board of Elections
8900 Columbia 100 Parkway
Columbia, MD 21045
September 24, 2007

Present:

Board:

Ann M. Balcerzak, President
Vivian L. Dixon, Board Secretary
Ethel B. Hill, Member
Raymond M. Rankin, Alternate
Donna K. Thewes, Member
Charles M. Coles, Jr. Alternate
Michael S. Molinaro, Board Attorney

Staff:

Betty L. Nordaas, Election Director
Guy C. Mickley, Deputy Director

Guests:

Bill Chesnutt, Independent Voters
Jay Gerarden, Affiliated Voter

Ms. Balcerzak called the meeting to order at 4:38 pm. All members were present, constituting a quorum.

Approval of Minutes of July 19, 2007 Open:

Ms. Balcerzak asked if board had any corrections or additions to previous board Minutes that were mailed to members. Ms. Thewes moved for approval of minutes as presented, Ms. Hill seconded, and carried unanimously.

Addition/Changes to the Agenda:

President Balcerzak called for any additions or changes to agenda. There were no requested changes to agenda, however agenda items were addressed in order of relevancy.

Correspondence:

Notification – Deibold Elections renamed to **Premier Election Solutions**

Reports:

- A. Ms. Balcerzak (President), asked Board to review proposed HCBE By-Laws and be prepared to act upon them in October.
- B. President informed Board that renewal of Board Counsel's Contract is due in December.

- C. President discussed scheduling a Special Session to complete evaluation of HCBE Director. Board Secretary to confirm date/time/location on Tuesday.
- D. Ms. Nordaas (Director), informed Board that interviews would take place to fill two (2) positions, converted from Contingent to State.
- E. Director reported on staff attendance at meetings and various trainings, including a request from Ms. Thewes to have a Voters Training Session scheduled for voters. Other board members were encouraged to take training.
- F. Director advised Board she would be addressing the Independent Voters, at 7:00 pm, October 23rd, in the Miller Library, and invited them to attend.
- G. Director and Board held an informative discussion on pending County Bill to bring the County Code into compliance with Federal Court decisions permitting circulators of petitions to be paid for their services. The matter was brought to then County Executive, et al., in March 2006 by previous HCEB, coupled with a 2007 follow-up to current County Executive, by Ms. Nordaas.
- H. Director advised Board that she will send a letter, notifying persons convicted of a felony, whose registration was canceled (205), of legislative changes affecting their voting rights. A voter registration form will be included.
- I. HCB Staff developed a Confirmation of Mail Return Process that has been successfully applied and shared with numerous counties, including Anne Arundel.

Old Business:

- A. Director noted candidate filing deadlines and continued judge recruitment efforts, as well as volunteer services of Walter Maddox and Guy Mickley for Baltimore City Primary Election, and Vivian Dixon, Board Secretary, for the SBE Parallel Testing.
- B. In response to concerns previously raised by Ms. Hill, it was agreed upon in principle, for the Board to be proactive in encouraging citizens to register to vote, through numerous community groups, Republican and Democratic Central Committees, et al. A motion to that effect was made by Ms. Hill, restated and seconded by Ms. Balcerzak and opposed by Ms. Thewes. Motion carried by majority.
- C. The statutory regulations, governing use of out-of-state electioneers, will be researched by the Director, in response to concerns raised by Ms. Hill.

Legal:

Attorney Molinaro briefed the board on changes made to Absentee Ballot Application for Maryland Voter requiring affirmation voter “will be absent or unable to vote in person in the election.”

New Business:

Mr. Rankin proposed additions to the HC Website, purchase of a printer that can print election maps, etc., and a LCD Projector for training and meetings.

- A. Website: Copy of Agenda, Minutes, registered voters by party/precinct, monthly NVRA report, and current Street Index, agreed upon.
- B. Election night results, by precinct every 15-30 min. Proposal to research improvement, including fiscal impact, agreed upon.

- C. Local elections results by precinct 2002 – 2006, agreed upon.
- D. Purchase Map Printer – Additional research/results to be discussed at October meeting.
- E. LCD Projector: When needed, staff has access to equipment from the County.

Adjournment:

The President indicated the next meeting will be held on October 22, 2007, at 4:30 pm, and called for a motion for adjournment. The motion was made by Ms. Hill, seconded by Ms. Thewes and unanimously approved. Meeting adjourned at 7:40 pm.

Respectively submitted

Vivian L. Dixon

Board Secretary

Ann M. Balcerzak, 29 Oct 2007

Board President

Member