#### **MARYLAND**

# **STATE BOARD OF ELECTIONS**P.O. BOX 6486, ANNAPOLIS, MD 21401-0486 PHONE (410) 269-2840

William G. Voelp, Chairman Patrick J. Hogan, Vice Chairman Malcolm L. Funn Severn Miller T. Sky Woodward



Linda H. Lamone Administrator

Nikki Charlson Deputy Administrator

State Board of Elections' Meeting
151 West Street, Suite 200, Annapolis, MD 21401
June 22, 2021 – 2:00 pm
By Video Conference Call
Agenda

- 1. Declaration of Quorum Present
- 2. Additions to the Agenda
- 3. Approval of Minutes for Open and Closed Meetings on May 27, 2021
- 4. Administrator's Report
- 5. Assistant Attorney General's Report
- 6. Approval of Proposed Changes to COMAR 33.11.02.03, 33.11.03.06, 33.11.05.07 and 33.17.04.03 & .06
- 7. Approval of Mail-in Ballot Request Form for 2022 Elections
- 8. Electronic Petition Signature Information
- 9. Old Business
- 10. New Business
- 11. Disclosure of Campaign Contributions
- 12. Schedule Next Meeting
- 13. Closed Session Legal Advice & Personnel
- 14. Adjournment

<u>Closed Meeting</u>: Part of the meeting may be closed in accordance with Open Meetings Act procedures.

<u>Public Participation</u>: Members of the public may address the Board. Pursuant to §3.2B of the Board's bylaws, public participation at a meeting must be pre-scheduled and pre-approved by the Chairman. To request approval to speak at a board meeting, contact Donna Duncan at 410-269-2851 or by email <a href="mailto:donna.duncan@maryland.gov">donna.duncan@maryland.gov</a> no later than 5 pm the day before the meeting.

<u>Live Streaming</u>: A link to watch the meeting will be available on SBE's website shortly before the meeting starts.

## State of Maryland

# Administrator's Report - June 2021

## **Announcements & Important Meetings**

#### Welcome to SBE

Earlier this month, Jennifer McLaughlin joined SBE. Jennifer comes to SBE with a wealth of state government and legislative knowledge and has jumped right in to learn more about elections. She will be implementing many of the new requirements from the 2021 Legislative Session and supporting our efforts to prepare for the 2022 elections.

#### **Election Directors' Meetings**

We hosted an election directors' meeting on June 17. Topics discussed included an update on the pollbook project, various voter registration issues and an ongoing redistricting discussion. A summary of the meeting is provided with the County Bulletin when it is complete.

SBE's Biennial Meeting and Maryland Association of Election Officials' (MAEO) Annual Conference
The agenda for each meeting is being finalized and will be distributed soon. We appreciate the board members' interest in participating in these meetings.

## U.S. Election Assistance Commission's (EAC) Advisory Committee Meetings

The federal Help America Vote Act establishes two committees to advise the EAC on various matters, including approving voting system standards. The EAC's <u>Board of Advisors</u> is made up of state and local election officials and individuals representing advocacy and other institutions, while the <u>Standards Board</u> is made up of state and local election officials (two from each state). I serve on the Board of Advisors, and Nikki Charlson serves on the Standards Board.

This month, both boards are meeting virtually. The Standards Board met on June 17, and the Board of Advisors will meet on June 23. At the Standards Board meeting, the EAC updated the members on the EAC's work and the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Agency (CISA) shared highlighted its Election Security Initiative.

## Executive Order: National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) Research

On March 7, 2021, President Biden issued Executive Order 14019 - Promoting Access to Voting. Section 7 - Ensuring Equal Access for Voters with Disabilities - requires NIST to evaluate how to make the online federal Voter Registration form accessible to people with disabilities and analyze barriers to private and independent voting for people with disabilities, including access to voter registration, voting technology, voting by mail, polling locations, and poll worker training. NIST's recommendations must be published by December 2. As part of its research, we spoke with NIST researchers on June 4 and shared with them our experiences with providing access for voters with disabilities. NIST also recently published a Request for Information to collect more information. The announcement is available in the Federal Register, and comments are due by July 16, 2021.

#### **Election Reform and Management**

Mail-In Voting: Usability Review

<u>Chapter 56 (Senate Bill 683)</u> and <u>House Bill 1048</u> (effective June 1, 2021) requires that we have a usability expert review and provide recommendations on mail-in voting information available to voters. The University of Baltimore (UBalt) held focus groups for local board representatives and testing sessions with potential voters. Using the information from these sessions, UBalt will make recommendations to improve the usability of mail-in voting materials.

## Ballot Printing, Inserting, and Mailing Procurement

Earlier this month, we issued a Request for Proposals (RFP) to print, insert, and mail ballots for the 2022, 2024, and 2026 elections. We held a pre-proposal conference on June 15, and several vendors attended and requested additional information. There are three deadlines for this procurement - one for submitting ballots for certification (June 29), one for submitting sample ballot packets (July 9), and one for submitting a technical and financial proposal (July 15). A vendor's ballots must be certified and ballot packets approved before the vendor can submit a technical and financial proposal.

## **Voter Registration**

#### **MDVOTERS**

The MDVOTERS 8.0 software release scheduled for installation the weekend of June 26 and 27 will include the ability to record a voters' option to have a mail-in ballot sent for each election and choose the method for ballot delivery. The software will also include the ability to record how a voter wishes to receive communication from the election office. These are legislative requirements of SB 683 and HB 1048.

#### **MDVOTERS Audits**

On a monthly basis, audits are performed on the local boards of elections' processing of Electronic Registration Information Center (ERIC) reports, Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DHMH) death records, Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) felony records, and the processing of overall voter registration records. Follow up is conducted with the local boards to ensure all corrections are completed and to address any training issues. On a monthly basis, a minimum of 144 audits are conducted.

#### **MVA** Data

SBE is working with MVA to collect information on individuals who have surrendered their licenses in another state. Correspondence has been developed and translated and SBE will be coordinating this effort to send out mailings in accordance with the National Voter Registration Act (NVRA) guidelines.

SBE is also working with MVA to do a residential address comparison with MDVOTERS' "inactive" voters. Correspondence will be sent to these "inactive" voters to request an updated address. This will be in accordance with the National Voter Registration Act (NVRA) guidelines.

#### Motor Vehicle Administration (MVA) Transactions

During May, MVA collected the following voter registration transactions:

New Registration - 10,975 Residential Address Changes - 18,959

Last name changes - 2,706 Political Party Changes - 4,817

From January 1, 2021 to May 30, 2021 data collected and processed from MVA is as follows:

New Registration - 48,059 Residential Address Changes - 92,645 Last name changes - 11,805 Political Party Changes - 21,376

#### Non-Citizen Registration and Voting

Between May 30, 2021 and June 18, 2021, 9 voter records were cancelled due to a status of non-citizen. Two of these records have voting history from 2014 and 2016. These records will be forwarded to the Office of the State Prosecutor.

## Candidacy and Campaign Finance (CCF) Division

#### <u>Candidacy</u>

The candidacy filings are currently scheduled by appointment, and as of June 15, 2021, 39 candidates have filed at SBE.

#### Campaign Finance

## Website Activity - May

The MD Campaign Reporting Information System (MD CRIS) website was visited by 235,909 individuals for an average of 7,609 per day. Additionally, it had 1,690,686 million hits. Each viewer looked at an average of nearly 6 page views per day. During April there were a similar number of inquiries and views.

The Business Contribution Disclosure System (BCDS) website had 977,350 hits, 74,919 visitors with an average of nearly 12 page views per day. The last BCDS report was due 6/1/2021.

#### Enforcement

Friends of Laurie-Anne Sayles committee paid \$600.00 on June 6, 2021 for the failure to record all contributions and expenditures.

## **Project Management Office (PMO)**

## **Inventory Management**

The FY21 Inventory Audit started on February 1 and will conclude on June 30, 2021. The current statewide inventory audit completion is 95.34%.

#### FY2022 Pollbook Project

The PMO continued working on tasks related to the project, including:

- The procurement is in the evaluation phase with the technical evaluation scheduled to conclude on June 22 and the full evaluation (technical and financial) currently scheduled to be completed on July 2.
- The project team continues to share information with the local boards via monthly Election Directors' meetings, project status meetings, and the *County Bulletin*.
- The project team also continues to update and address questions and new developments into the pollbook Contingency Plan and plan for the post-evaluation (e.g., BPW approval) and the implementation phases of the project.

#### ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL'S REPORT

June 22, 2021

- 1. Fusaro v. Davitt et al., No. 20-1879 (U.S.C.A. for the 4th Cir.). No change from the last update. Plaintiff Dennis Fusaro brought a complaint in federal court alleging that Maryland violates the First and Fourteenth Amendments by limiting access to the voter list to Maryland voters and only for purposes related to the electoral process. On September 4, 2018, the State defendants' motion to dismiss the complaint was granted, and the plaintiff appealed. On July 12, 2019, the Fourth Circuit vacated the dismissal order, and remanded the case for further proceedings. The parties then conducted discovery and briefed dispositive summary judgment motions. On July 14, 2020, the Court awarded Summary Judgment to the defendants on the issue of whether the "electoral process" requirement was unconstitutionally vague, and declined to reach the issue of whether Maryland's registered voter requirement violates the First Amendment. Plaintiff has appealed to the United States Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit, and briefing is now complete. Oral argument has not yet been scheduled.
- 2. Johnson v. Prince George's County Board of Elections, No. CAL16-42799 (Cir. Ct. Prince Georges Cnty.). No change from the last update. This case involves a challenge under the U.S. Constitution and Maryland Constitution and Declaration of Rights to the SBE's alleged failure to provide information and access to voter registration and voting resources to eligible voters detained by the Prince Georges County Department of Correction during the 2016 election. The case had been originally filed in the Circuit Court for Prince Georges County but was removed on the basis of the federal claims asserted by the Plaintiffs. On February 27, 2018, the U.S. District Court for the District of Maryland granted SBE's motion to dismiss the Plaintiffs' federal claims, declined to exercise jurisdiction over the state claims, and remanded the case to the Circuit Court for further proceedings. The parties are awaiting further direction from the court.
- 3. National Federation of the Blind, Inc., et al. v. Lamone et al., No. 1:19-CV-02228-ELH (U.S. District Court, D. Md.). On August 1, 2019, the National Federation of the Blind ("NFB"), NFB's Maryland chapter, and three individual plaintiffs filed a lawsuit against the State Administrator and the individual members of the State Board of Elections alleging that SBE's BMD policy has, in practice, violated the rights of voters with disabilities "to an equal opportunity vote in person by a secret ballot," in violation of Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act. Plaintiffs seek an order requiring the State Board "in all future elections to offer BMDs to

every in-person voter as the default method of voting, with paper ballots offered only to those voters who affirmatively opt out of using the BMD or in cases where there are long lines of people waiting to vote." On September 3, 2019, defendants filed a motion to dismiss the complaint, and on September 20, 2019, plaintiffs filed a motion for a preliminary injunction, seeking relief in time for the November 2020 election. On February 10, 2020, the court denied the defendants' motion to dismiss, and denied the plaintiffs' motion for preliminary injunction, and the parties proceeded to discovery. On October 6, 2020, the parties filed a joint motion to extend the discovery deadline to December 9, 2020, which was granted by the Court. On November 12, 2020, the parties filed a joint motion to stay the case for 60 days to allow for a focused period of settlement discussions, which was also granted by the Court. The parties have agreed in principle on the terms of a final resolution of this case, and are in the process of negotiating the terms of a settlement agreement. The stay has since been extended several times, and is now set to expire August 2, 2021.

Chong Su Yi v. Hogan, Nos. 464985, 466396, 480720, 480721, 480722, 480723 (Cir. Ct. Montgomery Cty.). On September 8, 2019, plaintiff Chong Su Yi filed two complaints in the Circuit Court for Montgomery County challenging the results of Maryland's 2018 elections, and naming Governor Larry Hogan as defendant (Nos. 464985, 466396). Specifically, Mr. Yi argued that the results of that election are invalid because of the use of religious facilities as polling places, that the State's use of "scanners" to tabulate ballots is unconstitutional and/or not permitted by federal law, and that the State's identification of candidates' party affiliations on the general election ballot is not permitted by State law. Mr. Yi amended his complaints, and in January 2019 both of his amended complaints were dismissed by the Circuit Court. On January 21, 2020, Mr. Yi appealed from the dismissal in No. 466396. (Mr. Yi had also previously filed interlocutory appeals from non-final orders, but these were dismissed by the Court of Special Appeals.) On November 4, 2020, the Court of Special Appeals dismissed Mr. Yi's appeal for failure to file a civil information report, but on November 30, 2020 granted Mr. Yi's motion for reconsideration and reinstated the appeal. The appeal is now fully briefed, and on June 21, 2021 the Court of Special Appeals indicated that it would be ruling on the case without oral argument.

Meanwhile, on March 6, 2020, Mr. Yi filed four complaints in the Circuit Court for Montgomery County (Nos. 480720, 480721, 480722, 480723) asserting substantially identical claims to those asserted in his prior two complaints. Beginning on May 15, 2020, Mr. Yi filed amended complaints in these actions, this time adding the State of Maryland as a Defendant in addition to Governor Hogan. Defendants filed motions to

dismiss and/or for summary judgment as to these complaints, and on August 25, 2020 those motions were granted. After moving for reconsideration unsuccessfully, on October 9, 2020, plaintiff filed notices of appeal to the Court of Special Appeals in each of these matters. Plaintiff also sought waivers of the filing fees associated these appeals, which were denied. On January 6, 2021, the Court of Special Appeals dismissed the appeals for failure to pay the filing fee. On February 4, 2021, plaintiff filed a petition for writ of certiorari in the Court of Appeals, and also requested waiver of the filing fees. The Court of Appeals granted Mr. Yi's request for waiver of filing fees. On April 23, 2021, the Court denied Mr. Yi's petition for certiorari.

5. Bravo, et al. v. Pelosi, et al., No. 6-21-cv-162 (W.D. Tex.). On February 22, 2021, several individual plaintiffs filed a purported class action complaint on behalf of "all 328 million Americans deprived of an elected form of government" by the conduct of government official and private sector defendants. The named defendants include President Biden and Vice President Harris, all current members of the U.S. Congress, all Governors and Secretaries of State of the 50 states (including Governor Hogan and Secretary Wobensmith), the Democratic and Republican National Committees, the Democratic Congressional and Senate Campaign Committees, Facebook and its CEO (Mark Zuckerberg), Twitter and its CEO (Jack Dorsey), Sapphire Strategies (a Democratic consultancy) and several of its employees, the National Vote at Home Institute and its CEO (Amber McReynolds), the Center for Tech and Civic Life, Mike Podhorzer and Beto O'Rourke. The theory of the case is that, beginning in 2019, and continuing into and during the election of 2020, the defendants conspired to enact laws (or refuse to enact laws) and promulgate rules that violated HAVA and the Civil Rights Act of 1960, and violated the Plaintiffs' First Amendment Rights. The plaintiffs are pursuing constitutional and RICO conspiracy claims against the defendants, and seek a restraining order against the "illegitimate Congress and Executive Branch" and an order that the election be redone. On June 10, 2021, a Second Amended Complaint was filed. We are currently evaluating the complaints.

# Maryland Application for Mail-in Ballot

Register to Vote	1	You must be registered to vote a mail-in ballot. If you are not registered to vote in Maryland and want to register, contact your local election office listed on the attached sheet or go to elections.maryland.gov.						
Print your name.	2	_Last name		Jr	Sr	П	Ш	IV
Use black or blue ink.		First name	Middle na	me or initia	l			
Election	3	You can sign up for a mail-in ballot for the 2022 elections or for all elections.  Primary Election (June 28, 2022) only  General Election (November 8, 2022) only  All Elections – 2022 and beyond						
Political Party	4	Select the party you are or want to be affiliated with:  Democrat Republican Unaffiliated (independent of any party) Libertarian Green  Bread and Roses Working Class Other: Specify						
About you	5	Birthdate   M   M   / D   D   / Y   Y   Y   Y	Phone	-	-	ı	ı	
Your current address		Address		Apt.	num	ıber		
& how to contact you	•	City/Town	State	Zip Co	de			
Print your current residential address.	6	Email						
DO NOT write a temporary address used for school, work, or travel. If you want to get your ballot by U.S. Mail, you can put that address in Section 6.		If we need to contact you, please tell us how you would like us to reach you.  ☐ Mail ☐ Email (at address above) ☐ Text (at number above)						
How do you want to receive your ballot?	7	Choose one:  ☐ U.S. MAIL  I want my ballot for the 2022 PRIMARY ELECTION  ☐ Same as above ☐ The address below	<b>N</b> mailed to:					
If you choose internet delivery, we will send you an email with a link to your ballot about three weeks before the election. You must print your ballot, have an envelope, and return it to your local election office. If you do not see an email from the State Board of Elections, check your spam folder.  Note: A fax or internet ballot you printed cannot be read by our scanners. Election workers will use the information on your ballot to mark an official ballot for you. The official ballot will be machine counted with other ballots.		Address		Apt. number				_
		City/Town St	ate	Zip Code				_
		I want my ballot for the 2022 <b>GENERAL ELECTIO</b> ☐ Same as above ☐ The address below	<b>N</b> mailed to:					
		Address	Apt. number				_	
		City/Town Sta	<u> </u>	Zip Code	<del>)</del>			_
		I want my ballot for <b>ALL OTHER ELECTIONS</b> mai  ☐ Same as above ☐ The address below  Address	led to:	Apt. number				
		City/Town Sta	ate	Zip Code	۲			-
		☐ INTERNET DELIVERYWe will email you an internet Email address  Maryland Driver's License or ID Card Number	link to open your b	·		f.		<u>-</u> 
If you do not have a Maryland Driver's License or ID card, provide the last 4 digits of your social security number.		Issue Date M.M./D.P.//Y.Y.Y.Y.						
		Last 4 digits of Social Security number	XXX-XX					
		□ FAX fax number    -   -			J			
Signature		Voter's Signature (required)	Assistance S	ignature (requ	ired if	you h	ad he	elp)
(required)		Voter's digriature (required)		of perjury, I here				
Anyone can help you fill out this form except  • A candidate on your ballot  • Your employer or an agent of your employer  • An officer or agent from your union	8		disability or is authorized me t	unable to rea co complete this for I printed the vote	or or or or	write. he vot	The er cou	voter ıld not
		Today's Date   M , M   / D , D   / Y , Y , Y , Y	sign:					
		_ · <b>,</b> - =	print:					

## Maryland State Board of Elections

#### **State Board of Elections**

P.O. Box 6486 Annapolis, MD 21401-0486 800-222-8683 or 410-269-2840 MD Relay Service 800-735-2258 elections.maryland.gov info.SBE@maryland.gov

#### **Local Election Offices**

#### **Allegany County**

701 Kelly Rd., Ste. 231 Cumberland, MD 21502 301-777-5931 301-777-2430 (fax) elections@alleganygov.org

#### **Anne Arundel County**

P.O. Box 490 Glen Burnie, MD 21060 410-222-6600 410-222-6824 (fax) elections@aacounty.org

#### **Baltimore City**

Benton Office Bldg.
417 E. Fayette St., Rm. 129
Baltimore, MD 21202-3432
410-396-5550
410-727-1775 (fax)
410-783-7394 (fax)
election.judge@baltimorecity.gov

#### **Baltimore County**

11112 Gilroy Rd., Ste. 104 Hunt Valley, MD 21031 410-887-5700 410-832-8493 (fax) elections@baltimorecountymd.gov

#### **Calvert County**

30 Duke St., Lower Level P.O. Box 798 Prince Frederick, MD 20678 410-535-2214 410-535-5009 (fax) elections@calvertcountymd.gov

#### **Caroline County**

Health & Public Services Bldg. 403 S. Seventh St., Ste. 247 Denton, MD 21629-1378 410-479-8145 410-479-5736 (fax) election@carolinemd.org

#### **Carroll County**

300 S. Center St., Rm. 212 Westminster, MD 21157 410-386-2080 410-876-3925 (fax) ccboe@carrollcountymd.gov

#### **Cecil County**

200 Chesapeake Blvd. Ste. 1900 Elkton, MD 21921-6395 410-996-5310 888-979-8183 (fax) voting@ccgov.org

#### **Charles County**

P.O. Box 908

La Plata, MD 20646-0908 301-934-8972 301-870-3167 301-934-6487 (fax) elections@charlescountymd.gov

#### **Dorchester County**

501 Court Ln., Rm. 105 P.O. Box 414 Cambridge, MD 21613-0414 410-228-2560 410-228-9635 (fax) brittanym.phillips@maryland.gov

#### **Frederick County**

340 A Montevue Ln. Frederick, MD 21702 301-600-8683 301-600-2344 (fax) electionboard@ frederickcountymd.gov

#### **Garrett County**

2008 Maryland Hwy, Ste. 1 Mountain Lake Park, MD 21550 301-334-6985 301-334-6988 (fax) sfratz@garrettcounty.org

#### **Harford County**

133 Industry Ln.
Forest Hill, MD 21050-1621
410-638-3565
410-638-3310 (fax)
elections@harfordcountymd.gov

#### **Howard County**

9770 Patuxent Woods Dr. Ste. 200 Columbia, MD 21046 410-313-5820 410-313-5833 (fax) tiffany.ferrell1@maryland.gov

#### **Kent County**

135 Dixon Dr. Chestertown, MD 21620 410-778-0038 410-778-0265 (fax) cheemoandia.blake@maryland.gov

#### **Montgomery County**

P.O. Box 10159 Rockville, MD 20849-0159 240-777-8550 TDD 800-735-2258 240-777-8560 (fax) absentee@ montgomerycountymd.gov

#### **Prince George's County**

1100 Mercantile Ln., Ste. 115A Largo, MD 20774 301-341-7300 TDD 301-726-3352 301-341-7399 (fax) election@co.pg.md.us

#### **Queen Anne's County**

110 Vincit St., Ste. 102 Centreville, MD 21617 410-758-0832 410-758-1119 (fax) qac.elections@maryland.gov

#### St. Mary's County

P.O. Box 197 Leonardtown, MD 20650 301-475-4200 ext. \*1625 301-475-4077 (fax) wendy.adkins@stmarysmd.com

#### **Somerset County**

P.O. Box 96 Princess Anne, MD 21853 410-651-0767 410-651-5130 (fax) elections@somersetmd.us

#### **Talbot County**

P.O. Box 353 Easton, MD 21601-0353 410-770-8099 410-770-8078 (fax) jeri.cook@maryland.gov

#### **Washington County**

17718 Virginia Ave. Hagerstown, MD 21740 240-313-2050 240-313-2062 (fax) washco.elections@maryland.gov

#### Wicomico County

P.O. Box 4091 Salisbury, MD 21803-4091 410-548-4830 410-548-4849 (fax) wicomico.elections@maryland.gov

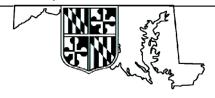
#### Worcester County 201 Belt St., Ste, C

Snow Hill, MD 21863-1300 410-632-1320 410-632-3031 (fax) teresa.riggin@maryland.gov

#### **MARYLAND**

# STATE BOARD OF ELECTIONS P.O. BOX 6486, ANNAPOLIS, MD 21401-0486 PHONE (410) 269-2840

William G. Voelp, Chairman Patrick J. Hogan, Vice Chairman Malcolm L. Funn Severn Miller T. Sky Woodward



Linda H. Lamone Administrator

Nikki Charlson Deputy Administrator

# Memorandum

**To:** Members of the State Board of Elections

**From:** Nikki Charlson

**Date:** June 9, 2021

**Re:** Proposed Regulations for June 22 Meeting

At the June 22 meeting, I will present proposed changes to existing regulations to formalize procedures implemented for the 2020 elections and update and correct other provisions. This memo summarizes the requirements of the proposed changes, and the text of the proposed changes accompany this memo.

The proposed changes related to this implementation are:

1. 33.11.02.03 (Absentee Ballot – Applications): This proposed change incorporates requirements from Chapter 524 of the 2018 Laws of Maryland (House Bill 1331). This law requires that a voter who wants to receive an electronic absentee ballot to provide a driver's license number or Maryland identification number, the last four digits of the voter's driver's license or identification card was issued, and other information identified by the State Board that is not generally available to the public but is readily available to the applicant¹. *See* Election Law Article, §9-305(b). This text was previously added to Regulation .02 (Formal Request) but was never added to Regulation .03 (Informal, Written Requests).

The proposed renumbering in this regulation corrects an incorrect outline structure.

- 2. 33.11.03.06 (Absentee Ballots Issuance and Return): This regulation codifies the requirement from the 2020 elections that the local boards notify voters who returned a voted ballot without signing the return envelope. Implementing this process statewide means that more ballots were counted than in prior elections<sup>2</sup>.
- 3. 33.11.05.07 (Absentee Ballots Rejecting Federal Write-in Ballots): This proposed change aligns the regulation with Chapter 463 of the 2015 Laws of Maryland (House Bill 884). This law repealed the requirement to reject an absentee ballot if the voter died before election day, but this regulation was not updated to reflect this change.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> The "other information identified by the State Board" is the date the driver's license or MVA identification card was issued. *See* COMAR 33.11.02.02C(2)(b).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> The overall acceptance rate for the November 3 election – 99.76% - was the highest percentage since 2006. The average acceptance rate since the 2012 Primary Election is 97.97%.

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33.17.04.03 and .06 (Early Voting – Equipment and Materials): For the 2018 elections, the State Board changed its policy and required the local boards to deploy ballots and other contingency supplies in case a court ordered extended voting hours during early voting. The proposed change to 33.17.04.03 updates the regulation to reflect the current State Board policy.

The proposed change to 33.17.04.06 aligns this regulation with 33.11.03.06E, which authorizes the collection of voted absentee ballots at early voting centers and polling places. This regulation was not updated when the process established in 33.11.03.06E was approved.

If you have any questions before the meeting, please do not hesitate to ask. Otherwise, I'm happy to answer your questions at the meeting.

6/22/2021

## Title 33 STATE BOARD OF ELECTIONS Subtitle 11 ABSENTEE BALLOTS Chapter 02 Applications

Authority: Election Law Article, §§2-102(b)(4) and 3-202.1, Annotated Code of Maryland

#### .03 Informal, Written Request.

- A. (text unchanged)
- B. Contents of Request. The request shall include the:
  - (1) (4) (text unchanged)
- (5) If the voter wants to receive an electronic ballot, voter's driver's license or Maryland identification card number, the date the voter's driver's license or identification card was issued, and the last four digits of the voter's Social Security number.
  - [(5)] *C.* Preprinted Form.
    - [(a)](1) [(b)](2) (text unchanged)
  - [C.] (D) [F.] (G) (text unchanged)

## Title 33 STATE BOARD OF ELECTIONS Subtitle 11 ABSENTEE BALLOTS Chapter 03 Issuance and Return

Authority: Election Law Article, §§2-102(b)(4) and 9-303, Annotated Code of Maryland

#### .06 Return of Ballot.

- A. B. (text unchanged)
- C. Ballots Returned Without a Signed Oath.
- (1) Except as provided in SC(3) of this regulation, if an absentee ballot is timely received but the voter did not sign the required oath, the election director shall:
  - (a) Promptly notify the voter that the voter did not sign the oath; and
- (b) Explain how the voter can provide a signed oath and when the signed oath must be received for the voter's ballot to be accepted.
  - (2) Method of Notification.
- (a) The election director shall notify the voter using the voter's preferred method of communication, as indicated on the voter's form to request the ballot.

- (b) If the notice is not delivered using the voter's preferred method of communication, the election director shall use another means to notify the voter.
- (3) If an absentee ballot is timely received on or after the second Wednesday after an election (and the ballot was otherwise completed and mailed on or before election day, as established by Regulation 33.11.03.08B(2)(b)), the election director shall make reasonable efforts to comply with  $\S C(1)$  and C(2) of this regulation.

[C.] *D.* – [F.] *G.* (text unchanged)

# Title 33 STATE BOARD OF ELECTIONS Subtitle 11 ABSENTEE BALLOTS Chapter 05 Canvass of Ballots — Rejecting Ballots

Authority: Election Law Article, §§2-102(b)(4), 2-202(b), 9-303, 11-301, and 11-302, Annotated Code of Maryland

#### .07 Ballot Rejection — Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot.

- A. The local board shall reject a Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot if:
  - (1) (text unchanged)
  - [(2) Before the ballot is canvassed, the local board determines that the voter died before election day;]
  - [(3)](2) [(7)](6) (text unchanged)
- B. (text unchanged)

# Title 33 STATE BOARD OF ELECTIONS Subtitle 17 EARLY VOTING Chapter 04 Early Voting Center Equipment and Materials

Authority: Election Law Article, §§2-102(b)(4) and 10-301.1(h), Annotated Code of Maryland

## .03 Allocation of Equipment and Supplies.

- A. (text unchanged)
- B. Other Supplies.
  - (1) (text unchanged)
- (2) [A local board may not deploy ballots and other supplies required for extended hours voting.
  - (3) A local board shall deploy any other supplies required by the State Administrator.

#### .06 Information for Voters at Early Voting Centers.

A. Except as provided in §B of this regulation, a local board shall post at each early voting center:

- (1) (2) (text unchanged)
- (3) A sign, prescribed by the State Administrator, informing voters that:
  - (a) Absentee ballots cannot be issued [or returned] at an early voting center; and
  - (b) (text unchanged)
- (4) (text unchanged)
- B. (text unchanged)