

Board Meeting Minutes
Worcester County Board of Elections
201 Belt Street, Suite C, Snow Hill MD 21863

Worcester County Board of Elections Board Meeting
Train Station, 200 Belt Street, Snow Hill, MD 21863
Wednesday, April 3, 2024, 10:00am

ATTENDEES:

BOARD

President Martina Barnes-Wharton, Democratic Board Member
Secretary Terry Smith, Democratic Board Member
Thomas Butler, Democratic Board Member
Jeff McMahon, Republican Board Member

ABSENT

Edward Rodier, Republican Board Member (absent)

STAFF

Patricia Jackson, Election Director
Teresa Riffin, Deputy Director
Terron Pinder, Election Program Specialist

Board Attorney

Christina Van Vonno

GUESTS

Mr. Vincent Gisriel, Jr.
Mr. Dennis Evans
Gwen Cordner
Maria Hazel
Susan Ostrawski (Worcester County Republican Committee)

Members were sworn in by Susan Braniecki, Worcester County Circuit Court Clerk

Meeting called to order and Quorum determined- A quorum was declared present, President Martina Barnes-Wharton called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM.

Approval of Minutes – Jeff McMahon offered a motion to approve the Board Meeting Minutes of March 8, 2024, Thomas Butler seconded the motion, and it was approved unanimously.

Correspondences:

- Precinct Voter Counts Report (Dated 4/2/2024 Report No.: DP-007)
- Expense Budget Performance Report (Fiscal Year to Date 3/31/2024)
- State of Maryland Polling Place Evaluation Form 2024
- Updated 2024 Polling Places

- Letter from Mr. Vince Gisriel citing voter rolls/registration discrepancies

Fiscal Year to Date Budget Report

The budget report July 1, 2023 through 3/31/2024 was reviewed. Motion made to approve the budget by Jeff McMahon, seconded by Thomas Butler and approved unanimously.

Old Business

- The consolidation of Districts 2-4 and 3-3 into 2-5 polling place was approved by the Maryland State Board of Elections.
- Cards were mailed to all voters affected by the change. The polling place changes were updated on the Worcester County Board of Elections website and social media platforms.

New Business

- Canvassing officers appointed: Thomas Butler, Chairman, Jeff McMahon, Secretary
- The Train Station, 200 Belt Street, Snow Hill, MD has been booked throughout 2024 for board meetings. The Train Station will be used until additional space is available at our office.
- The meeting with Commissioner Chip Bertino to discuss concerns of Vince Gisriel was productive. The voting laws, mandates, state and local office procedures were discussed.
- County Commissioners Budget Meeting April 9, 2024, 10am. Patricia and Teresa will be attending. Election Board members are invited to attend; however, attendance isn't mandatory.
- Contractual position for office help with mail in ballots still open. A notice will be posted on the State site through May.
- Mail in ballot canvass must begin April 22 at 10am. A request for a waiver to do canvassing on April 24 at 9:30 am will be presented.
- 5,000 absentee ballot applications have been received for the Primary. These are applications for the ballots, not the ballots themselves.
- The Logic and Accuracy Public Test will be held Friday, April 19th at 10 am. All board members need to be present for this meeting.
- Ed and Terry will assist Karen Timmons with the voting supply verification on two precinct supply bags. The inventory form will be completed and sent to the state.

Ballot proofs and registration figures as of March 31, 2024

- There are 42 primary ballot styles
- Nonpartisan ballots will be available for the Ocean Pines Board of Education election
- Registered voters in district 5 will have a ballot regardless of their party affiliation
- Updated Precinct Voter Report was distributed

Early Voting and Election Day Poll Visitation

Early Voting-May 2 to 9, 7am to 8 pm Roland E. Powell Convention Center

Primary Election- May 14, 7am to 8 pm

Martina- First Baptist Church Girdletree, Shiloh UMC Pocomoke,

Jeff- Snow Hill Middle School, Newark Fire Company

Terry-Buckingham Elementary School, Stephen Decatur Middle School, Showell Elementary School

Thomas- Ocean Pines Library, Ocean Pines Community Center, Ocean City Elementary, OC Lions Club

Ed- Bishopville Fire Department, Roland Powell Convention Center, Showell Fire Department

Guest Speakers

- Dennis Evans expressed concerns about the voter rolls/logs, voter fraud, lack of transparency and wants to ensure voting integrity remains a priority.
- Gwen Cordner and Maria Hazel also had a concern about MD voter integrity.
- Patti stated they could review the Public Information Act and the Manual Audit Report. Concerns concerning the laws and procedures could be addressed to Senator Mary Beth Carozza and the District Delegates.
- Susan Ostrawski (Worcester County Republican Committee) inquired about the canvassing process. Patti explained the process.
- Vince Gisriel highlighted the Ocean City voter registrations. He believes the rolls are inflated. What is in place to assure voters aren't voting in other states? Patti and Teresa clarified the same day, transfer, and state registration requirements. They stressed voters can't be removed unless they have been reported deceased by the Health Department or family members. Forms must be filled out.

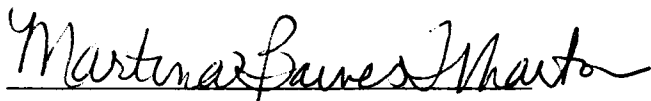
Patti reminded the guests the board abides by the State Election Boards rules, laws and regulations.

Next Meeting July 10, 2024

President Martina Barnes-Wharton asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Thomas Butler made the motion, seconded by Jeff McMahon.

So moved, meeting adjourned 10:52 am.

Respectfully submitted,
Terry Smith- Secretary

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Martina Barnes-Wharton". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Martina Barnes-Wharton, President

