

## Director's Report- August 31, 2026

### 1. Continuing Items

- a. General Office Update: We have accomplished and will be working on several things here in the office and the warehouse as move toward starting to execute the 2026 Gubernatorial General election. The items are broken down as follows:

aa. Voter Registration/ Office Work- registration numbers continue to remain rather steady. We continue to process address, affiliation and name changes as well as new registrations and cancellations. We were able to catch up when the books reopened in about a week. The staff did an excellent job- over 8500 voter cards were generated from their efforts. The staff is also conducting validations of every batch at my instruction to ensure accuracy.

- 1. Warehouse- The warehouse has been working on a multitude of projects that are impacted by associated functions.
  - a. PEM (Post-Election Maintenance) has been conducted on all voting equipment and poll books that were used in the primary election. The equipment is charged and ready for Logic and Accuracy testing to take place in the near future.
  - b. All voter notification cards and associated mailings are being done on the usual schedule.
  - c. All supplies for the upcoming election are packed and ready for the 2026 general election.
  - d. We have talked with the tracking equipment company and done further testing with the tracking units. They performed well overall, but we had questions about certain scenarios that they vetted, tested, and gave results. We will continue using these for the general election as they provide useful information.
  - e. We have identified our rovers and their areas for early voting and election day and will be doing Rover training in October.
  - f. Logic and Accuracy testing will be done by the warehouse immediately upon the arrival of test decks for mail-in and in-person ballots, since they come from different vendors. We expect that the testing will take about a week and hope that it will completed before we have our next meeting. Pollbook Logic and Accuracy does not occur until after the close of registration, October 13, 2026.
  - g. The warehouse staff will be conducting both virtual (mainly done just by the Director) and in-person judge training for the general election starting next Wednesday and extending all the way through the first week of October, including an open house.

2. Election Judges- As stated, election judge training starts next Wednesday. The office is in the process of placing new judges into slots, as we have more judges for the general election than we do for a primary election. I have provided a vacancy/parity report to the board. We will be using this report to continue to move judges around to achieve the greatest possible parity with the judge numbers that we currently have from sign-ups. The judge department still has a good amount of work ahead of them as we move toward the general election. These reports will be much more reflective of actual numbers assigned by next month.
3. MIB Department- We have 36,812 scheduled to receive a mail-in ballot for the Primary Election, of which 35,802 are listed as permanent. The MiB Department has been conducting an audit of every record to ensure that all ballots will go out correctly. This is above and beyond any State requirements and something that I asked to be done to ensure accuracy.
4. Drop Boxes- Drop boxes will be placed at the 10 locations the week of September 14, 2026. We will immediately start checking the boxes for ballots after we know that the State has started to send the first batch of ballots out to voters. We will be checking the boxes once daily for this election as we have for every election past.
5. Budget- We are in a new budget year now, and the most decisive impact on the budget is the fact that we will be getting a new installation for both the office and warehouse on April 1, 2027. The new address is 7138 Columbia Gateway Drive, Columbia, MD 21046. We have had several meetings with the county as to what the inside will look like, the rooms, audio/visual equipment, paint/carpeting and such. We are still a long way away from finalizations, but everything is moving along and was approved by the County Council in July. The county will continue to work with the office as we prepare for the renovation of the building and subsequent move.
6. Risk- Limiting Audit- We conducted our first Risk-Limiting Audit in July for the primary election. It was short, at about 15 minutes, because we had 10 teams counting ballots, and was very much like the old manual audit. We had no variances in the audit vs. the count from the scanning units.
7. Voter Outreach- The Voter Outreach Division has attended several events since we last met, so they continue to provide a high level of service for the voters and residents of Howard County. The past several months were highlighted by the staff reaching voters during the Howard County Fair, where we registered several voters, got lots of people to sign up as election judges, and provided information about the upcoming election on handouts.
8. Ballots- Ballots have been proofed and I have already made the ballot order. There is a waiting game going on because of the Constitutional Amendment on Redistricting being held up in court, but we hope that the final opinions will be issued soon. Either way, Howard County voters will have a two-page ballot for the upcoming general election. We will be putting this information on all social media and our website, and training election judges about this process.

9. Other Pending Issues- There are several lawsuits and executive orders that have not been fully vetted at this time. Until told otherwise by the State Board of Elections, we will continue with business as usual for the election.

10. Important Dates

Canvassing- October 13, 2026- Opening of Canvass for Board- Pick Chairperson and Secretary

Canvassing- October 18, 2026- MiB 1- Day 1

Early Voting- October 22-29, 2026

Election Day- November 3, 2026

Canvassing- November 5, 2026- MiB 1- Day 2

Canvassing- November 12, 2026- Provisional Canvass and MiB 2 Canvass\*\*\*- *This canvass is usually held on the second Wednesday after the election, but since that day is a holiday, it slides to the next business day.*

Canvassing- November 13, 2026- MiB 2- continued through to certification.

Risk-Limiting Audit- TBA