

## Director's Report- May 18, 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 plan and execute the 2026 Gubernatorial election cycle. 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.

- 1. Warehouse- The warehouse has been working on a multitude of projects that are impacted by associated functions.

- a. All equipment is at the stage where it is either ready to have Logic and Accuracy testing, or has already had the testing completed. Please take note that the Public Demonstration, which is generally just me explaining the Logic and Accuracy process from the forms, takes place on May 27, 2026 at 9am at the warehouse. All candidates have been sent a notice for this event and the event will be posted on the website this week.
    - b. All voter notification cards and associated mailings are being done on the usual schedule.
    - c. The warehouse and IT staff continue to monitor both the Judge Sign-up program and the Judge Training Sign-up program. We have had, as of Friday, May 15, 2026, 1254 judges sign up to be a judge. Of those judges, 840 were Democrat, 234 were Unaffiliated or Other parties, 180 were Republican. More on Judges later.
    - d. The warehouse staff has conducted Rover training for all new and returning rovers.
    - e. All phones for polling places have been turned on, tested, and important numbers saved to memory for the election judges.
    - f. Tracking devices are ready and are being implemented. There will be several tracking devices in each polling place for ballots, results sticks, and equipment. We also have tracking devices in each ballot drop box, which also give us temperature and other readings.

- 2. Election Judges- As discussed earlier, we have over 1250 judges signed up. We still have a small bench of folks, but as people quit, we are quickly replacing them. I have provided the board with a parity report. We will be replacing judges that quit with remaining eligible judges through election day.

All regular trainings for election judges of every type ended Saturday. We will have open house Monday, May 18 through Thursday, May 21 from 9am to 4pm and then make-up classes every night for each judge type.

3. MIB Department- Unfortunately, the ballots that have been sent out had vendor errors associated. All ballots will be mailed out again, which will affect timelines for future events for this process. The first to keep in mind is the canvass that we have scheduled for June 7, which may or may not occur now, given the timeline for sending out replacement ballots. We will do our best to update the board as quickly as possible with current stats and feasibility for this canvass. Please read the press releases from the State Board and Taylor, the printing vendor, on this issue. The only information I have is contained inside those press releases.
4. Budget- We will be on the June 15 agenda for the County Council to approve our new space. Once approved, I can show everyone where it will be and what the inside will look like. This is very exciting for the board, staff, and voters alike! Thank you to the County and the hard-working employees for getting this done for the Board of Elections.
5. Risk- Limiting Audit- I realized that at the last meeting, I took you all the way to the end of this process, so I don't have much more to discuss. The one thing I want to point out is that this MiB situation could delay the start of any RLA process, as everyone (all counties) must have their canvasses completed and results reported before anything can be done on this type of audit.
6. Voter Outreach- The Voter Outreach Division has attended 6 events since we last met, so they continue to provide a high level of service for the voters and residents of Howard County. On May 8<sup>th</sup>, we were asked to attend a Disabilities Summit at the Maryland School For the Deaf in Ellicott City, where we did a demonstration of the BMD and answered any questions. It was a resounding success. Special thank you to the Voter Outreach Committee for constantly going above and beyond to ensure our voters are always engaged.
7. Human Resources- We recently held interviews for vacancies due to retirements and we have hired two new employees that will start on May 27, 2026. Both employees are from other election offices, so their learning curve will be small since they have election experience. They will both enter the office in supervisory roles as Program Manager II.
8. Challengers and Watchers Policy- SB670/HB1001 was passed by the General Assembly during its 2026 session and signed into law by Governor Moore on May 12, 2026. Election Law §10-311 (c)(1)(III) states: "A designating person shall submit a copy of the certificate of an accredited challenger or watcher to the appropriate local board before the accredited challenger or watcher may enter the voting room." The Board must create a policy to enforce this new law, as there is not currently regulation because of the emergency nature of the bill and subsequent law. The Board has a copy of the policy and will need to take a vote. Immediate upon passage, this policy will be sent to all candidates on the ballot and both the Democratic and Republican Central Committees.

9. Notices to Voters- We have sent a postcard to all Unaffiliated and Other voters explaining that they will not have a ballot for the 2026 Primary Election with instructions on how to change their party, if they desire to, before the deadline on June 2, 2026. It was received by voters last Wednesday and Thursday. Our sample ballots will be in the mailstream about 10 days before Early Voting commences. We will have advertisements for Early Voting in The Howard County Times, The Baltimore Sun, Howard Edition on back to back Sundays, and The Beacon.