

Director's Report- September 28, 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.

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

- a. L and A (Logic and Accuracy) Testing- L and A testing has been completed on all scanners and ballot marking devices that will be used for the upcoming election. Public demonstration, which is more of us displaying the paperwork and answering questions, will be held on October 2, 2026 at 10 am at the warehouse. Logic and accuracy testing on the poll books will be completed after the close of registration on October 13.
 - 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. Trackers for the equipment and ballots are being installed where they will reside in the equipment and will be utilized again for this election. Once again, this tells us where the ballots, our equipment, and our rovers are at any given time in the process. We also utilize them inside the drop boxes.
 - e. We have identified our rovers for early voting and election day and their training will be next Friday.
 - f. The warehouse staff has conducted both virtual and in-person training for the check-in judges, the voting judges and the provisional judges. Provisionals were also trained by several employees from the office. Chief Judges will be trained this week. Next week, we will have open house Monday through Thursday and classes for each judge type in the evenings. That will wrap up in-person judge training.

- 2. Election Judges- As stated, election judge training wraps up next week. The office continues to place judges in slots as other judges quit. We have provided the board with the election judge parity report as we do each month. We are spreading out the parties as much as we can and will continue to do so as we move closer to the early voting cycle and election day. Right now, we are 100% full as far as judges. However, we continue to take names and will train extras, as some people will quit before election day.

3. MIB Department- We have 37,510 scheduled to receive a mail-in ballot for the Primary Election, of which 35,995 are listed as permanent. Ballots went out to all voters that had requested a ballot as of last week. So far, as of this morning, we have received back 1,282 ballots from voters, so they are starting to come in as we prepare for our first canvass.
4. Drop Boxes- Drop boxes were placed at the 10 locations on September 16, 2026. We started checking the drop boxes on September 21, 2026 and will be checking them once daily with the exception of October 18, 2026, as we will all be in canvass that day. I need the board to make a motion to skip collection on that day. We, of course, will pick up first thing the next day.
5. Sample Ballots- We have been working with the vendor to get the sample ballot out to the voters. I do not want it to go out too soon, so we are going to hold off until at least the end of next week to send them to the voters. The sample ballot will have all the information on voting, summaries of questions, and the practice ballot.
6. 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. This month will feature an all-out blitz to get voter information out to the public. We have 11 events scheduled, including October 6, when we will be out in the field at six different 50+ Centers. We also have an historic event planned for early voting, as we have teamed up with the Howard County Food Bank and the Howard County Community Action Council to bring a food donation drive to early voting centers. We are proud of this effort and will be working diligently to get the word out. I have included the flyer for the sample ballot that will reach every voter.
7. Ballots- Ballots have been delivered and are packed to go out to the early voting centers and polling places and the office has received their allotment of ballots to be able to take care of in-person mail-in ballot requests and people that spoil their mail-in ballot and need another. The ballot is two pages this election, and there will be signage all through the process in the polling place. I even included some wording on the sample ballot for the voters so they understand to vote both pages.

8. 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 (leaning toward December 1 or 2.)