

MINUTES
Howard County Board of Elections
8900 100 Parkway
Columbia, Maryland 21045
February 23, 2009

Present:

Board:

Ann M. Balcerzak, President
Donna K. Thewes, Vice-President
Raymond M. Rankin Member
Donna L. Rice, Alternate
Michael S. Molinaro, Board Attorney
Vivian L. Dixon, Board Secretary

Absent:

Charles M. Coles, Jr., Medical

Staff:

Betty L. Nordaas, Election Director
Guy Mickley, Deputy Director

Guests:

None

Ms Balcerzak called the meeting to order at 4:05 pm. Following the Pledge of Allegiance, it is noted that all Members, were present, constituting a quorum.

Approval of Minutes: There were no minutes to be signed.

Addition/changes to the Agenda: Presentation would be given, during the Executive Session.

Correspondence: Copy of Letter transmitting Inclement Weather Policy provided.

President's Report: President, having nothing to report, called for Director's Report.

Director's Report:

- Director gave an in-depth overview of the FY09 Tracking and FY10 Budget Spreadsheet.
- Discussion of pending Legislation (120), giving special attention to those dealing with election process, list of Bills provided. Bills of concern were noted and how communicating with Howard Counties Delegates could be facilitated. SB-595, Sen. Kasemeyer Sponsor, with corresponding HB-665, with numerous Sponsors, entitled Transparency in Election Administration.

The HCBE takes pride in being transparent in how we administer the Codes, Regulations and State Laws. We would like to develop a relationship of communication with the County Delegates. It would allow for an opportunity to explain what we can do, what we can not do, and address their concerns at the same time.

President noted: The Board is not resistant to change; it just looks for alternative ways of addressing changes. Contact will be made solicit a meeting with County Delegates.

Director: In response to Members request to know which Bills were of concern, it was agreed the Board would be provided that information and a Special Session would be scheduled to prepare a unified presentation of pros and cons.

The need to be unified with one voice prompted discussion of an email prepared by Mr. Mickley, in his capacity of President of Maryland Administrative Election Officials (MAEO). The email addressed concerns raised and issues on behalf of MAEO, which were mistakenly viewed as issues being raised on behalf of the official Elected Board of Elections, versus “local boards”. The President and Board Members noted that official Board matters are always approved prior to being issued.

At 5:05 PM the Howard County Board of Elections recessed and convened the Board of Canvassers for the purpose of entertaining some Late Absentee Ballots. At 5:10 PM the Board returned to regular Meeting.

Director Report Cont’d:

- The previously instituted “compressed workweek” which was suspended for election, indicated an increase in productivity. The staff would like it resumed and schedules are being reworked. Key office hours will be fully staffed.
- The State Board of Elections conducted Training Session on February 18th. An entire morning Session was conducted and we were joined by Baltimore and Carroll County. Training covered the Uniform and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voters Act (UOCAVA), PCAs, Federal Voters Assistance Program and all data entry processing dealing with associated records. Training was extremely worth while and greatly appreciated.
- Summer Team Building session. We are exploring Staff and Board interest and best time frames. Would like it to be off work hours, and at a County facility, during July, or August (*except 8th/15th*). Board will check calendars.

Attorney Report: None

- **Old Business:** Status of Double Voter Investigation. Director contacted Dario Broccolino’s office, following discussion with Board Counsel. Nothing in writing has been received yet. Herman Charity, the Lead Investigator is finished and has given results to Mr. Broccolino. No action has been taken on the findings, which concluded there were misunderstandings on behalf of the Voter, misinformation given out by the Judges, and with only one (1) exception, it was recommended that no further action be taken. The one exception is the Double Voter who was registered in Montgomery and Howard Counties. The only issue is the second vote took place in Montgomery County.
- **Canvass Board Compensation:** Board Secretary’s research gleaned from the Special Meeting Minutes of January 29, 2007, that Board Members “officially sworn in” to serve on Board of Canvassers would receive \$25.00 per hour in compensation. Time to be determined by Board Secretary.

Action:

The next meeting of the Howard County Board of Elections is scheduled for March 25, 2009 at 4:00 PM in the Howard County Board of Elections Boardroom. There being no further business, a motion to adjourn was made, seconded and unanimously agreed upon. Meeting Adjourned at 6:30 PM.

Respectively submitted,

Signed Vivian L. Dixon Mar 23 2009
Vivian L. Dixon, Board Secretary

Signed Ann M. Balcerzak Mar 23, 2009
Ann M. Balcerzak, President