

CECIL COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS

Jennifer Graham, President
Stephen Stiles, Vice President
Krista Moretz, Secretary
Eunice Grant, Member
Holcombe Grier, Member



Gary Holmes,
Director

Karen Benecewicz,
Deputy Director

Bradley A. Moore, Esq., Board Counsel

February 19, 2025
Public Attendance in Person North East Room 1st Floor

1. Call to Order
2. Determine Quorum, Report Board or Staff Absences
3. Additions/Changes to the Agenda
4. President's Remarks
5. Approval of the Minutes
 - a. January 15, 2025
6. Director's Report
 - a. Director's Report
7. Counsel's Report
8. Old Business
 - a. Manual Audit (maybe covered in Director's Report)
 - b. MAEO – Biennial Conference Updates
9. New Business
10. Announcements and Disclosures
11. Questions and Concerns
12. Next Board Meeting
 - a. March 19, 2025
13. Adjournment

Closed Meeting: Part of the meeting may be closed in accordance with Maryland Open Meetings Act procedures.

Public Participation: Members of the public may address the Board. Pursuant to §3.2C of the Board's Bylaws, public participation at a meeting must be pre-scheduled and pre-approved by the president. To request approval to speak at a board meeting, contact Hassan Aslam, Acting Director at 410-996-5310 or by email to kbenecewicz@cecilcountymd.gov no later than 5:00 p.m. the day before the meeting.

DIRECTORS REPORT TO THE CECIL COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS
FEBRUARY 2025
Gary Holmes 2/18/2025

PROCESSING

- January Critical Oversight Report was completed for Alleghany County.
- Office continues to process MVA/ driver records and death notices.

IT/ WAREHOUSE

- PEM (Post Election Maintenance) is ongoing and is progressing well. No issues to contend with.
- ETC (Election technical committee) meeting went well. Jasmine and Ashira attended this event at Anne Arundel Board of Elections. Discussion turned to warehouse regulations to be implemented soon.
- Inventory Audit starting soon. Deadline 06/2025
- Organizing and packing all PP24 items is ongoing and progressing well.

OUTREACH/ COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT/ CONTINUING EDUCATION/ MEETINGS

- Staff have resumed in person, post-election, weekly meetings every Wednesday morning.
- Gary and Sheri are participating in the MAEO Legislative Subcommittee and attending numerous meetings and contributing on various upcoming bills. Some of the interesting legislative bills we are working on are:
 - HB1280 Allowing Unaffiliated Voters to change political affiliation at early voting centers during a primary election and vote for their new political party.
 - Senate Bill 313 Risk Limiting Audit or RLA on sitewide elections prior to election certification.
- Brenda is participating in several committees such as In Person Voting, MAEO Vote Registration, Mail-in Ballot lessons learned.
- Ashira is participating in the MAEO Voter Registration Committee.
- Karen has been participating in the MAEO Voter Registration Committee.
- Karen and Sheri have been participating in the MAEO Conference Planning Meetings.
- Brenda submitted a great theme idea for the MAEO conference but something else was just chosen.
- Gary visited the Town Halls of both North East and Charlestown and dropped off rosters and supplies and manuals for their upcoming potential municipal elections. North East held their election but Charlestown has opted not to hold their election as its uncontested.
- Staff virtually attended SBE/ LBE Collaboration Meeting on January 16th. Legislation discussed at this meeting:

- FY26 Budget Released. <https://dbm.maryland.gov/budget/Pages/Budget-Home.aspx>
- Legislation: HB41/SB267 Petitions for the Formation of a New Political Party-Process
- HB75/SB262 Special Elections
- HB199/SB257 Notice to Permanent Absentee Voters
- HB274/SB259 Local Boards of Election-Election Plan Requirements
- Warehouse Regulations have been posted, and all Board Members have been emailed a copy, and they were posted online. Public comment period ended end of January.
- Staff attended MAEO Board meeting on January 21st.
- Gary attended a meeting on January 22nd with the Verkada Company about security and sign-in systems for office upgrades or for a new home in future.
- Gary represented the office by attending the State of the County Breakfast sponsored by the Cecil County Chamber of Commerce on January 30th. New County Executive Adam Streight gave the keynote address. It was a great opportunity to network with various government officials, department heads, and business leaders and to discuss potential new homes for the Cecil County Board of Elections.
- Staff attended Mail-In Ballot Lessons Learned Meeting January 31st.
- Gary has met with the new director of the Cecil County Library about a possible new location for Early Voting 2 Center.
- Gary met with the new Cecil County Finance Committee on February 14th to discuss the budget for the coming fiscal year and to discuss our need for a new facility.
- Gary is also in touch with our realtor about the locations of interest to consider moving to.
- Gary attended Poll Worker Management & Training yesterday 2/18.
- We will be meeting with the Department of Emergency Services on February 25th to discuss how to utilize the Election Homeland Security Grant.
- We are awaiting final approval of the questions and interview panel to conduct interviews with candidates for our two open positions.
- SBE/ LBE Directors Collaboration Meeting is upcoming as well as MAEO Voter Outreach Committee.
- SBE will meet on February 27th.

MANUAL AUDIT

- The audit covering the senate race took place today with 6 teams of two and it was successful, transparent, and triple checked.
- Thank you to everyone who coordinated, planned, set up & assisted with this endeavor.