

Talbot County Board of Elections, Open Meeting, August 13, 2014, 142 N. Harrison St., Easton, MD

Attending: Board Members: Susan McKinnon (D), president; Walter Black (D), Joe Secrist R, Mary-Beth Goll (D), substitute member; Venita Southworth, R, substitute member; Staff: Patti Mitchell, election director

The board met in closed session before this meeting, from 8:30 a.m. -9:35 a.m. Ms. McKinnon opened the regular meeting at 9:40 a.m. The minutes were approved with a correction in paragraph 2, sentence 3, adding “which she will e-mail to the board” after “She also has a list of substitutes.”

Old Business: Ms. Mitchell distributed a letter from voter Audrey Nicole Wolcott expressing concerns after voting in the June 24 primary at St. Michaels High School. The board discussed these concerns;

1. Handicapped parking signage
2. Information judges were asking voters and confidentiality
3. Relatives of candidates as judges
4. Process of selection and training election judges

Ms. Goll will draft a response to the letter for review at the next board meeting. Besides this letter, Ms. Mitchell noted that the election office received no complaints about voting at the two high schools.

The board noted that two state representatives in District 37B will be elected; one from Talbot and one from Dorchester County. The ballot says vote for 2 –voters need to know that if they choose 2 candidates from the same county, only one can win, even if those 2 candidates get the most votes in the race. Could the ballot be changed to read vote for 1 from each county? If not, the public needs to know this information.

Polling Place Surveys were reviewed by the board. Chief judges filled out the surveys; very few problems were noted; this reflected the smooth primary election observed by the board members. Six polling places and early voting were surveyed; the remaining six will be surveyed on November 4.

New Business: General Election: Early voting will be at the Easton Fire House from October 23 –October 30 from 10 a.m. – 8 p.m. The board discussed ways to make parking signs more visible at the fire house. Ms. Mitchell said that on November 4, 10 tech people will be assigned to the precincts and will be asked to bring back poll books, printers, chief judge’s and provisional judge’s bags to the Election Office after the polls close.

Ms. Mitchell noted that expenses for the primary and general elections are in separate fiscal years.
Next Meeting: September 3 at 9:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary-Beth Goll, recorder

