

BOARD MEETING
BALTIMORE CITY BOARD OF ELECTIONS
AUGUST 21, 2025

The meeting of the Baltimore City Board of Elections was held at the Baltimore City Board of Elections Office at 417 East Fayette Street, Baltimore MD 21202.

IN ATTENDANCE:

BOARD MEMBERS

Scherod Barnes, Board President
Terrence Threweatt Jr, Board Vice President
Sam Novey, Board Secretary
Hope Williams, Board Member
Maria Vismale, Board Member

STAFF

Abigail Goldman, Acting Director
Thomas Chapman, Board Counsel
Sabrina Graves, Baltimore City Board of Elections Staff
Shawn Larson, Baltimore City Board of Elections Staff

GUESTS

Emily Opilo, Baltimore Banner
Misti McKeehen, Baltimore Votes Coalition
Joselin Martin, League of Women Voters of Baltimore City

Mr. Barnes called the meeting to order at 4:05 pm.

Mr. Threweatt asked to add items to the agenda for public comment and campaign donation disclosure.

Mr. Novey moved to accept the agenda and the minutes of the July 24, 2025, meeting. Ms. Williams seconded the motion. The motion passed.

PRESIDENT'S REMARKS

Mr. Barnes thanks all guests at the meeting. He also thanked Ms. Goldman and Ms. Stanley for stepping into their roles as Acting Director and Acting Deputy Director of the Baltimore City Board of Elections in recent years.

Mr. Barnes presented a certificate to Ms. Goldman on behalf of the board in recognition of this work. The certificate reads as follows:

"On behalf of the board we would like to thank Abigail Goldman for her invaluable contributions as Acting Director on multiple occasions during our

tenure. We are very grateful for the seamless and proficient way in which she has executed this vital role. Thank you for setting such a high bar and for making such a positive lasting impact.”

Mr. Barnes also thanked Ms. Graves and the employee engagement team for hosting the first off-site training and engagement meeting. He shared his feeling that it was a very enjoyable learning and bonding session for the staff. Mr. Barnes also expressed his desire to continue to have the board continue learning and training in the future.

Mr. Barnes shared that Mr. Clifford Tatum had been selected by the board to lead the Baltimore City Board of Elections, effective Wednesday, September 17th, and that the board would plan to have a public meet and greet with Mr. Tatum on Thursday September 18th, after the regular board meeting already scheduled for that day.

Mr. Barnes thanked all board members for attending the required state ethics training this afternoon.

ACTING DIRECTOR’S REPORT

Ms. Goldman thanked President Barnes for coming to the staff retreat for the whole time. She also thanked Mr. Novey for stopping by and shared her feelings that the staff had a great time at the retreat and really bonded as a team.

Ms. Goldman also shared that the team has received a second batch of petition signatures for the baby bonus amendment and has begun processing them.

Ms. Goldman also shared updates on the team voter outreach effort. Mr. Larson and Ms. Stanley are spearheading it. Morgan State, Central Church of Christ, BCCC, Johns Hopkins University, Coppin State and the Baltimore Orioles have all been a part of that outreach effort.

Mr. Threweatt asked about outreach to the Baltimore City Republican State Central Committee. Ms. Goldman confirmed that she had sent them an email but had not heard back.

Mr. Barnes shared that members had received reports from the Department of Homeland Security and the Occupational Health and Safety Administration about the safety and security of the election warehouse. He indicated that the OSHA report was public while the DHS report was to be kept confidential because it contained sensitive security information.

ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL REPORT

None.

OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Threweatt asked about whether any contracts for the 2026 election had been signed or submitted to the Board of Estimates. Ms. Goldman indicated that no contracts had moved forward and that she had been instructed by the board president to not sign any contracts at this time. Mr. Barnes affirmed that contracts were being held pending review by the new director.

Ms. Williams asked about contracts from prior years. Ms. Goldman affirmed that McAfee, Surveillance Cameras, and Taxicabs were the key contracts from 2024. Ms. Williams asked about contracts for election judge training. Ms. Goldman indicated this decision would be up to the new director.

Mr. Threweatt asked about the volume of rental fees going to Mt. Pleasant Church. Ms. Goldman explained that because the church is generous in letting us use their space for both training and early voting, we end up paying substantial rental fees because of the high volume of use.

Ms. Williams asked about how the staff source training locations. Ms. Goldman said they use their judgement about what is accessible and good for training purposes, and the team is welcome to give suggestions. In general, the staff tries to make sure they are on a bus line and that there is both an east side and west side location.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Threweatt disclosed that he had made donations to the campaigns of Deb Haaland, Winsome Earle-Sears, Keisha Lance-Bottoms, Malcolm Ruff, and Sean Stinnett.

Ms. Williams disclosed that she had made donations to the campaigns of Marlon Amprey and James Torrance.

Mr. Barnes disclosed he had made donations to the campaigns of Malcom Ruff and Sean Stinnett.

Mr. Novey asked if the plan was to begin recruiting election judges after Labor Day. Ms. Graves affirmed that it was. Mr. Novey asked whether there was a process for ensuring that chief judges who had not opened their polls on-time (or otherwise failed to perform) in the 2024 primary were not invited to again serve in that role in 2026. Ms. Graves confirmed these people would not be invited to serve as chief judges in 2026.

Ms. Williams asked for an update on the new software the team is using for election judge management. Ms. Goldman said the team is waiting for it to be installed. Ms. Williams asked to see a demo. Ms. Graves said the team would share a demo once they had been fully trained. Ms. Williams expressed her excitement about what will be possible for our election judge program with a stronger management system.

Mr. Novey thanked Mr. Barnes for his leadership throughout the process of selecting a new election director. Mr. Thre watt congratulated Mr. Barnes on the occasion of his 51st wedding anniversary. All present echoed both sentiments heartily.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Barnes asked visitors to introduce themselves. Misti McKeehen from Baltimore Votes, Emily Opilo from The Baltimore Banner, and Joselin Martin from the League of Women Voters of Baltimore City all introduced themselves.

Ms. McKeehen thanked the board members for receiving the letter from the Baltimore Votes Coalition at the June meeting and expressed her hope that the coalition would be able to discuss the letter with the new director after he begins in his role. She also announced the Baltimore Votes had brought on a group of high school students to work on election judge recruitment and voter registration. Mr. Barnes asked the Baltimore Votes set up a meeting with Mr. Tatum at a later date but indicated that the meet and greet with him on September 18th would not be the best time to engage with that letter.

Ms. Martin asked the board to find ways to work with other organizations like Baltimore Votes and League of Women Voters who are all working to do voter education in high schools. Mr. Barnes responded with enthusiasm to the idea of increased collaboration to educate Baltimore City students about elections.

Minutes approved at the September 18, 2025 Board meeting.