

BOARD MEETING
BALTIMORE CITY BOARD OF ELECTIONS
JULY 24, 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

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

STAFF

Thomas Chapman, Board Counsel
Abigail Goldman, Acting Director
Lisa Stanley, Acting Deputy Director
Shawn Larson, Baltimore City Board of Elections Staff

GUESTS

Emily Opilo, Baltimore Banner
Joselin Martin, League of Women Voters of Baltimore City

ON PHONE

Maria Vismale, Board Member

Mr. Barnes called the meeting to order at 4:08 pm.

Mr. Novey made a motion to approve the agenda. Ms. Williams seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Mr. Novey made a motion to approve the minutes of the June 18, 2025, board meeting. Ms. Williams seconded the motion. The motion passed.

PRESIDENT'S REMARKS

Mr. Barnes welcomed everyone to meeting and congratulated Baltimore City Board of Elections Vice President Terrence Threweatt Jr. on the birth of his son.

Mr. Barnes announced that the state ethics training for board members had been moved to next month's meeting on Thursday, August 21. Mr. Barnes explained that this delay was due to the board's diligent work completing the hiring process for the new election director.

Mr. Barnes also communicated the board's plan to go into executive session during this meeting.

ACTING DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Ms. Goldman shared highlights from the written report she presented to the board.

In department head meetings Ms. Goldman and the leadership team developed the plan for the staff bar-b-que and retreat. Each department head would speak for a few minutes and there would be time for fellowship, relationship building and procedures for the office.

Ms. Goldman also shared that progress was being made on improving the Benton Building office to include a break room for staff. The room has been cleaned out and now the team is waiting for the Baltimore City Department of General Services to paint the room, put in new flooring, and provide two tables so the team can use it for breaks during the work day.

All PEPs have been completed and forwarded to the state board of elections.

Inspections from OSHA and the Department of Homeland Security on the election warehouse have been completed and have been forwarded to the Baltimore City Department of General Services, Maryland State Board of Elections, and the Board President. The Department of General Services has formulated a plan and will get back to me next week with where they are. They are currently figuring out which recommendations are too expensive and which ones are not.

ESS&S - a state contractor for e-pollbooks - have been at the warehouse all week replacing the batteries in the pollbook.

Lisa Stanley and Shawn Larson have been leading voter outreach for the office. They have done several sessions with the Baltimore City Democratic State Central Committee. They also have planned several outreach events with the Baltimore Orioles and are working to get in touch with all local colleges and universities (Ms. Stanley later confirmed that Mr. Larson had successfully established an outreach event at Coppin State University - his alma mater - which would be taking place during CSU homecoming). These outreach efforts focus on giving members of the public opportunities to register to vote and apply to become election judges and technicians.

Ms. Goldman shared the Baltimore City Schools are doing voter registration themselves with support from Ms. Stanley because the school board decided to implement a new policy.

Recruitment for election judges will begin right after Labor Day. The staff will be implementing a policy for figuring out which judges don't show up for training and cause us issues.

Staff have sent out contracts for polling sites. Jason, Glenn, and Mike have begun doing polling place assessments and walk throughs. This is taking some time because there are a lot of them to complete.

Mr. Threweatt asked to confirm if the board would be given the opportunity to vote on polling place changes and would be able to review polling place plans for these sites before they go to the state. Ms. Goldman confirmed the board would be voting on all changes as is standard practice and would be receiving copies of these polling place plans before they are submitted.

Mr. Barnes asked about the timeline for RFPs going out for warehouse management. Ms. Goldman communicated that we would wait until August for RFPs regarding warehouse management, cameras, and cabs to go to the board of estimates. Ms. Stanley also communicated that staff had submitted a proposal to procure a new election judge and election technician management system that the staff learned about at the MAEO meeting that will help with scheduling, communication, and payment for these workers.

Ms. Williams asked about whether Baltimore City would be doing what other jurisdictions have done to allow election judges to see real time updates about assignments, payments, etc. Ms. Stanley clarified that only staff would be able to see the systems and election judges would receive notifications.

Mr. Barnes asked if voter outreach efforts are proactively reaching out to all parties including Republicans and Greens. Ms. Goldman clarified that the Baltimore City Democratic State Central Committee had reached out to the staff. Ms. Stanley and Ms. Goldman affirmed that staff would be proactively reaching out to all parties to see if they want to have voter registration distributor training and affirmed their commitment that all parties have equal opportunities to get these trainings.

Mr. Barnes also asked about how Baltimore City School would be reporting back to the election staff regarding their level of success in doing outreach about elections in the schools. Ms. Stanley shared that a Ms. Jackson at Baltimore City Schools HQ on North Avenue had been established as the point of contact for this effort. Ms. Jackson will be presenting on this at an upcoming meeting on school leaders and Ms. Stanley said Ms. Jackson would be working on finding a contact or two at each school who would be responsible for doing voter registration at each school. Ms. Stanley is also working with Ms. Jackson to establish a system for getting voter registration forms completed at the schools back into the office.

ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL REPORT

None.

OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Thre watt asked that potential contractors not be copied on emails until contracts are awarded. Staff confirmed that contractors are not being copied on communications.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Thre watt asked about the warehouse move and efforts to engage with government officials. Ms. Goldman shared that things are at a standstill and that Mr. DeMarinis has shared reports from DHS and OSHA with City Hall and that DGS is looking at how to respond to them. Ms. Goldman confirmed that Baltimore City has not requested a waiver from the state to be exempt from regulations requiring colocation of election offices and warehouses.

Mr. Barnes asked for a motion that the board enter closed session to discuss individual applicants for the role of election director and that the board was keeping the session closed to protect the confidentiality and privacy of applicants and to be in compliance with state law. Mr. Novey made the motion. Mr. Thre watt seconded. The motion passed.

Mr. Barnes thanked all the guests for coming.

Minutes approved at the August 21, 2025 meeting