

BOARD MEETING
BALTIMORE CITY BOARD OF ELECTIONS
JUNE 18, 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

STAFF

Thomas Chapman, Board Counsel
Abigail Goldman, Acting Director
Lisa Stanley, Acting Deputy Director

GUESTS

Emily Opilo, Baltimore Banner
J. Hollis B. Alison IV
Joselin Martin, League of Women Voters of Baltimore City
Susan Talbot, League of Women Voters of Baltimore City
Tasmin Swanson, Baltimore Votes Coalition
James McLaughlin, Baltimore Votes Coalition
Phong Le, Baltimore Votes Coalition and Greater Remington Improvement Assoc.
Misti Mckeehen, Baltimore Votes Coalition
Nyki Robinson, Black Girls Vote
Natasha Murphy, Black Girls Vote

ABSENT

Maria Vismale, Board Member

ON PHONE

Hope Williams, Board Member (joined 4:10 p.m. - not present for votes on agenda or minutes)

Mr. Barnes called the meeting to order.

Mr. Threweatt asked for a section to be added to the agenda titled "Vice President's comments." Mr. Threweatt moved to accept the agenda. It was seconded by Mr. Barnes. The motion passed.

Mr. Threweatt asked to amend the May minutes to remove a paragraph where the Vice President referenced the former election director Mr. Jones. Mr. Novey moved

to accept the May minutes as written and remove the paragraph mentioned by Mr. Thre watt after the meeting. The motion passed.

PRESIDENT'S REMARKS

Mr. Barnes welcomed all visitors present at the June board meeting. He also thanked all staff for supporting the Baltimore City Board of Elections in complying with the new requirements to livestream election board meetings. He also announced that Mr. DeMarinis would not be able to attend this meeting as planned because of a conflict.

Mr. Barnes also asked board members to review the letter from the Baltimore Votes Coalition that had been placed in their packets. He also announced that in-person ethics training for the board would take place at the July board meeting.

Mr. Novey moved to note for the record the people and organizations that signed the Baltimore Votes Coalition letter that the board received at this meeting. Mr. Thre watt seconded the motion. The motion passed.

The following organizations signed the Baltimore Votes Coalition letter.

- ACLU of Maryland
- Common Cause Maryland
- Out for Justice
- AMillonMees Productions
- League of Women Voters of Baltimore City
- Ranked Choice Voting Maryland
- Baltimore Regional Housing Partnership
- No Boundaries Coalition ROAR Healing Co.
- Black Girls Vote

The following voters signed the Baltimore Votes Coalition letter:

- Adria Crutchfield
- Ellen Line Michal
- Roxie Johnson
- Aleni Lila
- Erin O'Keefe
- Miriam Greenleaf-Miller
- Allison Avolio
- Gail Manza
- Misti McKeehen
- Amos Irwin
- Jakerya Randolph
- Nancy Cox
- Amelia Valdez
- James McLaughlin

- Nancy R. Ginsberg
- Ananda La Vita
- Jan Kleinman
- Nancy Rini
- Anita M Nelson
- Javey Adams
- Natasha Murphy
- Ann Coy
- Jean Owens
- Nicole Elliott
- Artemis S
- Jo Ann Robinson
- Paige Bacon
- Ashiah S. Parker, MPA
- Joanne M Robinson
- Phong Le
- Ashley Esposito
- Joanne Nathans
- Renaud Brown
- Barbara Dent
- John Fletcher
- Rep Pickard
- Barbara Finney-El
- John I Hanmer
- Roberta L Cowan
- Barbara Shapiro
- Joselin R. Martin, CPA
- Ruth Leys
- Beth Braun
- Katherine Galbreath
- Sally Dworak-Fisher
- Bonnie A. Travieso
- Lanetta Wesley
- Sally T Grant
- Bret McCabe
- Laurie Feinberg
- Sandra T Brushart
- Ca'syah W
- Liz Simon-Higgs
- Sarah Breitenbach
- Cailin McGough
- MAB Carneal
- Sarah Wehner
- Catherine Borg
- Malissa Ruffner
- Seth Franz
- Charlene Rock-Foster
- Margaret E. Mitchell

- Shannon Snow
- Charles R. Gamper, Esq.
- Marsha Manekin
- Stacie Kossoy
- Cindy Camp
- Mary Dingle
- Sue Glick
- Claudia Leight
- Mary Gillian Babb
- Susan W. Talbott
- Crystal J Parker
- Mary Kay Page
- Suzanne Gaintner
- David T. Clements, PhD
- Mary Taylor-Ennis
- Suzanne Schlattman
- Deanna V. Ikhinmwin
- Megan Good, Esq.
- Tasmin Swanson
- Debra Joseph
- Megan Ryan
- Tiffany Balkaran-Richardson
- Diana Desierto
- Megan Shook
- Diana Emerson
- Michael Kranick
- Ellen Brown

Mr. Barnes asked the visitors to introduce themselves and they did.

ACTING DIRECTOR'S REPORT

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

Hiring: She shared that 4 new employees had been hired to fill vacant roles. 3 are starting next week and 1 in August.

Employee engagement: Ms. Goldman shared that she held an open forum for employees to share what's on their mind, review the employee handbook, and discuss key issues. In our department meeting this week, the leadership team discussed who would be employee supervisors. There is also an employee who will be working on standard operating procedures for each department of the office.

PEPs are happening this week and need to be completed by July.

Warehouse: There was an inspection from OSHA and we will get a full report in 8 - 10 weeks. There will also be an inspection from the Department of Homeland Security.

Voter registration: All the list maintenance items are up to date. The team is currently scanning all the voter authority cards into the system and are about halfway through that. It takes a long time because the cards are too thin to scan and need to be taped onto pieces of paper.

Polling place contracts: All going out this week.

Early voting and drop boxes: The team visited Middle Branch fitness and wellness center to explore moving the early voting site there from Farring Baybrook. They expect to move ahead with that change and hope to bring it to the board for approval soon. The team also plans to move back to the University of Maryland, Baltimore Community Engagement Center.

Mr. Threweatt asked about the polling place assessments for these changes. Ms. Goldman clarified that the team would be providing assessments for the early voting locations referenced above.

Mr. Novey shared that he is eagerly awaiting the results of the OSHA study and is concerned about ensuring the health and safety of employees working at the warehouse.

ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL REPORT

Mr. Chapman shared that the state Open Meetings Compliance Board found that there was no violation in the case of complaints brought against Baltimore City and 16 other counties regarding canvass minutes.

Mr. Barnes noted that Mr. Chapman would be leaving during the executive session part of this meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Novey asked for clarification regarding the board's ability to respond to the letter from the Baltimore Votes Coalition. Mr. Barnes reiterated that he had discussed the matter with legal counsel and determined that the board would not be able to respond at this time. Mr. Threweatt ask for information regarding this determination. Mr. Chapman said that he could discuss this matter one on one with Mr. Threweatt but could engage in the open meeting in order to preserve privilege.

Mr. Threweatt expressed his feeling that the board should engage directly with any members of the community who bring forward concerns like this. Mr. Barnes assured him that he had spoken with the person who sent the letter individually to tell her why we could not discuss it at the meeting.

Mr. Thre watt reminded Mr. Barnes of the case where the board did respond to a letter from the Republican Central Committee and wanted to know why the board did not do something similar in this case. He also reminded Mr. Barnes and the board that it is their right to reject Mr. Chapman's advice if they choose too.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Barnes affirmed that the next meeting would be on July 17 at 4 pm and would be preceded by state ethics training. [NOTE: The Board Meeting was later moved to July 26 at 4 pm to accommodate the interview schedule for the new election director.]

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. Thre watt made the motion. Mr. Novey seconded. The motion passed.

Mr. Barnes thanked all the guests for coming.