

**BOARD MEETING**  
**BALTIMORE CITY BOARD OF ELECTIONS**  
**December 18, 2025**

The meeting of the Baltimore City Board of Elections was held at the Baltimore City Board of Elections Warehouse at 301 North Franklinton Road, Baltimore MD 21223.

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

**BOARD MEMBERS**

Scherod Barnes, Board President  
Sam Novey, Board Secretary  
Terrence Thre watt, Vice President (on phone)  
Hope Williams, Board Member  
Maria Vismale (on phone)

**STAFF**

Clifford Tatum, Election Director  
Abigail Goldman, Deputy Director (virtual )  
Shawn Larson, Baltimore City Board of Elections Staff  
Lisa Standley, Baltimore City Board of Elections Staff  
Glen Muir, Baltimore City Board of Elections Staff  
Thomas Chapman, Assistant Attorney General

**GUESTS**

Kate Sullivan, Secure the Vote Maryland

Mr. Barnes declared a quorum at 4:02 p.m.

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

Mr. Novey moved to approve the minutes of the November meeting. Ms. Williams seconded. The motion passed.

**PRESIDENT'S REMARKS**

Mr. Barnes thanks the staff for welcoming the board to their holiday luncheon. He thanked the staff for doing outreach to board members and cultivating a positive relationship between staff and board.

Mr. Barnes noted that the board would be going into executive session at the end of the meeting.

## **DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Mr. Tatum reviewed a summary of his written report.

He shared updates related to interagency meetings with DGS, Comptroller's office, BCIT, and MD SBE. He also shared that the staff did outreach programs at BCCC (twice) and a Baltimore Votes Coalition program.

The report included an update about the launch of election judge outreach - 1,539 responses so far - and updated voter registration figures for Baltimore City.

Mr. Tatum shared his feeling that at just over 100 days into this job he is confident about the direction of the agency. He reported that in this period he has connected with internal team leads, all board members, relevant city agencies (with a focus on the warehouse facility upgrade), and numerous external partners and advocacy groups.

Mr. Tatum shared updates on several agency initiatives. He is working with BCIT to upgrade the office telephone system to improve operations and the Election Day help desk. He shared that SBE has finalized a new award for new e-pollbooks with delivery scheduled for early 2026. Baltimore City is waiting to hear a cost estimate from the state. The team continues to work on procuring a system to manage election judge recruitment. They are also shooting videos for training purposes and working on a system for making them available to election judges.

Mr. Barnes asked about making videos accessible in Spanish. Mr. Tatum said the team would explore this with the production team at Charm TV.

Mr. Barnes also noted that Mr. Tatum met with MD GOP Central Committee for Baltimore City and Mr. Tatum confirmed they had a productive conversation.

Ms. Williams asked about closed captioning for the videos. Mr. Tatum confirmed the training videos would have captions.

Mr. Tatum shared that he had submitted the 2027 budget proposal and that their budget justification meeting was scheduled for January 2026. Mr. Tatum confirmed that the current level of service for the budget is set at \$11,795,800 and this level included the election judge management platform as well as lease payments and moving expenses for a new space.

Mr. Tatum shared that both the new warehouse lease and moving expenses were on hold because the lease agreement was a "triple net lease" that put too much financial risk onto Baltimore City. Mr. Tatum expects to meet with the city's Department of General Services and the comptroller's office to discuss next steps for getting a new facility.

Mr. Tatum listed the key contract acquisitions that he intended to pursue including election security (dropbox cameras), equipment preparation, taxi services, and polling places expenses. Mr. Tatum also listed cost continuation expenses including election worker training, salary expenses, and county billing (i.e. for equipment).

Mr. Tatum also provided an update on the development of an agency strategic plan. He continues to meet with team leads about this and has proposed that over the next 90 days he will draft a mission statement for board review, send draft feedback to the board for review, meet with two board members at a time for feedback (in an open meeting act compliant way) and then submit to the board a mission statement and strategic plan ready for discussion and adoption by March board meeting.

Ms. Williams and Mr. Novey both thanked Mr. Tatum for a thorough and excellent update.

Mr. Threweatt shared Mr. Tatum was very well received by the GOP Central Committee meeting and that he expected Mr. Tatum to be receiving an invitation to speak at a dinner hosted by the Maryland Black Republican Council.

Mr. Threweatt asked if Mr. Tatum had connected with various law enforcement unions regarding election judge recruitment.

Mr. Novey moved to accept the director's report. Ms. Williams seconded. The motion passed.

### **ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL'S REPORT**

Mr. Chapman had nothing to report.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

None.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Ms. Goldman proposed two polling place changes to the board.

For site 146 (precinct 27-010), the old site of Open Bible Baptist Church is now being used for a daycare center. Ms. Goldman proposed moving the precinct to Woodhome Recreation Center at 7300 Moyer Avenue 21234 (1.2 miles away from the old location). Mr. Novey moved to accept this suggestion. Ms. Williams seconded. The motion passed.

For site 162 (precinct 27-039), the old site St. Mary's Church of Govans at 5502 York Road is no longer available because the church has been closed by the archdiocese. Ms. Goldman proposed moving the precinct .3 miles away to Govan's

Boundary at 5210 York Road. Mr. Thrweatt moved to accept this suggestion. The motion passed.

Mr. Tatum again thanked Ms. Goldman for doing incredible work supporting the agency and staff even while going through rehabilitation.

Mr. Barnes asked for a motion to go into closed session to discuss the director's performance review. Mr. Novey made this motion and it was seconded by Mr. Thrweatt. The motion passed.

### **CLOSED SESSION**

Mr. Barnes asked for a motion to go into closed session under § 3-305(b)(1) of the Open Meetings Act to discuss the director's performance review. Mr. Novey made this motion and it was seconded by Mr. Thrweatt. The motion passed unanimously. All board members and Mr. Chapman were present in the closed session. During the closed session, the board discussed and approved a mid-cycle performance rating for the director.