

# St. Mary's County Board of Elections

23250 Leonardtown Hollywood Road  
Leonardtown, MD 20650

## Board Meeting Minutes of 7 December 2022

### Present:

#### **Board Members:**

Jack Payne, Board President (R)  
Rebecca Wathen, Board Secretary (D)  
Kenneth Boothe, Member (R)  
Mary Coombs, Member (R)  
Ann Raley, Member (D)

#### **Staff Members:**

Wendy Adkins, Director  
Susan Julian, Deputy Director  
  
Cynthia Panos, Board Attorney

Absent:       None

At 11:19 AM, Mr. Jack Payne, Board President, determined that there was a quorum present and called the meeting to order.

Guests Present:       None

### Documents Distributed:

- Canvassing Meeting Minutes for October 20, November 8, November 10, November 11, November 16, and November 18, 2022

Approval of Minutes: The minutes from the canvassing held on October 20, November 8, November 10, November 11, November 16, and November 18, 2022 were presented. A motion was made by Ms. Wathen to approve the minutes, with corrections from the floor, seconded by Ms. Coombs. Motion carried.

Meeting Agenda: The meeting agenda was reviewed with no changes requested.

Director's Report: Ms. Adkins reported the following:

- **Differences between 2018 and 2022 Elections:**

|        |             |                   |                     |                      |
|--------|-------------|-------------------|---------------------|----------------------|
| ○ 2018 | 58% Turnout | 9839 Early Voting | 28,673 Election Day | 1808 Mail In Ballots |
| ○ 2022 | 50% Turnout | 9076 Early Voting | 20,932 Election Day | 7121 Mail In Ballots |
- The final report was provided to the Board members
- A letter dated December 5, 2022 from Senator Jack Bailey relating his concerns and requesting information on how various decisions are made. Ms. Adkins will draft a letter to respond to Senator Bailey's concerns with input from the Board Attorney, Ms. Panos and will be presented at the next meeting.

### Old Business:

- **2022 Post Certification –**
  - Three (3) ballots were received and based upon the post mark were determined to be untimely. A motion to reject these three (3) ballots was made by Ms. Wathen, seconded by Ms. Coombs. Motion Carried.
- **Clear Ballot Reports –** Final reports were presented to the Board Members. Clear Ballot is an independent firm that performs an audit on the election tabulations. The State Board of Elections hires

them to verify that the voting system is tabulated correctly. Reports will be made public. All numbers have been tabulated and matches the reported results.

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**New Business:**

- **Board Raise** – Ms. Wathen, Board Secretary, proposed that the Board send correspondence to the Southern Maryland delegation requesting a raise in the canvassing amount that Board members earn for their canvassing activities. With each Election showing an increase in mail in ballots and with the expectation that the number will continue to increase, the amount of time that Board members are required to put forth as increased as well. A motion was made by Ms. Wathen to approve the increase, seconded by Ms. Coombs. Motion Carried. Ms. Wathen will draft a letter to be presented at the next meeting.

**Next Meeting:** The next meeting will be on January 11, 2023 at 9:00 AM.

A motion was made by Ms. Wathen to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Ms. Raley. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 11:49 AM.

Respectfully Submitted,

  
Rebecca J. Wathen  
Board Secretary