

# ***Election Judge/Early Voting Committee Meeting Minutes***

**Thursday, September 13, 2018 \* 2:00 PM**

## **I. Roll call**

The following persons were present:

Robert Brady, Patricia Thorpe, Sabrina Graves, Marc Welch, Ben Frey, Anthony Gutierrez, Dione Church, Jerri Cook, Cheemoandia Blake, Katie Berry, Leslie Woods, Allison Murphy

## **II. Lessons Learned from Primary 2018**

Election Judge Training and Performance:

The general consensus was that training went well during the primary election.

Prince George's did more hands on training, spent more time on scanning unit and BMD's, it helped them feel more comfortable on Election Day. Prince George's also followed the lead of Montgomery, Caroline and Harford County using color coded documents. It was easier on Election morning, for the phone calls, we could say look for a certain color paper. Frederick also used color coded documents and the judges responded positively.

Anne Arundel refresher training wanted hands on also, they test them at the end (T & F questions and Chiefs have to fill out the summary report. About 20 questions. No push back for longer training hours 3-4 hours.

What problems did you identify and did anyone have any suggestions for best practices?

Prince Georges identified an issue with judges being unable to locate supplies. Kent County had a suggestion as to how they handle supply issues. Kent County holds their chief judges training and supply distribution at the same time. They go over all supplies and they have a check list. They are required to hold up the supplies as they are being called out. The judges then sign the checklist and return it to the trainers at the end of training. This occurs the day before the Election and is in conjunction with supply pickup.

There are also numerous calls about pay sheets.

## **III. Early Voting**

What did you do to keep electioneers behind the no electioneering line?

Some used sidewalk chalk. Katie Berry, purchased 100 foot clothes line so that the judges could accurately mark the 100 foot line. They also had a 100 foot radius map showing the exact location of the 100 foot line. They laminated and affixed the map to

the no electioneering sign and posted it on their website. They also sent a copy of the maps to the candidates. This helped tremendously. At one particular site, Prince George's used caution tape.

#### Campaign Signs/Materials

Did any LBE's experience issues with having campaign litter after the election? Anne Arundel sent two teams out to clean up the EV sites of signs. Baltimore City used the cadets at one site to clean up. Carroll County sent out daily emails to all candidates, with voter turn outs etc., it kept them from going into the polling places and helped establish a rapport with the voters. Then Katie sent an e-mail out the day before Election to clean reminding campaigns to clean up the signage. Once she had built a rapport with the campaigns, they cleaned up their mess.

Daneen asked do we need to speak to the legislature about possible legislation regarding sign removal? Consensus of committee is no. Daneen asked whether anyone pays the facility to clean up the campaign litter? No.

#### **IV. Election Judge Dropout Rate**

Daneen spoke with some counties during the primary and they said they were having a difficult time retaining judges this past election cycle. What did your county do to mitigate election judge retention?

Baltimore City went to radio stations to solicit judges. Radio helped generate calls. There were approximately 400 callouts in Baltimore. Frederick advertised on Comcast and did paid digital advertising, and social media. Anne Arundel did mailers and judges came to training. Their biggest challenge was ordering more manuals. Prince George's had all of its Judges plus some until Election Day, they started dropping out. Prince George's dropout rate was 300 to 400 judges – although the judges train and agree to work, Prince George's can't keep them. Even the judges who are on standby when Prince George's call on the day of the election to report have been unavailable.

Anne Arundel has a staging area for floater judges. These judges are sent out on election morning wherever they are needed. Montgomery is considering doing the same thing and having floaters come to the office. Baltimore City sends their floater judges out in a cab.

#### **V. Election Judge Courtesy**

Prior to the primary the Committee had a discussion regarding LBEs notifying other LBE's when they were pulling over one of their judges. I updated and distributed the contact list for Election Judge Recruitment staff in an effort to improve our communication with our sister organizations. Has there been any improvement between the LBEs communications?

Prince George's reported that they received calls from Montgomery and Anne Arundel. No issues that were identified previously were reported this time.

## **VI. Polling Place Evaluations**

Who completes them? Have you experienced any problems with getting the requisite number of evaluations back? Do you pay individuals to complete them?

Prince George's uses the League of Women Voters and pays them for their services. Carroll, Howard and Wicomico uses Board Members to complete the evaluations. Anne Arundel uses Election field support persons to complete them. One county does pay evaluators and uses former employees and previous Election judges.

## **VII. Election Judge Tax Issues**

Stuart sent out question to LBE's how do you handle tax withholdings. Daneen will compile the responses and send it out in a spreadsheet. Katie also had a questionnaire that she sent out as well and will provide the responses to share with the Committee.

## **VIII. Election Judge Refresher Training**

Are you doing anything differently this time around? Majority responded no. Anne Arundel went from a 3 hour training to a 4 hour training for the chief judges. They were given a True& False Test. The chiefs have to fill out a summary report. Bob said that they have 20 Questions and the judges must cancel a VAC and open and close the scanner unit. Sabrina says Baltimore has a similar test. Daneen asked whether Anne Arundel received any complaints from extending their training by an hour and Bob replied that they did not have any complaints and that the judges loved it.

## **IX. Challenges of Multiple Page Ballots**

Some LBEs have a 2 page ballot and 3 page ballot for the very first time. What are some of the challenges?

Space challenges - you will receive double the amount of ballots or in the case of a 3 page ballot triple the amount. You need to make sure that you have adequate space to store the ballots. You will need to determine how much room you have for the pallets of ballots.

Training your election judges – must specify that there is a 2 page ballot in training and explain your ballot management process. Explain that the judges will have to tear off the 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> pages from the same ballot style and issue all of the pages to voters.

Tip: Leave Reminder Notes for judges on top of the ballots or in last minute instructions. Don't forget there is a 2 page ballot!

Blue Bins - You will likely need more blue bins. You will have to change the bins more often. IE – if you have two pages, you will need to change the bins after 700 voters.

Ballot Accounting – Remind scanner unit judges to have the voter scan all pages. Anne Arundel and Prince George's started using one bucket of ballots for provisional and regular ballots. That worked well.

Wicomico found that with their two page ballot, if there was a problem with the ballot that you don't necessarily have to spoil both pages, only spoil the page that needed spoiling. Also have a person to escort them to the same scanner they had the issue with. Wicomico was planning to hold a meeting to discuss their two page ballot process. Anthony will send a finalized plan, after meeting.

Anne Arundel also reformatted their Spoiled Ballot Tally Sheet, Ballot Opening and Closing Sheet and Closing Summary. Katie informed us of a problem that was experienced during the canvass. They decided to run pages separately on different scanners (i.e. - Page 1 on one scanner, Page 2 on another scanner, etc.). She cautioned that you should not do this. Run all the page 1's, 2's etc. together on the same scanner.

There was a suggestion that LBE's with multiple page ballots may need to purchase more blue bins, because of the multiple ballots.

Ballot accounting, make sure you remind the scanning unit judge, that a voter must use the same scanner for every page. Scanning Judges should scan second page.

Prince George's informed committee that they intended to submit a request to SBE to use extra BMD's because of the length of the ballot. Daneen suggested that if you have a multiple page ballot you may want to request more BMDs.

Anthony asked whether all 3 pages would fit on one ballot activation card. Daneen checked and all 3 pages of their ballot will fit on the 17" ballot activation card. It takes up approximately 2/3rds of the 17" ballot activation card.

The minutes should be prepared by Monday. Daneen will include the information from Anthony, Katie, Bob and Stuart as attachments.