



**Maryland Association of Election Officials  
Representing the Local Election Boards of the State of Maryland**

February 18, 2025  
MINUTES

A meeting of the Maryland Association of Election Officials (MAEO) was held virtually on the 18<sup>th</sup> day of February 2025. Notice of the meeting and the agenda were properly provided.

**OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Erin Perrone, President (Carroll County)  
Stephanie Taylor, Vice President (Harford County)  
Tae Frere, Treasurer (St. Mary's County)  
Barry Jackson, Board Member (Washington County)  
Jessica Noranbrock, Board Member (Dorchester County)  
Kimberly Phillips, Board Member (Baltimore County)  
Reider White II, Board Member (Anne Arundel County)  
Teresa Womble, Board Member (Howard County)

Absent: Abigail Goldman, Secretary (Baltimore City)

**CALL TO ORDER:**

President Erin Perrone called the meeting to order at 10:00 am. A quorum was established with 8 of the 9 board members present.

**MINUTES:**

The minutes of the January 21, 2025, meeting were presented. Ms. Tae Frere made a motion to accept the minutes. Ms. Teresa Womble seconded the minutes. The motion passed and the minutes were approved.

**ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA:**

None.

**PRESIDENTS REPORT:**

Ms. Perrone welcomed everyone and said there was a lot to cover in today's meeting.

## **TREASURER'S REPORT:**

Ms. Frere shared her screen and showed what amounts are in checking and what has been deposited. So far, ten (10) counties have paid dues. Ms. Frere informed the membership that she placed the Education Fund in its own asset fund, and that no money has been spent since the last meeting.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

Constitution and Bylaws – Mr. Richard Siejack stated the committee had a meeting last week and wanted to make sure the membership was aware that the deadline to submit any amendments is COB on March 3, 2025. They have not received any proposed amendments, but to email Mr. Siejack or Ms. Sheri Woodruff if anyone has any they'd like to submit. Ms. Woodruff stated that there are just some minor things that need to be cleaned up, but wouldn't require a vote at this time.

Election Judge – Ms. Olivia Smith stated that the committee held a meeting and are looking into standardizing election judge paperwork. They will be sending a spreadsheet to each county soon to see what paperwork is actually essential. Ms. Smith will also be holding a Google Classroom presentation for those interested in using the platform for election judge training and will be building a template for chapters 1 – 4 of the election judge manual. The committee will be looking into a program called "Election Worker" to see if it can be used to organize election workers. Mr. Barry Jackson asked when the email would be coming out and when the presentation will be. Ms. Smith said the email should be out this week or next, and the training presentation will be within the committee. Anyone on the committee and MAEO board members can join.

Elections – Mr. Justin Walls has spoken to the former chair and will be sending a meeting invite to the committee soon.

ETC – Mr. Reider White stated the committee met and talked about voting systems and the direction of the committee, they are setting up smaller groups within the committee and would like to bring in speakers from SBE, specifically Fred with AI. The committee is looking to offer trainings and will meet again in a couple weeks.

In Person Voting – Ms. Teresa Morningstar stated the committee had their first meeting on February 12. They discussed provisionals, SDR, provisional application revision, how instructions are interpreted differently from LBE to LBE, and revision of the provisional manual. They discussed more communications and the process of scanning and sending provisionals to each LBE. They also had some comments for voter outreach that were sent to Ms. Perrone to forward to that committee. Their next meeting will be on March 12 at 10:00 am. If anyone has any questions or concerns they can email Ms. Morningstar or Ms. Karen Perry.

Legislation – Mr. Stephen Feryus informed the membership that we are past the regular bill introduction deadline, and the committee has been busy submitting a lot of written testimony for hearings being held in the next couple of days. Mr. Feryus asked that if anyone was interested, they are possibly going to speak in person next Wednesday, the 26th, at the Senate's Education, Energy and Environment Committee hearing. Anyone interested in attending can email Mr. Feryus. There are three bills that have passed the House and are now in the Senate. One is about the formation of new political parties through the petition process. Another is a departmental bill about the mail in ballot permanent notice to voters. The third lowers the voter registration age from 16 years old to 15 years 9 months.

Ms. Perrone mentioned that during last week's legislative meeting, House Bill 308 was discussed and the committee decided to support that bill with an amendment. This bill is the 50-50 split of election judges by party. Ms. Perrone stated she spoke with Senator Simonaire last Friday and told him MAEO is planning to support the bill with an amendment. She explained to Senator Simonaire the amendment would be to allow us to hire election judges based on their party affiliation which is based on voter registration numbers in each county. Ms. Perrone stated that Senator Simonaire was reluctant to put an amendment in because this bill is very controversial, but he is willing to work with us in the interim. Ms. Perrone stated that MAEO should still support the bill with the amendment because that was the decision the committee made.

Local Board Committee – Mr. Guy Mickley informed the membership he'd been waiting to send his initial email out until he got all of the board presidents' contact information. He's received all but two. He is going to go ahead and send the email and is looking to schedule their first meeting by the end of February or beginning of March.

Newsletter – Ms. Jessica Noranbrock stated that the committee has been working on the next issue and recently extended a deadline to receive responses from LBEs. They've gotten quite a few, but there are still some they haven't heard from. They are hoping to have the next issue out in the next few weeks.

Personnel – Ms. Perrone stated the committee has held a meeting and that it was about the proposed new salary bands that SBE is proposing because they need to get a policy together. Ms. Perrone encouraged the membership to reach out if they have any topics or questions to discuss, to email herself or Ms. Tracy Dickerson.

Regulation and COMAR – Mr. Mickley stated that they haven't gotten anything to review from SBE, but they should have some stuff coming soon. As soon as they do he will hold a meeting.

Voter registration – Ms. Frere informed the membership that the committee held a meeting on the 13th and discussed the death letter instructions they received before the last election, and that there are supposed to be new ones coming out soon. Ms. Frere suggested that when scanning to other LBEs to please put in the comments what

you're scanning, and that if you've sent originals, please mark that you've already scanned it in. They also discussed a new label for the death letters that says "to the family of..." instead of just the name of the deceased. She also mentioned a printer problem that is still ongoing.

Voter Outreach – Mr. Isaac Nogueron stated that the committee will hold their first meeting this Friday. Ms. Perrone will forward them the voter outreach notes from the In-Person Voting Committee.

Website – Ms. Smith stated that the committee held a meeting and discussed the gameplan for the committee, and how each member will help update the website and change formatting to be ADA compliant. Once they have everything together they will present it to the board for approval.

## **OLD BUSINESS:**

2025 Conference:

Vote of Conference Theme – Ms. Perrone stated that there were 42 submissions for the conference theme and she thanked everyone who participated. Ms. Perrone asked how the voting process had been done in the past. Ms. Frere stated that normally they are in person and vote silently. Ms. Kim Phillips suggested that the board members send Ms. Perrone a text message with their top 3 choices and then she can announce the winner. The board agreed that was the best way and the conference theme winner was *Building Relationships, Building Trust*.

Discussion on Giveaway – Ms. Perrone stated that the conference committee came up with a rally towel, pins, and a beach towel for giveaways. The rally towel would have the outline of the state of Maryland on it and then each of the counties, MAEO and SBE would have pins. There was discussion of how popular "pin trades" were in the past and how much everyone enjoyed it. Ms. Perrone shared a picture from Ms. Dickerson of a bag and pins from a previous conference. Ms. Frere mentioned that Ms. Gail Hatfield would be getting some ideas together once we tell her what we want. Ms. Perrone stated that Ms. Hatfield will get samples to present to the board to be voted on, maybe red and yellow samples. Several members said they preferred the towel not be white. The option of a bag or lanyard were discussed, but it was decided that the rally towel would be the best option for the pins. Ms. Perrone stated that they also discussed pennants, shirts or jackets, but that they didn't want to have to worry about sizes this time around. The board voted yes to rally towels, pins, and beach towels.

Vendor Packet Approval – Ms. Hatfield asked that if anyone knows of a specific vendor they would like to be invited to the conference to email her. The Vendor Packet was presented to the board for approval. Ms. Stephanie Taylor motioned to approve the packet, seconded by Ms. Frere. The motion was unanimously approved.

Discussion on Menu – Ms. Taylor informed the board that the cost of food includes three breakfasts for the 6th, 7th and 8th. A continental breakfast for the 6th and 7th, and on the 8th there will be a Sunrise breakfast. The cost covers three lunches. A box lunch on the 6th and 8th, and pizza on the 7th. The cost covers two dinners on the 6th and 7th, the 8th is “on your own.” The total cost is \$103,523, which includes a 22% gratuity. Ms. Taylor will speak with Anna to see if she can give us any discounts anywhere. Ms. Taylor stated that Ms. Hatfield is going to see if any of the vendors wanted to sponsor anything. Ms. Gwen Dales asked about the crab feast. Ms. Perrone relayed that the conference committee decided not to have the crab feast because it was one mean that would cost \$20,000, and they felt it would be fiscally irresponsible. Mr. Frere stated that conference fees would have to be raised significantly in order to cover it.

Ms. Phillips asked if there was a description of the dinners. Ms. Taylor stated that the Italian dinner includes Caesar salad with dressing, garlic bread, prated parmesan, green beans, a pasta station to include penne, fettuccine alfredo and a bolognese, grilled chicken breast, Italian sausage and peppers, and meatballs. Ms. Womble asked about the other dinner. Ms. Taylor stated that it was basically the same thing but they can change it. There is an option called the Grand Favorite that includes chicken noodle and broccoli and cheddar soup, tossed salad, chicken cordonbleu with lemon, beef pot roast with herbs and root vegetables, mashed potatoes, seasonal vegetables and dinner rolls. This option is the same price as the others, we can change it so that we don't have two of the same thing. Ms. Perrone liked that idea. Ms. Phillips motioned for Ms. Taylor to proceed forward and to stay in the price range she gave us, seconded by Mr. White. The motion passed unanimously.

Tentative Agenda Review -

SBE Biennial – Sunday, 5/4 – 5/5

Ms. Perrone stated that by the end of the week we will have a tentative agenda out to everyone. As of right now, the Biennial starts at 4:00 pm on Sunday and Monday the 5th is a full day of the Biennial. Ms. Perrone reminded the membership that Board Members, Directors and Deputy Directors are required to attend.

MAEO Conference – Tuesday, 5/6 – 5/9

Ms. Perrone shared that the 6th, 7th and 8th are all full conference days, and the 9th there will be a MAEO meeting in the morning and the rest of the day is for travel.

Registration Form – Ms. Frere informed the board that with the cost of everything going up the committee discussed raising the registration fee to \$275, but that a one-day fee hadn't been decided upon. Ms. Frere said they were thinking maybe \$150 for the one-day rate, but that it was a different rate at the past three conferences. Ms. Taylor asked if there would be a separate rate for the Biennial. Ms. Frere stated that there would be, but that hasn't been set by SBE yet. Ms. Phillips asked for a cost breakdown for food each day. Mr. Barry Washington suggested using the most expensive day. Ms. Taylor stated that it was \$42,000 with gratuity. Mr. Mickley shared that the per person per day cost for food was \$140. He suggested adding \$25 for giveaways, for a

total one-day rate of \$165. Ms. Taylor suggested \$175. Ms. Phillips agreed that was a reasonable rate. Ms. Taylor motioned that the one-day rate be \$175, seconded by Ms. Phillips. The motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Kim Jones asked when reservations can be made at the hotels. Ms. Perrone stated that Jackie with The Grand is on vacation, but they will talk soon and let everyone know. Ms. Frere stated that the committee discussed whether the vendors should stay at the Hyatt or the Days Inn. Ms. Perrone shared that The Grand has 250 rooms, if 300 people are coming, we should block rooms at both hotels and have the vendors stay at the Hyatt. Ms. Phillips agreed.

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

Researching Independent Counsel – Ms. Perrone has reached out to several lawyers and councils, but they weren't able to point her in the right direction, so she is still working on it.

Establishing MAEO as an Official Recognized Organization - Ms. Perrone thought about MACo and how we are similar to them. She found out they are not a 501C but part of another section of the IRS code. Ms. Frere stated that it is a 115 which is something she needs to look into. It may be a better route than a 501C.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

Education Fund – Portion of Dues - Ms. Frere suggested raising the \$5 that comes from each registration fee to \$10 for the Education Fund. Ms. Phillips stated that this has been discussed before and that she doesn't disagree, but that builds a fund that some members can never take advantage of. Ms. Taylor stated that she was not comfortable with raising the fee to \$10. Ms. Frere asked how we can help the Education Fund. Ms. Phillips stated that in the past the committee has held silent auctions and 50/50 sales at conferences. Ms. Frere asked if a 50/50 can be more than \$500. Ms. Phillips stated that it can be more, Ms. Hatfield ran out of tickets and that's why it was only \$500. Ms. Womble asked if that was the event that was considered "gambling" or if she was thinking of something else. Ms. Perrone suggested that it was the bingo Ms. Womble was thinking of. There had to have been a permit to do that. Ms. Taylor suggested checking the county and city code to see if there is a permit needed for a 50/50 raffle. It was decided to leave the education fund fee at \$5, so no vote was needed. Ms. Womble clarified that the silent auction items are separate from the two door prizes each LBE brings.

Request from SBE – Pressure Sealers - Mr. White stated that Anne Arundel County is looking to replace their tabber with a pressure sealer. The only issue is that the margin on the VNCs is too wide to transfer their current stock to a pressure sealer. Mr. White has asked SBE to make a second version of the VNC. SBE will look into it if other LBEs would use it, as well. Ms. Perrone asked what a pressure sealer was. Mr. White informed her that it is a machine that when it folds the document it applies glue and heat to seal it. Mr. Mickley stated that Howard County is more than likely moving in this direction, but doesn't think it should go to SBE at this time. There will be a new

MDVOTERS system in 2030 and more counties may move towards a pressure sealer at that point, and right now there are ways around the margin issues. Mr. White wanted to point out that several counties are heading in that direction, so if there is support for it, maybe it can be done in the future. Ms. Taylor suggested bringing it up during the Biennial.

Letter to ES&S - BMD Cable - Ms. Perrone stated that at the next LBE/SBE Collaboration meeting, SBE may talk about the BMD cable issues; it's on their radar.

**OPEN FORUM:**

Ms. Perrone reminded everyone that timesheets are due, and wished everyone good luck with their manual audits.

**NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 18, 2025. It will be held virtually.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, on a motion made by Ms. Womble and seconded by Mr. Jackson. The meeting was adjourned at 11:45 am.

Respectfully submitted

Jessica Noranbrock  
MAEO Board Member

**ATTENDANCE:**

NAME	COUNTY
Erin Perrone	Carroll
Stephanie Taylor	Harford
Tae Frere	St. Mary's
Barry Jackson	Washington
Jessica Noranbrock	Dorchester
Kimberly Phillips	Baltimore County
Reider White II	Anne Arundel
Teresa Womble	Howard
Allison Murphy	Caroline
Amanda Beanblossom	Harford
Amber Ringhold	Harford
Barbara Wagner	Frederick
Barbara Salvatore	Harford
Brian Blakesley	Frederick
Brittany Phillips	Dorchester
Cheemoandia Blake	Kent
Cheyenne Richards	Anne Arundel
Chrissy Jones	Queen Anne's
Christine McDougal	Charles
Crystal McGinn	SBE
Cynthia Holland	Calvert
Daniel Callahan	Frederick
Daniel Oltman	Anne Arundel
Devin Jones	Anne Arundel
Diane Loibel	Allegany
Diane Zepp	Frederick
Donald Gaither	Anne Arundel
Donna Hacker	Talbot
Eduardo DeLima	Carroll
Erin Fee	SBE
Fallon Wilson	Frederick
Felicia Goodman	Wicomico
Gail Hatfield	Calvert
Gary Holmes	Cecil



Guy Mickley	Howard
Gwen Dales	Dorchester
Isaac Nogueron	Carroll
James Parr	Frederick
Jena Anthony	Queen Anne's
Jennifer Bartholow	Carroll
Jennifer Klem	Harford
Jennifer McLaughlin	SBE
Jeremy Levin	Frederick
Jessica Bobbitt	Washington
Joana Varela	Frederick
Karen Benecewicz	Cecil
Karen Perry	Harford
Katherine Berry	SBE
khalfani Blount	Frederick
Kim Jones	Dorchester
Kim Slacum	Anne Arundel
Kim Spence	Queen Anne's
Kimberly Durrant	Anne Arundel
Kristen Scott	Calvert
Kyle Durham	Queen Anne's
Lana Passey	Calvert
Larry Thomas	Talbot
Linda Miller	Anne Arundel
Lisa Nash	SBE
Loralyn Sisler	Harfold
MaryAnn Mogavero	SBE
Melissa Smith	Anne Arundel
Nicole Hill	Anne Arundel
Rebecca Browder	Anne Arundel
Rich Jerscheid	Anne Arundel
Richard Siejack	Anne Arundel
Rob Jaensch	Calvert
Robert Brady	Anne Arundel
Robert Millard	Frederick
Sarah Loar	Frederick
Sarah McAleavy	Frederick

Shari Moran	Calvert
Sheri Woodruff	Cecil
Sherie Nigh	Washington
Sloane Hurley	Dorchester
Stephen Feryus	Harford
Susan Julian	St. Mary's
Tammy Stafford	Talbot
Teresa Morningstar	Washington
Theresa Mulhearn	Calvert
Tiffany Ferrell	Howard
Tim Keith	Calvert
Tom Coogan	Frederick
Toni Beard	Frederick
Toya McJunkin	Anne Arundel
Veronica Fox	Wicomico
Wendy Maddox	Allegany
Zsaim Williams	Howard