

Announcements & Important Meetings

Mr. DeMarinis and Ms. Berry have attended various meetings with other Federal and State agencies to learn more about how we can form partnerships moving forward.

Ms. Berry will assume the role of representing Maryland on the Election Assistance Commission Standards Board along with Mr. Mickley, the Local Board of Election representative from Howard County.

On October 2, Mr. DeMarinis issued a press release for Domestic Violence Awareness month. He highlighted the voter confidentiality program at SBE.

On October 19, SBE held its biennial conference at the Doubletree Hotel in Annapolis. It is mandatory attendance for local election directors, board members and counsel. Thank you for the many SBE staff members who assisted in putting it together. And of course, a thank you to Governor Moore and Speaker Jones for kicking off the conference with welcoming remarks.

In October, Mr. DeMarinis has toured and visited the offices and warehouses of the following local boards: Garrett, Allegany, Baltimore City and Calvert. He is over halfway done with visiting every local board.

Human Resources

New Hires and Promotions:

Verona Williams officially joined the agency on October 4th, in the role of Director of Finance & Administration.

Justin Boyd formerly worked as a temp worker for 22ndCentury and has now joined us in the role of Election Program Asst I position in Baltimore County. He started on October 4th.

Donald Gaither has been promoted to the position of Election Program Supervisor I in Anne Arundel County. He started his new duties on October 4th.

Ashira Martin has been hired in the position of Election Program Asst I for Cecil County. Her start date is October 18.

Nancy Yeager joins the Baltimore County Board of Elections in the role of Election Program Asst I. Her start date is October 18.

Jasmine Barnette has been promoted for the position of Election Program IT Specialist II in Cecil County. She starts on October 18.

Robert Brady from Anne Arundel County has recently accepted the position of Election Program Supervisor I, he will start working in his new role on October 18.

Erin Perrone has been selected as Election Director for the Carroll County Board of Elections.

Allen Norfleet has been hired as the Director of Candidacy and Campaign Finance. He will begin on November 1. Mr. Norfleet has an extensive background in campaign finance and formerly worked at the Federal Election Commission.

Departures:

Christina Lohr-Beatty will be departing SBE on November 1, 2023. She works in Human Resources.

Election Directors' Meeting

No meeting was held in October.

Election Reform & Management

Text to Cure:

SBE staff have commenced work to implement a State-wide text to cure solution for curing mail-in ballots to meet the new legal requirements of 2023 MGA SB379/HB535. SBE, the Montgomery County Board of Elections, and the vendor, Global Mobile, piloted the program last election cycle. SBE will draw on that experience to offer the option to all Marylanders who need to cure their ballots in 2024.

Mail-In Ballot Applications:

Uncodified bill language in 2021 MGA SB683/HB1048 required SBE to mail Mail-In Ballot (MIB) Applications to all registered voters who are already not signed up to receive a MIB in 2022 and again in 2024. After a competitive bid process, and pending Board of Public Works approval, the 2024 MIB Application Mailer contract has been awarded to Art & Negative, a Lanham, MD-based MBE. Over 3.5 million Maryland voters will be mailed the MIB Application in 2024.

Voting Locations Review and Approval:

Election Reform and Management is focused on reviewing submissions from the local boards for approval of locations for ballot drop boxes, early voting centers, and election day polling locations. The staff anticipates reviewing nearly 100 early voting center locations, approximately 300 drop boxes, and over 1500 election day polling locations in advance of the 2024 elections. Early voting centers were due on October 16, 2023. Dropbox proposals are due November 13, 2023. Polling Place Plans, which are a new requirement of 2023 MGA HB410, are due on November 17, 2023.

Election Judge Recruitment

Our [Election Judge and Page webpage](#) is updated for the 2024 election. A link to our online applications and the local boards is included. As of October 10th, 92 additional people signed up using that link, making our total number of interested applicants (beginning this January) to 1,424. Vet the Vote, a group that encourages veterans to serve, sent us a list of 1,228 applicants. We have also started receiving and distributing lists totaling 359 applicants to the local boards from Power the Polls. Power the Polls was our leading source of applicants last election cycle. These non-profit groups collaborate with large coalitions of businesses, organizations, and individuals to promote election judge recruitment. They also maintain lists of people that have expressed interest in serving from the past several years while they collect and forward lists of those of people that indicate they are still interested. Lastly, an Election Judge Recruitment Toolkit has been drafted in response to the 2023 MGA HB1200 that requires SBE to create marketing materials for the local boards of elections. Those materials are under final review and should be available to the LBEs soon.

Outreach Efforts

On October 12, 2023 Crystal McGinn, SBE's Election Reform and Management Administrator, attended a State Hiring Event at the Baltimore Armory with approximately 3,000 pre-registered attendees. She provided information on serving as an election judge in Maryland and had a QR code available for those who wanted to sign up to serve via our online website. She received a lot of positive feedback from potential new judges eager to serve as well as judges that had previously served. Several new applicants signed up to be election judges that day, and many others expressed interest in signing up at a later date.

Provisional Ballot Application Update

Upon finalizing the contract for the new provisional ballot application procurement, SBE has ordered samples of the new application. The form underwent a redesign last year to make it easier for voters to understand and for election judges to use. The samples will be used to train the LBEs on the new form.

Voter Registration

Baltimore City Redistricting

Baltimore City will redraw city council lines this election cycle. The redistricting rebalances representation to reflect 2020 census data, and is expected to be complete sometime in November 2023. The Baltimore City Board of Elections will make changes to ward lines to reflect the updated city council lines. SBE will support Baltimore City in this effort and perform a post-redistricting audit, similar to the statewide audit performed in 2022.

MDVOTERS

The 9.4 version release of MDVOTERS will occur on November 10th. The release focuses on the election judge module enhancements, as well as some minor voter registration and candidacy improvements. Upcoming development will focus on continued implementation of 2023 MGA HB1200, by creating a flag for elections judges who are eligible for bonus pay for having served prior to this election cycle.

High Speed Sorter Integration:

To date, seven counties have procured the high speed sorting solution to receive and sort mail-in ballots. The MDVOTERS team will meet with the local boards of elections on October 24, 2023, to discuss how SBE can best support the implementation of the solution. Among topics to cover is the development of enhanced MDVOTERS capabilities for the high speed envelope sorting solution.

MDVOTERS Audits

Monthly audits of voter registration data continue to verify compliance with federal and State laws governing voter registration. The monthly audits include review of the local boards of elections' processing of ERIC reports, Department of Health's death records, AOC felony records, and the processing of overall voter registration records. Follow up continues to be conducted with the local boards to ensure all corrections are completed and to address any training issues. General training sessions for LBE staff will continue in January, and will be held periodically throughout the rest of the 2024 calendar year.

Electronic Registration Information Center (ERIC)

Maryland receives ERIC data on a monthly basis. On even-numbered months (February, April, etc.) we receive the In-State Updates, Cross-State, and NCOA (National Change of Address) reports for processing. Odd months we receive In-State Duplicate and Social Security Administration Death files for processing. For the September 2023 ERIC reports, the In-State Duplicate report was released to the local boards on 9/28/2023 and processing was completed on 10/4/2023. The Social Security Administration Death file report was released to the local boards on 9/18/2023 and processing was due to be completed on 9/27/2023. Further, ERIC held their 2023 Annual ERIC Membership Meeting on September 28, 2023, which was open to the public, and provided important updates on ERIC activities.

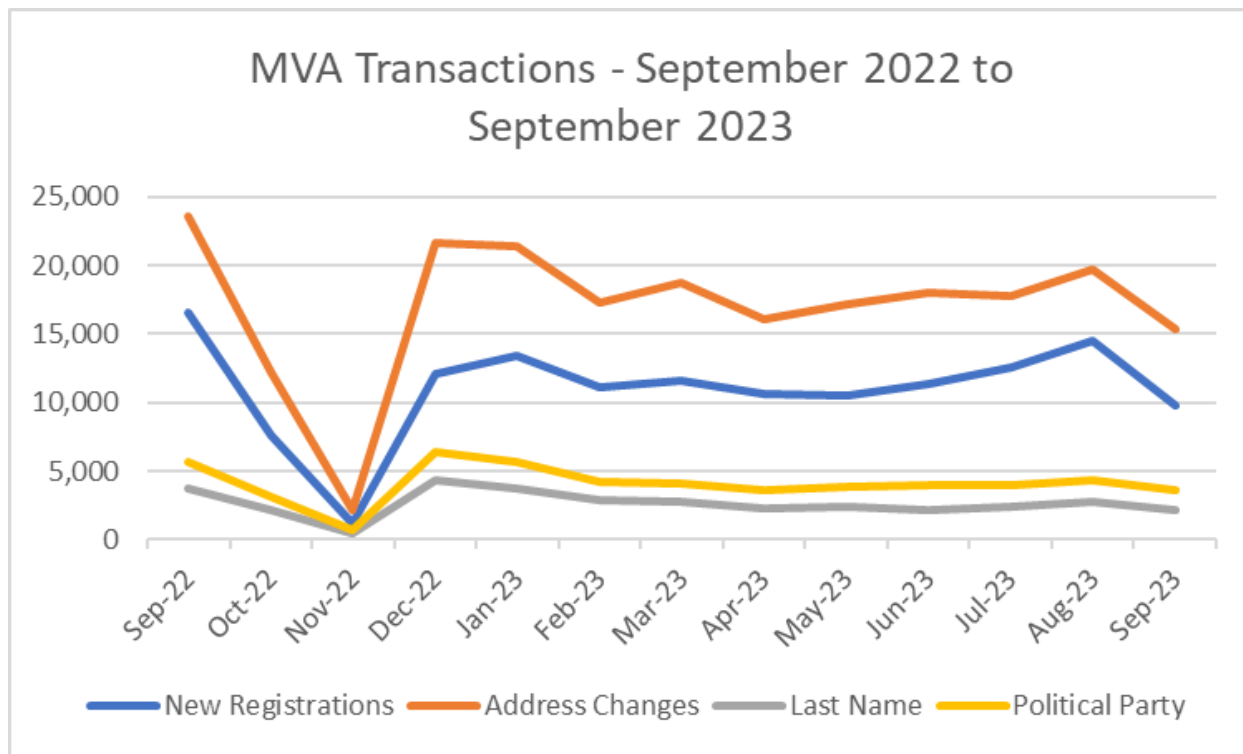
Additionally, the ERIC Voter Participation Project (VPP) has commenced and SBE is currently working through the reports received. This project identifies voters who may have attempted to vote more than one time or who may be deceased with voting credit on their record. SBE is still conducting meetings with other states to review the cross-state report to identify individuals who potentially voted in two states. This program supplements the existing processes used by SBE. The project is set to be completed by December 31, 2023.

Motor Vehicle Administration (MVA) Transactions

During September 2023, MVA collected the following voter registration transactions:

New Registration - 9,812 Residential Address Changes - 15,396
Last Name Changes - 2,123 Political Party - 3,624

Last 13 Months of MVA Transactions - Chart:



MVA Transactions - Monthly Changes:

	New Registrations	Address Changes	Last Name	Political Party
Aug-2023				
Month-to-Month - Change	13.2%	9.7%	12.7%	8.9%
Same Month - 2 Years Ago - Change	16.6%	-16.8%	-9.5%	-16.7%

Sep-2023

Month-to-Month - Change	-47.7%	-28.3%	-33.1%	-21.1%
Same Month - 2 Years Ago - Change	-7.8%	-30.4%	-26.4%	-21.9%

Current Total Registered Voters

As of October 17, 2023, there were 4,166,458 active voters in Maryland.

Candidacy and Campaign Finance (CCF) Division

Campaign Finance

The candidacy filings are scheduled by appointment, and as of October 23th, 43 candidates have filed at SBE.

Public Financing

Baltimore City public financing commission is still waiting for 4 more appointments from the City Council President, 1 is awaiting final confirmation to join the 6 confirmed committee members. To date, 2 candidates have filed a notice of intent to participate.

Mr. DeMarinis is scheduled to meet with Prince George's Fair Election Fund Commission in November.

Website Activity

In September 2023, the MD Campaign Reporting Information System (MD CRIS) website was visited by 414,408 individuals for an average of 13,813 per day. Additionally, it had 3,289,985 hits. Each viewer looked at an average of approximately 7.36 page views per day. The Business Contribution Disclosure System (BCDS) website had 865,777 hits, with 188,880 visitors with an average of nearly 4.20 page views per day.

Enforcement

Listed below are the recent enforcement actions from September 2023. Total amount collected for September was \$7,200:

1. The Talbot Integrity Project, Inc \$4500; Failure to File 48 Hour Report
2. Fleckenstein, Thomas Friends Of \$500; Failure to record expenditures, failure to Maintain Records and Contributions
3. Clark, Gerald Friends Of \$200; Making Cash Disbursements greater \$25
4. Hartman, Wayne Friends of \$200; Making Cash Disbursements greater \$25
5. Schuh, Steve Citizens To Elect of \$500; Failure to Maintain Records
6. Stepp, Dave for Talbot County Council of \$200; Making Cash Disbursements greater \$25
7. Murtha, Troy for County Council \$200; Making Cash Disbursements greater \$25
8. Kelly, Ariana Friends of \$700; Failure to maintain campaign records, Failure to record contributions & expenditures
9. Hartman, Wayne Friends of \$200; Making Cash Disbursements greater \$25

Information Systems, Technology and Security

New Pollbook Solution Project

The new pollbook solution will now be implemented for the 2026 election cycle. Statewide Integration testing is scheduled to be completed by mid-December 2023 with user acceptance testing continuing through December 2024.

New Pollbook Contingency Plan Progress

SBE's pollbook project contingency plan for the 2024 election was initiated when the nogo decision was made on September 8, 2023. The contingency is to conduct the 2024 election as in previous years utilizing the existing EZRoster pollbooks. This requires procurement of a contract extension with the existing pollbook vendor which is presented in the procurement section of this report.

New Voting System (NVS) Project

The NVS project officially kicked off as of October 16, 2023 with the onboarding of the contractual Project Manager, Bill Williams. Bill will manage the project management team in the development and issuance of the New Voting System RFP.

New Campaign Reporting Information System (NCRIS) Project

The NCRIS project is in the process of interviewing contractual Project Manager candidates with the goal of kicking off the project to acquire an off-the-shelf Campaign Reporting Information System. The goal is to have a Project manager in place by November 1, 2023 to manage the project team in the development of the NCRIS Request for Proposals which is scheduled to be released by 03/31/2025.

Cybersecurity Project Team

SBE's Security Operations Center is in place and provides one of several sources of independent threat monitoring and managed security services for SBEs election systems. SBE's CIO has met with the State CISO and the State's Senior Advisor for Responsible Artificial Intelligence to ensure SBE is in alignment with State cybersecurity and AI policy.

Procurement

In Development:

The Election Support Resources Task Order Request for Proposals (TORFP) draft using the CATS Plus master contract offered by DoIT is currently with the Office of State Procurement (OSP) for review and permission to release to the authorized master contractors. The Task Order includes a wide variety of labor categories to offer IT, warehouse support, pollbook, MDVOTERS and other IT support. It is a Small Business Reserve (SBR) designated contract with a 30% Minority Business Enterprise (MBE) goal. Contract #: D38B4600002. DoIT has approved the draft and it is currently with the Office of State Procurement (OSP) for review.

The Document Scanning Solution RFP #D38B4600008 is in development. This RFP addresses the statutory requirement of SBE "to receive, maintain and serve as a depository for elections documents, material, records, statistics, reports, certificates, proclamations, and other information prescribed by law or regulation (EL 2-102(b)(10).) SBE shall manage and supervise elections in the State and ensure compliance with the requirements of State and federal law." Via this RFP, SBE is seeking a solution to comprehensively capture (scan), index, tag and OCR (full text) all of the records, historic paper and electronic into a robust document management system; and provide workflow mechanisms eliminating or reducing paperwork, providing secure information accessible to authorized personnel at their fingertips.

Under Review:

The Mail in Ballot Application Printing Request for Proposals intent to award to Art and Negative Graphics, a Maryland based company, has been sent. SBE received 6 proposals for review. The cost for

the base period and both option periods is \$3,293,149. Contract #D38B3600009. This award is slated for the 11/29/2023 BPW Agenda.

Recently Awarded:

Independent Automated Post-Election Audit Method 2024 and 2026 Elections. Clear Ballot Group of Boston, MA will provide their proprietary independent, automated solution to verify accuracy of State's voting system. Specifically, Clear Ballot Group will conduct a Statewide audit of all ballot images tabulated in 2024 Primary and General Elections for the base period, and perform the same services in the 2026 Primary and General Elections if the option period is exercised. The services include preparing software to tabulate all election-cycle ballot combinations; tabulating images of all voted ballots; comparing results from the voting system to the results from audit software; and providing a web-based portal for the public to review the ballot tabulation audit results. Cost for Base Period: \$ 962,510, Cost for Option Period: \$1,081,635. Contract # D38B460001. BPW approved the award on 9/6/2023.

Provisional Ballot Application Printing: RR Donnelley and Sons of Chevy Chase, MD will provide printed provisional ballot applications and deliver to 24 Local Boards of Elections (LBEs) and the State Board of Elections (for 25 locations total). The base period will cover the 2024 Election Cycle and the Option Periods will cover the 2026 and 2028 Election Cycles. Cost for Base Period: \$262,320, Cost for Option Period #1: \$330,300, Cost for Option Period #2: \$416,826.32. Scheduled for award approval at the 9/20/2023 BPW Meeting.

Option Renewals:

Maryland Voter Registration Data Center Hosting (MDVOTERS IV): The second option period for the contract was approved at the 9/6/2023 BPW meeting. Koniag Services (a certified MBE) provides Data Center (DC) hosting services, including hardware, network administration, and DC migration/relocation services. Koniag also provides management and operations of the Continuity of Operations Center (COOP) data center located in Texas. The option period duration is from 1/1/2024- 12/31/2025 and the cost of the 2nd option period is \$3,568,074.35. Contract # is D38B4600003.

Ballot Packet Printing and Mailing: The first option period for the Ballot Packet Printing and Mailing contract is scheduled for approval at the 10/25/2023 BPW meeting. Taylor Visual and Print Services. This also includes a modification to add postage expenses to the contract so that SBE can use the vendor's postage permit instead of SBE's (no additional cost and increased efficiency to do so). The option period duration is 1/1/2024- 12/31/2025 and the cost of the 1st option period is \$3,047,867. The contract # is D38B4600005.

Voter Education Campaign: The first option period for the Voter Education Campaign was approved at the 9/20/2023 BPW meeting. KO Public Affairs will develop, implement, and oversee a broad, Statewide public awareness campaign to encourage individuals to verify accuracy of registration data and inform individuals of available voting options. The 1st option period covers the 2024 election cycle and the cost of the option period is: \$1,405,000. The contract # is D38B4600004.

EZ Roster Software License and ExpressPoll Hardware Repair Services: The first and only available option period, otherwise known as SBE's pollbook project contingency plan, is on the 10/25/2023 BPW Agenda. Under this contract ES&S provides EZRoster software license and custom development hours for the current inventory of electronic pollbooks used Statewide. The custom development services for the EZ Roster software is for Maryland specific development. The license and development hours are necessary for the usage and maintenance of the State's ePollbook inventory as well as conducting the 2024 Presidential Election cycle. The amount of the option period is \$641,900. SBE also executed a

modification to the base period of the contract in September, 2023 to add a quantity of 6,550 Complementary Metal-Oxide Semiconductor (CMOS) batteries. CMOS batteries have a 5-year life span and the units currently installed in the electronic pollbooks were last replaced in the 2017-2018 period.

Other Procurements:

Election supply orders and ASL as well as written translation procurement planning commenced Friday October 13, 2023. The supplies include tamper tape, pollbook paper rolls, voter authority cards, extended hours envelopes, temporary wheelchair ramps for polling places, handicap signs and cones, I Voted Stickers, Voter Update Forms, and various provisional supply and absentee bags. SBE and the LBEs have two types of language related services provided as well: onsite interpreting and written translations. The planning phase for these procurements was also discussed October 13, 2023. The planning phase includes surveying the local boards to determine quantities required.

Demtech Unit Claim- SBE's Procurement Director is working with our AAG to provide him with relevant documents for the unit claim against Demtech including costs of implementing the contingency plan with ES&S

Project Management Office (PMO)

Central Warehouse

The warehouse team continued its work, providing support for the Pollbook Project team and the testing and other work efforts for the new pollbook equipment being performed by the vendor and members of the pollbook team at the Central Warehouse.

SBE is still awaiting an update from the Department of General Services (DGS) Real Estate Division concerning the receipt of a proposal from the Central Warehouse landlord. The receipt of the proposal is one of the pre-negotiation phase tasks for an expected new facility lease scheduled to start on February 1, 2025.

Equipment and Supply Inventory

Work continues on the reconciliation of inventory in order to make sure all items are accounted for in the inventory system. In addition, efforts are underway to dispose, following the State of Maryland's requirements, of equipment and furniture currently located at the Central Warehouse.

Records Inventory

Work continues on the development of Request for Proposal (RFP) for an SBE document management system solution. The proposal will be sent out for SBE internal reviews prior to it being submitted to the Office of State Procurement. It is estimated that the RFP will go out for bids either in the fourth quarter of this calendar year or first quarter of next year.

Other

The 2023 Annual SBE and Local Board facility survey report was completed and submitted to the State's Insurance Division.

Local Board News

All LBEs are actively involved in finalizing their early voting center plans, polling place plans and

beginning to schedule election judge training.

MAEO has initiated an Election Director mentorship program. They have started this forum to communicate and learn from each other.

Calvert County hosted an election judge appreciation dinner for election judges who have worked at least 2 elections since 2018. They gave out certificates for people who served 5 and 10 years, plaques for people who served 10-20 years and proclamations from the commissioners, delegates and senators for people with over 25 years serving as an election judge. 8 people were recognized for serving over 25 years with the longest serving individual being 38 years.

Cecil County is beginning conversations with the high schools to implement the Page Program for the first time.

Exercise of Delegated Duties

We will use this section of the Administrator's Report to report when we have exercised duties assigned to the State Board of Elections but delegated to the Administrator and staff.

Since the last Administrator's Report:

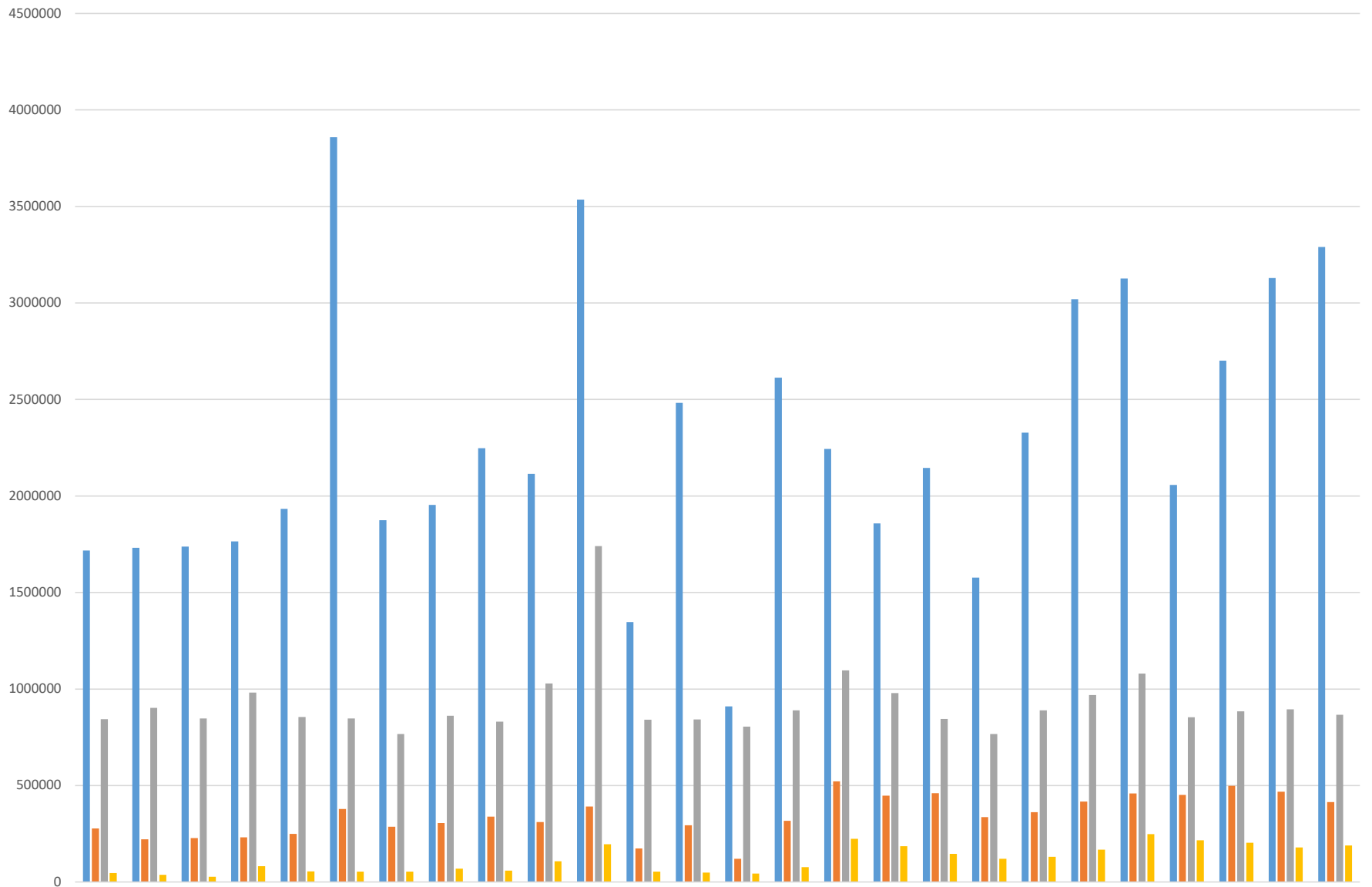
No delegated duties were exercised.

The following delegated duties were exercised.

Monthly Website Reports

	MD CRIS		BCDS	
	Hits	Visitors	Hits	Visitors
Aug 21	1717943	277559	843804	46246
Sep 21	1731341	221065	901924	37699
Oct 21	1738511	228468	847869	26351
Nov 21	1764448	231406	982301	81960
Dec 21	1933719	249973	854746	55422
Jan 22	3858569	377681	847325	54311
Feb 22	1875200	286836	766892	54514
Mar 22	1953545	305773	861441	68306
Apr 22	2247288	339042	830584	58420
May 22	2114443	309792	1029799	108346
Jun 22	3534868	391460	1739894	195923
Jul 22	1346807	173867	841630	54808
Aug 22	2482376	293554	841902	48187
Sep 22	910176	120209	804860	44364
Oct 22	2613011	317798	889961	76763
Nov 22	2243599	522267	1096336	223845
Dec 22	1858575	446813	979090	185611
Jan 23	2144567	460023	844476	145444
Feb 23	1576534	336337	766345	120409
Mar 23	2328193	361674	889463	130217
Apr 23	3019462	416532	968701	167481
May 23	3126096	459358	1080100	248877
Jun 23	2056733	451153	853346	216863
Jul 23	2700964	498231	884301	202876
Aug 23	3128726	468069	894767	178815
Sep 23	3289985	414408	865777	188880

MD CRIS and BCDS Monthly Website Reports



■ MD CRIS Hits ■ MD CRIS Visitors ■ BCDS Hits ■ BCDS Visitors

ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL'S REPORT

October 26, 2023

1. *Gibson, et al. v. Frederick County*, No. 23-1369 (4th Cir.) On July 5, 2022, Lois Ann Gibson and plaintiff-organizations filed suit against Maryland entities seeking injunctive relief. The complaint alleges that 22 jurisdictions in Maryland engaged in a RICO conspiracy with a Chicago non-profit organization to fund election fraud. The suit seeks a preliminary injunction enjoining the destruction of records of the 2020 Presidential Election. Under federal law, the records of the 2020 election were to be retained until September 3, 2022.

On December 16, 2022, the district court granted motions to dismiss as to all defendants and closed the case.

On January 13, 2023, plaintiffs filed a motion to amend or alter the judgment of dismissal under Federal Rule 59(e). The district court denied the motion to amend on March 29, 2023. The plaintiffs thereafter noted an appeal to the Fourth Circuit on April 1, 2023.

After multiple motions to postpone, the Gibson plaintiffs filed their appellants' brief on July 31, 2023. OAG filed Appellees' Brief on behalf of all Appellees on August 30, 2023. Appellant's Reply Brief is currently due to the Court on October 31, 2023.