

Announcements & Important Meetings

September 19 was National Voter Registration Day. National Voter Registration Day is an annual nonpartisan event held each year on the third Tuesday of September composed of coordinated efforts by over 4,000 national and community partners from all across the country working to raise awareness of voter registration resources and opportunities. As the nation's largest nonpartisan civic holiday, it has facilitated over 5 million voter registrations since 2012. On September 19th alone, Maryland saw an approximate 475% increase from our daily average of online voter registration additions during non-election years. National Voter Registration Day is endorsed by the National Association of Secretaries of State, National Association of State Election Directors, the U.S. Election Assistance Commission, and the National Association of Election Officials.

As the new State Administrator, I have made it a goal to visit every local board of elections and their warehouses by November. I have visited 9 local boards (Anne Arundel, Howard, Wicomico, Worcester, Dorchester, Cecil, Harford, Frederick and Charles counties). The visits have been very enlightening. There is a definite need for standardization and regulations for warehouse space. The increased lines of communication between the locals and the State help ensure we are functioning as one unit. I have told the locals no daylight between SBE and the LBEs. I want to thank the regionals and Russel Hicks for organizing the tour. I plan to continue site visits in off election years.

Mis-, Mal and Disinformation is a major threat to the credibility to our electoral process and administration. Recent news stories have shown that that it has spread especially among citizens where English isn't their first language. I have expanded our efforts to include Spanish and Chinese language in our attempts to combat disinformation. I want to thank Delegate Qi for facilitating the translation of terms in Chinese.

On September 13, the Chair, Ms. Berry and I met with the Ways and Means Committee for a meet and greet. This meeting was at the invitation of Chair Atterberry. It was a pleasant meeting discussing the current vision and direction at the State Board.

On September 15, Ms. Berry and I spoke at the September MAEO in Frederick. The meeting was attended by Ms. Magevero, Ms. McGinn, Ms. Rohden, and Mr. Komp.

Welcome

Human Resources

New Hires and Promotions:

Katherine Berry is the new Deputy Administrator effective 9/6/2023. Katherine began her career in elections in 2006 as an Elections Clerk for the Carroll County Board of Elections and eventually became an Election Supervisor in the office until 2015. In 2015, she was selected as the Election Director for the Carroll County Board of Elections and has served in that capacity until this recent promotion. In her time at the local board, she served on the Maryland Association of Election Officials (MAEO) Board of Directors from 2011-2015 serving as chair of various committees. Most notably, she served on the MAEO Legislative Committee since 2014 assuming the role as Chair in 2021 and the MAEO State Regulation Review Committee beginning in 2020. She was the recipient of the MAEO Antonetti Award in 2019 and 2023 in recognition of her dedication to MAEO and the Maryland election process. In 2022,

Katherine was selected to join the Local Leadership Council with the Election Assistance Commission and has spent her time collaborating and meeting other local election officials across the country. She is a graduate of McDaniel College with a degree in Sociology/Criminal Justice and minor in Political Science.

Cyril (CJ) Komp is the new Director of Special Projects at SBE effective 9/6/2023. Cyril is a recent graduate from a PhD program in a humanities discipline at the University of Georgia, where he also worked as an Instructor in UGA's Franklin College of Arts and Sciences, and as a Teaching Assistant in the Writing Intensive Program. During his last year of dissertation writing, he chose to enter public service by working for the Athens-Clarke County Board of Elections in Athens, Georgia. There, he found a passion for elections while working with a dedicated team, inspiring him to pursue a career in elections following a move to Baltimore with his family.

Natasha Walker is SBE's Acting Director of Voting Systems effective 9/13/2023. Natasha will be filling the vacancy left by Shafiq Satterfield and will report to SBE's Chief Information Officer (CIO), Fred Brechbiel. Natasha's appointment comes as a result of her outstanding dedication and exemplary contributions to the SBE team over the past two decades. Her extensive experience in elections, coupled with her close collaboration with Shafiq, uniquely positions her to excel in her new role. Natasha has been an integral part of our organization, deeply involved in all aspects of our current voting system since its inception in 2016.

Verona Williams is the new Director of Budget and Finance effective 10/4/2023. Ms. Williams has been working at the Department of Corrections as the Chief Fiscal Officer since 2014. She has provided supervision for all of the financial operations. She has directed and developed accounting policies and procedures to maintain Internal Controls.

Justin Boyd will be working at the Baltimore County Board of Elections as an Election Program Asst. I effective 10/4/2023.

Sarah Hall was hired as an Election Program Specialist I in Washington County effective 9/6/2023

Corey Green received a promotion at the Washington County Board of Elections. He is an Election Program Supervisor I effective 9/20/2023

Cynthia Remmey currently works at the Cecil County Board of Elections. She received a promotion to work at the Baltimore County Board of Elections as an Election Program Manager I effective 10/4/2023.

Cassie Mathias is a new Senior Assistant State Prosecutor at the Maryland Office of the State Prosecutor, where she is focusing on election integrity. Prior to this position, Cassie spent six years at the Maryland U.S. Attorney's Office. At the U.S. Attorney's Office, she investigated and prosecuted cases involving violent and organized crime and money laundering. She also led the Bank Secrecy Act Task Force. In addition, Cassie served as an Assistant Attorney General in the Organized Crime Unit. Cassie also spent time in Washington D.C. serving as an associate at King & Spalding's Government Investigations and Special Matters unit. She is a graduate of the University of Pennsylvania and Harvard Law School.

Election Directors' Meeting

There was an election director's meeting on September 21, 2023. We reviewed upcoming action items including preparation for disaster recovery plans, polling place plans, early voting center plans and drop box plans. An update on the pollbook project and procurement also occurred.

Election Reform & Management

U.S. Election Assistance Commission's (EAC) 2022 Election Administration and Voting Report

The EAC released the 2022 Election Administration and Voting Survey - a comprehensive resource containing election administration data from 50 states, U.S. territories, and the District of Columbia. The report provides information on voter registration, UOCAVA voters, mail-in, early, and Election Day voting, and election technology. We will continue with the EAC on future EAVS reporting and other needs as they arise during this election cycle.

Sample Ballot Template

We worked with the Center for Civic Design to develop a new sample ballot template for the local boards. We believe it will help enhance readability and usability.

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 August 30, the number of election judges signed up using that link was 138. Local boards customarily begin focusing more on their recruitment efforts after Labor Day. The 2023 General Assembly passed House Bill 1200 that not only increased the pay of election judges but included a bonus for returning judges. It seems to have the positive desired outcome. For example, in Frederick County, as of September 15, 532 election judges have been recruited of which 427 are returning (81%).

Outreach Efforts

We will continue to work with non-profit groups such as Power the Polls, Vet the Vote and the University of Maryland to promote election judge recruitment. In addition to increasing our media presence with additional ads and postings, we are developing a toolkit to enhance and support the recruitment efforts of the LBEs. Local Boards will be conducting recruitment at schools, fairs and community events.

Election Judge Training

Most of the election judge training materials and election day information has been updated and provided to the local boards of elections. We appreciate the time and effort of the Election Judge Workgroup to review and assist with the production of these materials.

Election Judge Online Training

The Election Judge online training is in the final stages of production. A rollout meeting will be conducted to provide an overview of the module for the local boards in October.

Voter Registration

MDVOTERS

The 9.3 version release of MDVOTERS will occur on September 22, 2023. The release focuses on candidacy and campaign finance and election judge module enhancements, cosmetic changes, and report updates.

Surrendered License Mailer

In June 2023, SBE mailed out address verification letters to approximately 14,000 individuals who surrendered their driver's license to an out of state authority. Returned mailings with forwarding information are being sent to the LBEs for NVRA processing. Currently, SBE has processed and completed 1,166 voter registration cancellations from confirmations that the individuals have moved out of state.

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. ERIC will hold their 2023 Annual ERIC Membership Meeting on September 28, 2023, which will be open to the public, to provide 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.

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 continue this month, and will be held periodically throughout the rest of the calendar year.

Motor Vehicle Administration (MVA) Transactions

During August, MVA collected the following voter registration transactions:

New Registration - 14,490 Residential Address Changes - 19,746
Last Name Changes - 2,825 Political Party - 4,390

	New Registration	Address Changes	Last Name	Political Party
Aug-2023				
Month-to-Month Change	13.2%	9.7%	12.7%	8.9%
Same Month Previous Year Change	-29.8%	-34.5%	-41.5%	-36.0%

Current Total Registered Voters

As of September 20, 2023, there were 4,160,099 active voters in Maryland.

Candidacy and Campaign Finance (CCF) Division

Campaign Finance

The candidacy filings are scheduled by appointment, and as of 37 candidates have filed at SBE.

Public Financing

Baltimore City public financing commission is still waiting for 5 more appointments. To date, 1 candidate has filed a notice of intent to participate.

Website Activity

In August 2023, the MD Campaign Reporting Information System (MD CRIS) website was visited by 468,069 individuals for an average of 15,099 per day. Additionally, it had 3,128,726 hits. Each viewer looked at an average of approximately 5.85 page views per day. The Business Contribution Disclosure System (BCDS) website had 894,767 hits, with 178,815 visitors with an average of nearly 4.57 page views per day.

Enforcement

Listed below are the recent enforcement actions from August 2023. Total amount collected for August was \$16,800:

1. Amaya, Ruben Friends of; \$200, Making a Cash Disbursement greater than \$25
2. Brewer, Thomas Friends of; \$200, Disbursement by Unauthorized Method
3. Montague, Chelsea for Commissioner At Large; \$50, Failure to Maintain Campaign Bank Account
4. Somerset County Democratic Central Committee; \$500, Failure to maintain Campaign Records
5. Slaughenhaupt, Evan Citizens To Elect; \$500, Failure to maintain Campaign Records
6. Patchell, George Committee to Elect; \$500, Failure to maintain records
7. Rizvi, Shahan The People for; \$500, Failure to maintain records
8. Levi, Gerron Committee for; \$800, Failure to Record Contributions & Expenditures; Failure to Maintain Campaign Records
9. Smith, Taiwan, (T.J.) Friends of; \$100, Failure to record contributions and expenditures
10. Rajaratnam, Liset Friends of; \$50, Failure to maintain a bank account
11. Lepley, Lori Citizens for; \$200, Making a Cash Disbursement greater than \$25
12. Marcos, Brian (Boris) Friends of; \$500., Failure to maintain records
13. Morgan, Bilton for Sheriff; \$200, Making a Cash Disbursement greater than \$25
14. 1199 SEIU NYS Political Action Fund, \$12,000, Failure to timely file disclosure reports

New Pollbook Solution

On September 8, after receiving the recommendation from the pollbook project management team, project management, technical management, and the LBE subcommittee, it was my decision to utilize the current existing pollbooks for the 2024 election cycle (primary and general election). This decision is based on the initial test results of the final EPollTab/Merlin/CenterPoint build delivered on August 25, 2023 which have definitively shown that the solution does not yet meet the requirements for a minimum viable product suitable for use in a statewide Maryland election.

This decision does not mean the project is being abandoned. The expectation is for DemTech to continue delivering iterative releases toward a viable solution that meets all Maryland requirements. SBE also expects Demtech to continue working on all other tasks currently underway including but not limited to the preparation and configuration of the new hardware and software to ship to local boards for statewide integration testing and mock elections as soon as possible.

Although this is disappointing for all parties concerned, this is also our opportunity to push forward and get DemTech's pollbook solution completed, tested, and accepted before the end of the calendar year and be ready for use in 2025 and 2026.

Procurement

In Development:

The Election Support Resources Task Order Request for Proposals (TORFP) using the CATS Plus master contract offered by DoIT is in the final stages of development. Once finalized, SBE's Procurement Director will send the document and attachments to DoIT and 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.

Under Review:

The Mail in Ballot Application Printing Request for Proposals is in the financial evaluation phase (August 31, 2023). SBE received 6 proposals for review. The cost estimate is \$3-\$4M for the base period and both option periods. Contract # D38B3600009.

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 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 voting system to the results from audit software; and providing a web-based portal for 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 9/20/2023 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 is scheduled for approval 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.

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

SBE submitted the two annual equipment and supply inventory reports to DGS.

Records Inventory

Work continues on the development of Request for Proposal (RFP) for an SBE document management system solution. It is estimated that the RFP will go out for bids either fourth quarter of this calendar year or first quarter of next year.

Other

Managing the project for the pickup and disposal of expired COVID-19 hand sanitizer containers from SBE and several LBE facilities. There is an active solicitation for bids for this hazardous waste requirement.

Local Board News

Baltimore City is preparing for local redistricting. Legislation will be enacted during the 2024 General Assembly session.

Allegany County, Baltimore City, Baltimore County, Carroll County, Dorchester County and Talbot County are working to relocate their offices and/or warehouses before and after the 2024 election cycle.

Carroll County is working through a recruitment to fill the vacant Election Director position.

All counties are actively working to communicate with previous election judges and outreach efforts to recruit new election judges.

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.

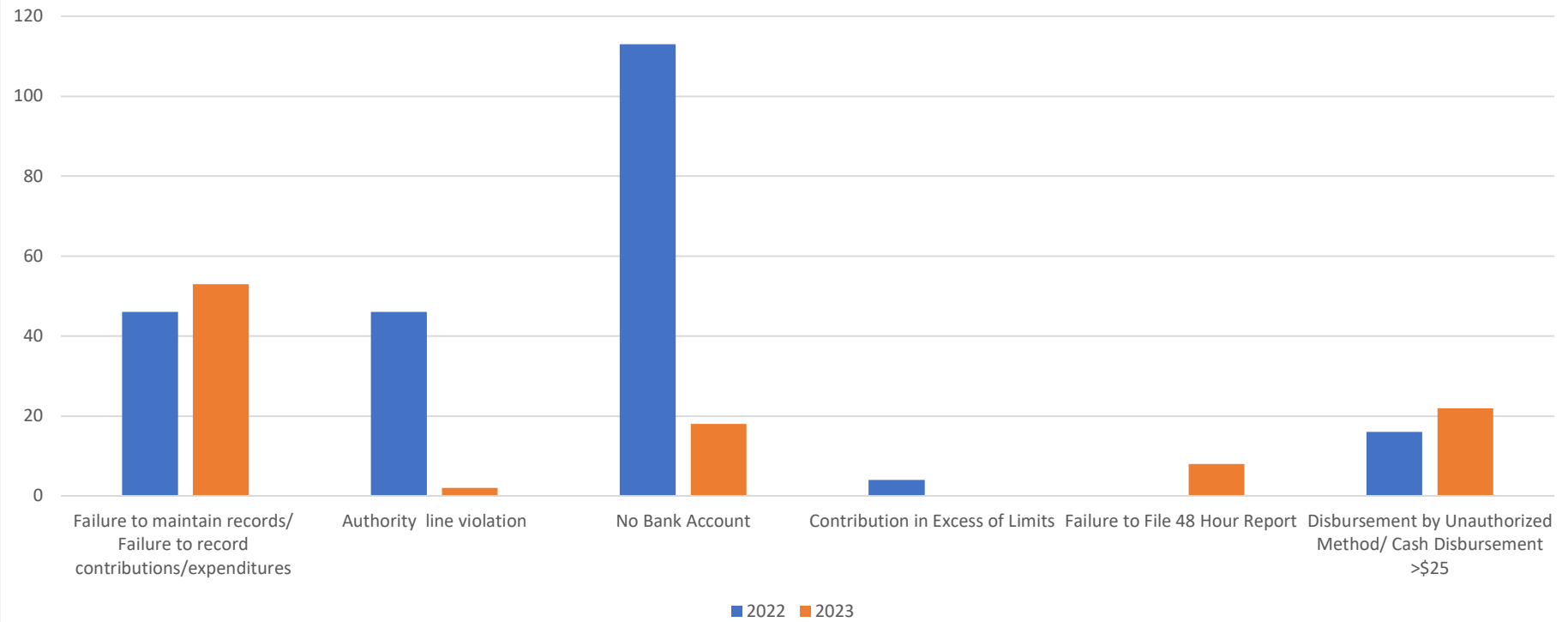
Since the last Administrator's Report:

_____ No delegated duties were exercised.

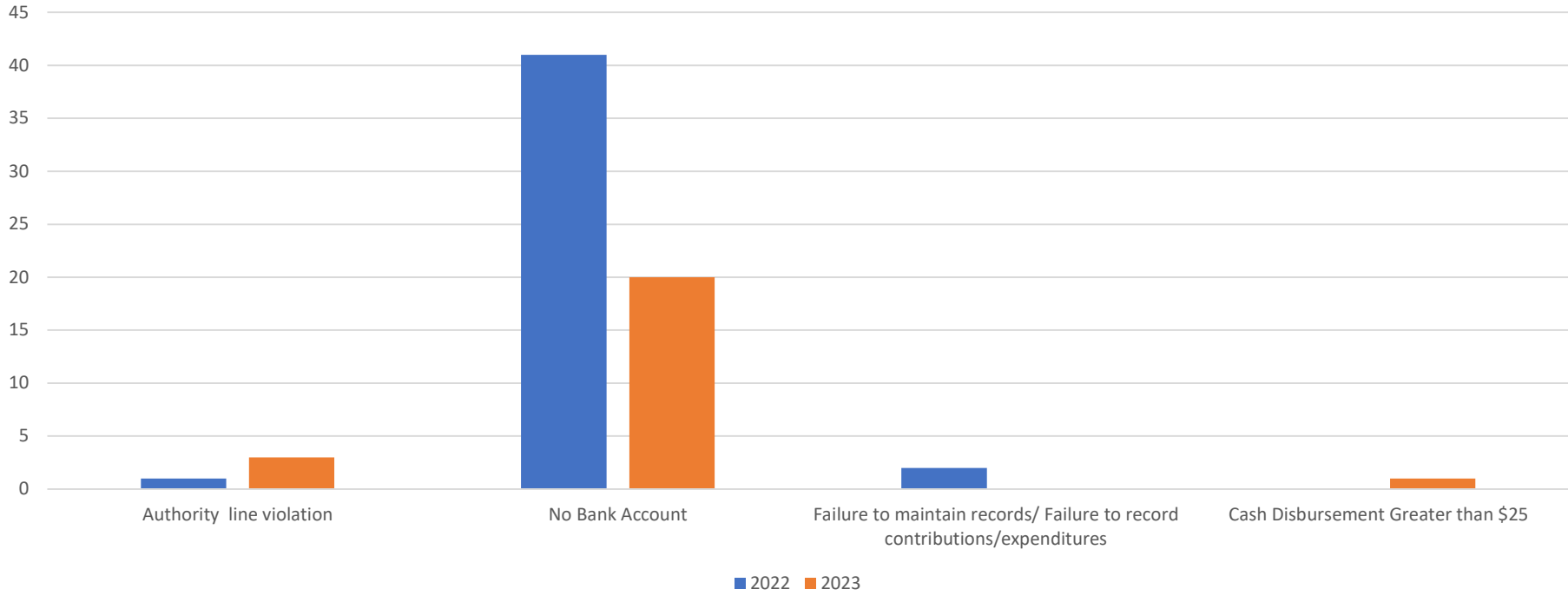
_____ The following delegated duties were exercised.

	2022		YTD 2023	
	Quantity	Amount	Quantity	Amount
Collected				
Failure to maintain records/ Failure to record contributions/expenditures	46	\$ 20,750.00	53	\$ 27,050.00
Authority line violation	46	\$ 4,625.00	2	\$ 100.00
No Bank Account	113	\$ 5,550.00	18	\$ 950.00
Contribution in Excess of Limits	4	\$ 500.00	0	\$ -
Failure to File 48 Hour Report	0	\$ -	8	\$ 103,100.00
Disbursement by Unauthorized Method/ Cash Disbursement >\$25	16	\$ 2,950.00	22	\$ 5,750.00
Waived				
Authority line violation	1	\$ 250.00	3	\$ 350.00
No Bank Account	41	\$ 2,050.00	20	\$ 1,000.00
Failure to maintain records/ Failure to record contributions/expenditures	2	\$ 1,600.00	0	\$ -
Cash Disbursement Greater than \$25	0	\$ -	1	\$ -
Outstanding				
Failure to maintain records/ Failure to record contributions/expenditures	1	\$ 100.00	6	\$ 2,700.00
Authority line violation	2	\$ 750.00	0	\$ -
No Bank Account	13	\$ 650.00	7	\$ 350.00
Failure to File 48 Hour Report	0	\$ -	2	\$ 33,900.00
Disbursement by Unauthorized Method/ Cash Disbursement >\$25	0	\$ -	6	\$ 1,400.00
	285	\$ 39,775.00	148	\$ 176,650.00

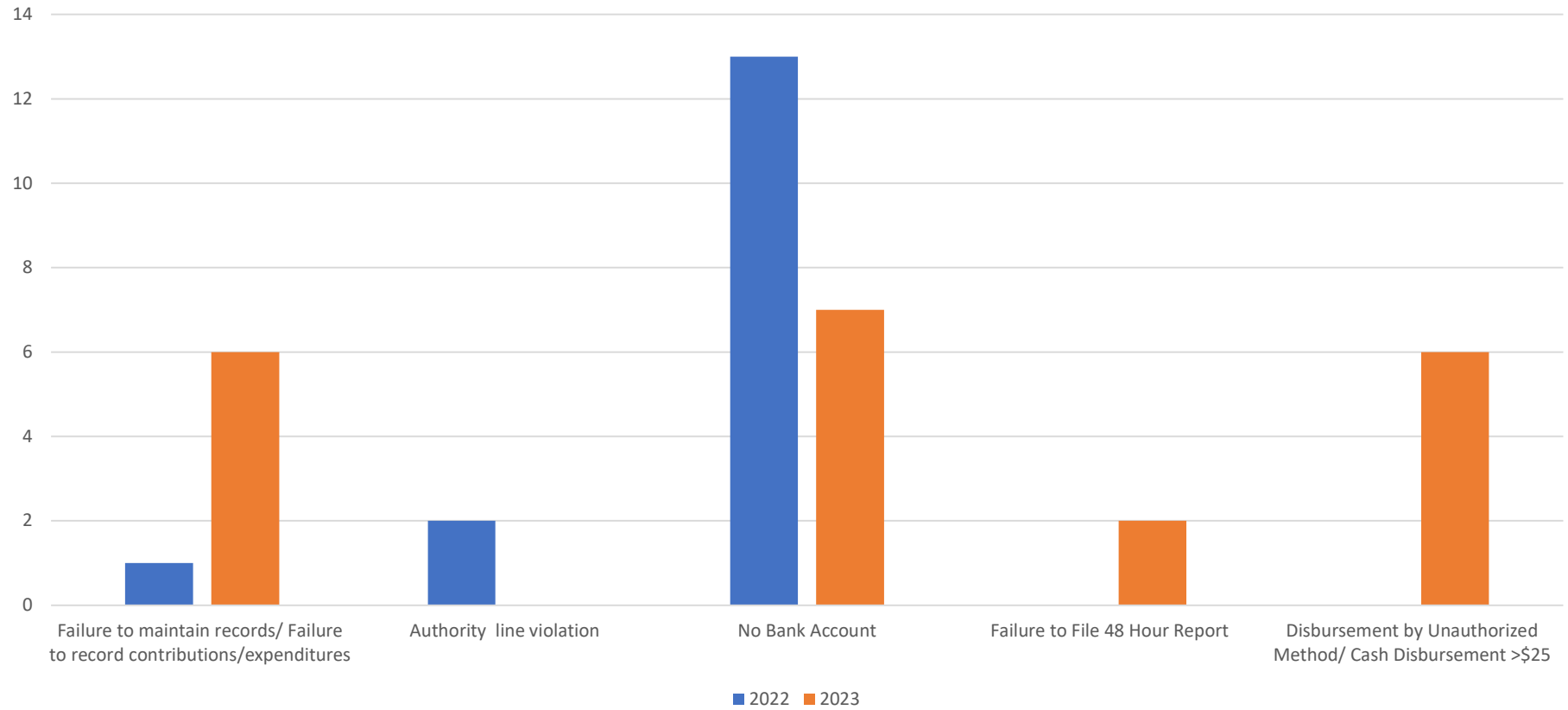
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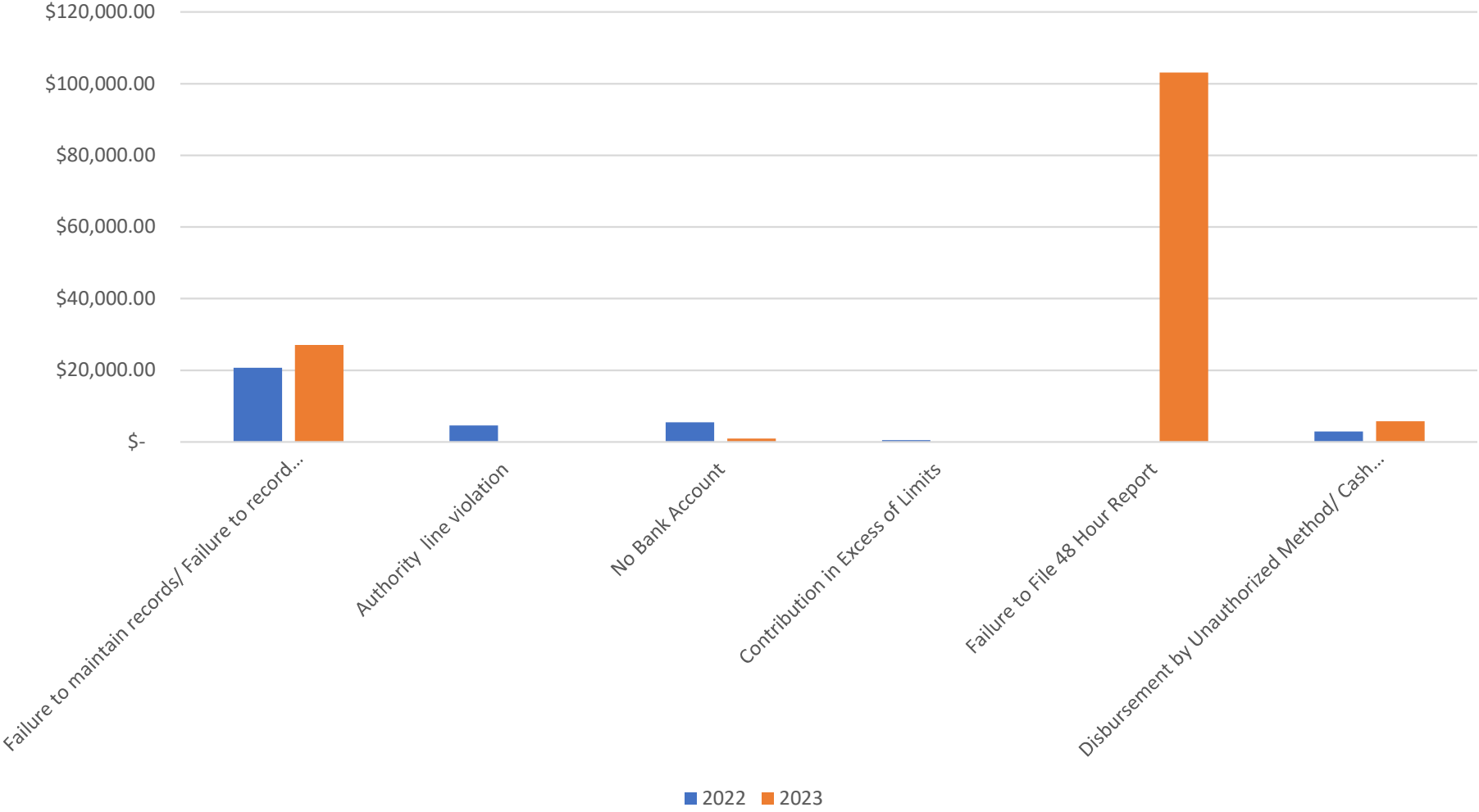
Waived



Outstanding



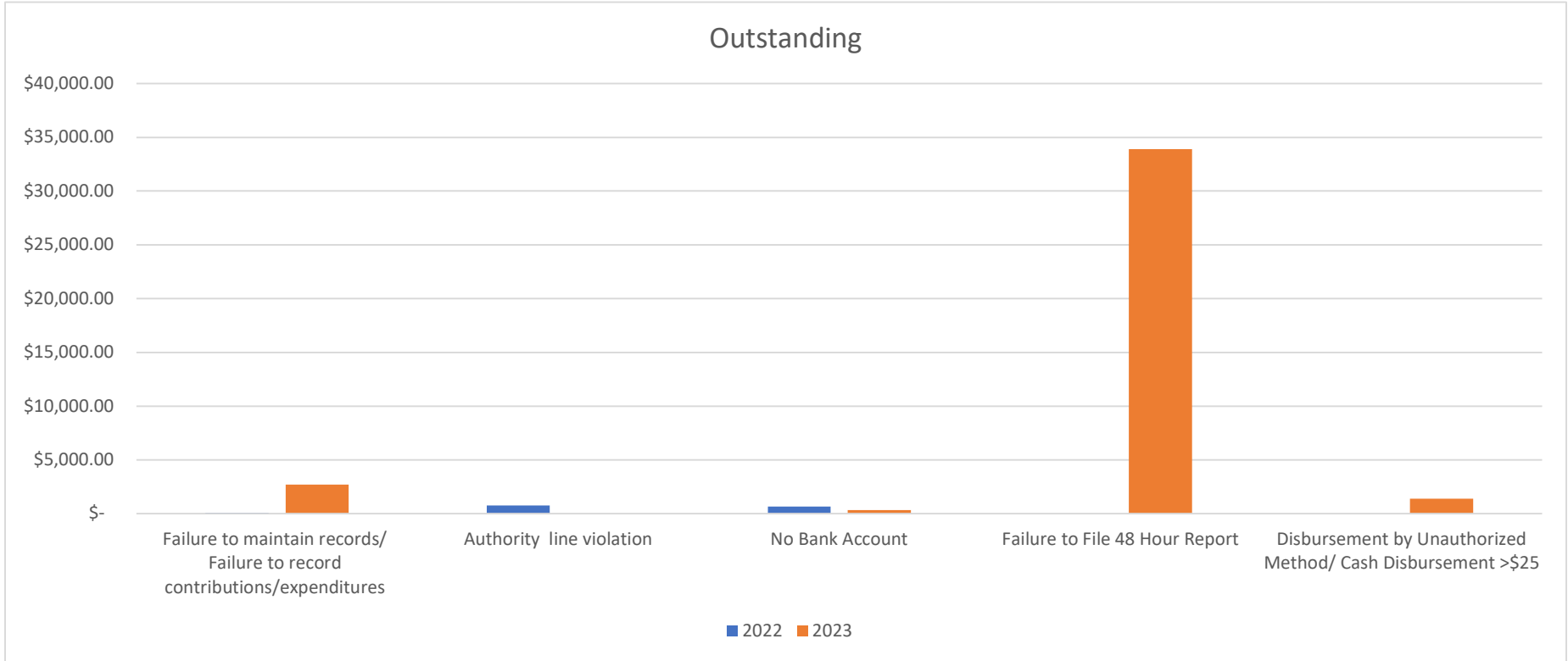
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Waived



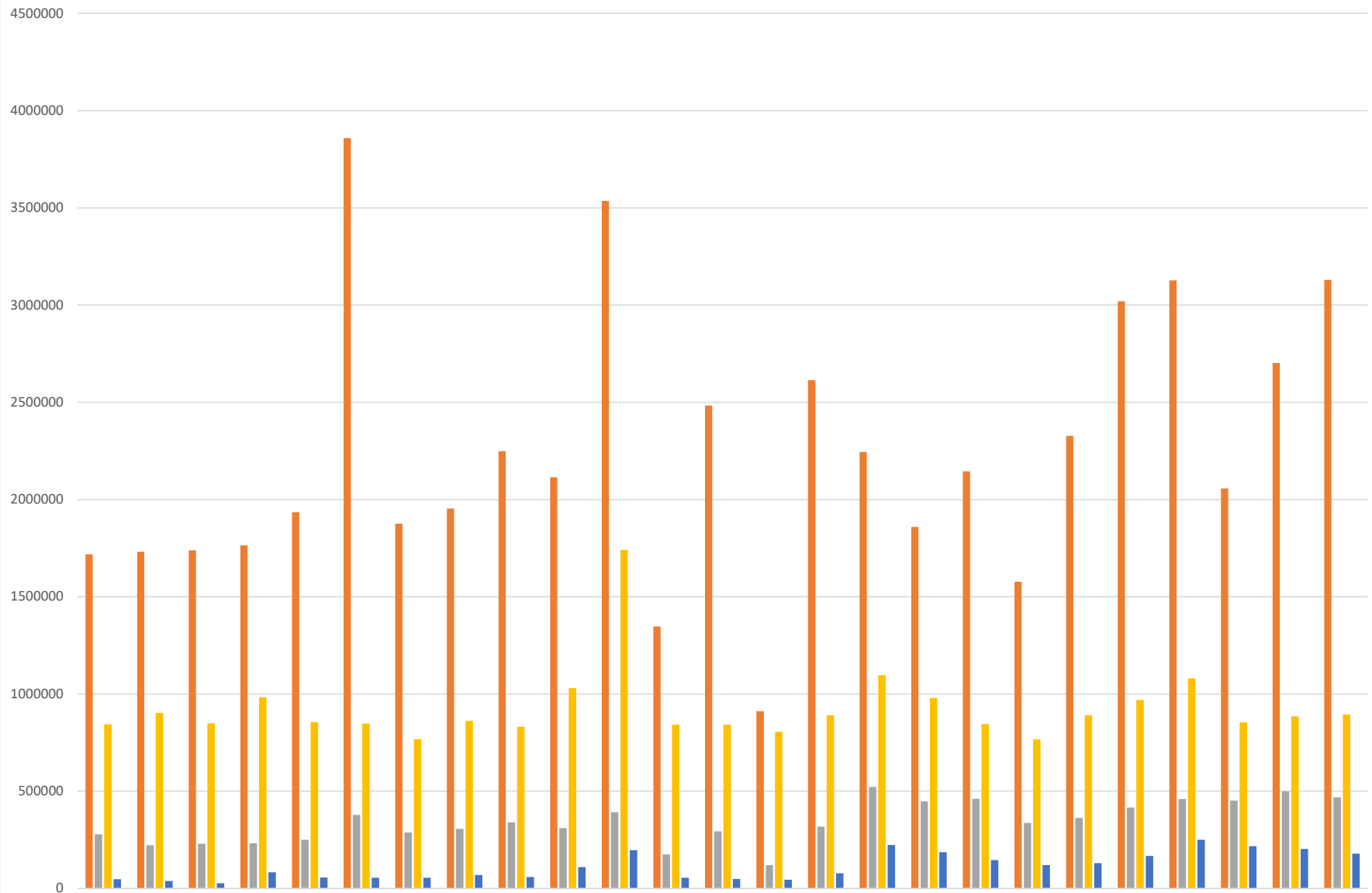
Outstanding



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

MD CRIS and BCDS Monthly Website Reports



MD CRIS Hits MD CRIS Visitors BCDS Hits BCDS Visitors

ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL'S REPORT

September 28, 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.

2. *Johnson v. Hogan*, 8:22-CV-02250-TDC (D. Md.) On September 7, 2022, Thomas P. Johnson filed a complaint challenging the constitutionality of Election Law § 5-706. Mr. Johnson ran during the 2022 Gubernatorial Primary for a seat on the circuit court bench in Montgomery County. He lost that race. Mr. Johnson then sought to file a certificate of candidacy as a write-in candidate for that same office for the general election but was informed by SBE staff that he was ineligible to run pursuant to Election Law § 5-607(b)(2). The law prohibits anyone who has lost a primary election from running in the following general election as a write-in candidate.

The complaint alleges that § 5-706 unconstitutionally prevents Mr. Johnson from campaigning as a write-in candidate. It seeks injunctive relief allowing Mr. Johnson to file a certificate of candidacy as a write-in candidate.

The Office of the Attorney General filed a motion opposing injunctive relief on behalf of Governor Hogan, the sole named defendant, on September 21, 2022. Mr. Johnson filed a response to the OAG opposition on September 23, 2022. The court conducted a

hearing on the matter on October 4, 2022. Thereafter, on October 13, 2022, the federal district court issued an order denying Mr. Johnson injunctive relief.

OAG will be filing a motion to dismiss the case outright in the coming weeks. Per local rules, counsel has filed a letter of intent to file a motion to dismiss with the federal court. OAG is awaiting a response from the Court for leave to file its motion.