DECLARATION OF QUORUM PRESENT
Chairman Walker called the meeting to order at 2:32 pm and declared that a quorum was present.

APPROVAL OF THE PRIOR BOARD MEETING MINUTES
The minutes of the June 3, 2010, board meeting were presented for approval. Mr. McManus made a motion to approve the minutes, and Ms. McGuckian seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT
1. Announcements
   Personnel
   Ms. Lamone reported that Rick Fowlie recently joined SBE as the new procurement officer. Rick most recently worked for the University of Maryland, College Park, where he had similar procurement responsibilities. We look forward to working with Rick and welcome him to the elections world.

   James Courtney, who provided technical assistance to the voter registration and electronic pollbook projects, has left SBE for a new job. A hiring freeze exception request was submitted last week. To date the request has not been granted.

2. Meetings and Important Dates
   U.S. Election Assistance Commission’s (EAC) Board of Advisors
   Ms. Lamone reported that as a member of the Board of Advisors she attended the annual meeting in Washington, D.C. from June 16th – 18th. Members were provided an update on the EAC’s testing and certification programs, a review of research, grants, and other projects being conducted by the EAC, and information on various other topics. A summary of the meeting was provided to members in their folders.

   Meeting with Counsel and Representatives of Political Parties and Gubernatorial Campaigns
   As in past years, a meeting of the attorneys for the political parties and gubernatorial candidates was convened on June 28th. Ms. Lamone reported that during the meeting she provided an overview of early voting and information that will be available to the campaigns throughout early voting. She also briefed them on SBE’s new regulations. Jeff Darsie provided information on campaign sign placement and recent advice from his office on the 100 ft. no electioneering zone. Jared DeMarinis reviewed the permissible uses of administrative funds contributed to political parties. Finally, Ms. Lamone noted that this meeting has proven to be a good method to exchange information, keep all parties informed, and open the lines of communication. Ms. Lamone also informed the attendees that in the event of a lawsuit involving SBE, venue must be in Anne Arundel County.
EAC’s Technical Guidelines Development Committee (TGDC)
Ms. Lamone reported that as a member of the TGDC, she attended the meeting on July 8th and 9th. At this meeting, the members of the TGDC were briefed on the Federal Voting Assistance Program’s 2010 activities, received updates from the TGDC’s four working groups – UOCAVA, Auditability, Accessibility and Usability Requirements, and Marginal Marks Benchmark Research, and updates on prior TGDC resolutions. A summary of the meeting was provided to members in their folders.

Citizens’ Forum
Ms. Lamone reported that the first Citizens’ Forum was held on July 15th in this office at 6p.m. The late meeting time was to accommodate working individuals. There were thirteen individuals in attendance representing a variety of different voter and disability advocacy groups. In addition, four representatives of local boards of elections were in attendance as was Bobbie Mack from our board.

During the meeting staff provided an overview of early voting plans and requested assistance in helping inform the public of early voting. Staff also outlined the early voting and election day voting system contingency plans and provided an overview of the online absentee ballot delivery system that is being implemented this year in conjunction with the University of Maryland. There was a lot of discussion about the absentee ballot delivery system including its security and the administrative impact of the LBEs having to re-mark the voter’s ballot onto an official ballot that can be scanned. Another topic of discussion was the SBE Post Election Audit Project conducted for Pew. Staff presented an overview of the project and the audit steps it proposed. Finally, there was an opportunity for input and questions from the attendees. Topics included questions about the voting system, polling place accessibility and a discussion of steps being taken to correct non-compliant polling places, and plans for procuring and implementing a new voting system.

Generally attendees seemed pleased about the meeting and the opportunity to have direct dialogue on these topics. A second meeting will be held in December of this year.

National Association of State Election Directors (NASED)
Ms. Lamone reported that she attended NASED’s summer meeting from July 18th – 20th. At this conference, state election officials received briefings from the EAC, U.S. Department of Justice, and Congressional staff members. I gave a presentation on Maryland’s implementation of the Military and Overseas Voters Empowerment (MOVE) Act and highlighted the State’s new absentee ballot delivery system. Other highlights included the Department of Justice’s attention to the National Voter Registration Act and how state agencies are meeting the requirements to offer clients the opportunity to register to vote. A summary of the meeting was provided to members in their folders.

Election Directors’ Meeting
Ms. Lamone reported that there was an election directors’ meeting on Tuesday, July 20th. During this meeting, staff informed the election directors about the requirement that all voting units must be repaired before the primary election, the software upgrade for the electronic pollbooks, ballot style loading into and printing of absentee labels from MDVOTERS, the estimated date that ballots are expected, and FY2011 service reduction days. A summary of the meeting was provided to members in their folders.

EAC’s Standards Board
Ms. Lamone reported that the Standards Board met via a “virtual” meeting on Tuesday, July 27th. Ms. Trella attended the meeting. At this meeting, the state and local election officials who serve on the Standards Board received updates from the various divisions of the EAC (Grants, Research, Policy and Programs, Voting Systems) and NIST on the work of the TGDC. The next meeting of the Standards Board is scheduled for February 2011.

Conference Calls for LBE Counsel
Ms. Lamone reported that several conference calls for the counsel to the local boards of elections have been scheduled. During these calls, staff highlights new information or information that we think will be useful to them for the upcoming election and answer their questions. The pre-election conference calls are scheduled for August 11th and 25th and September 8th. Pre-general election conference calls will be scheduled after the primary election.

3. Election Reform & Management

MOVE Act
Ms. Lamone reported that under the MOVE Act, election officials are required to mail – no later than 45 days before an election – absentee ballots to certain military and overseas voters. The federal law acknowledges that there might be circumstances where this is not possible and established a process for requesting a waiver
of the mailing deadline. Because of the election calendar for the 2010 election cycle (only 48 days between primary election day and general election day), the State will not be able to comply with this requirement. As a result, SBE submitted last week a request for a waiver of the 45-day mailing requirement, a copy of which was provided in the meeting folder. Mr. Thomann noted that Colorado and twelve other states had also filed the waiver. In response to a question from Mr. McManus, Ms. Trella stated that in the request for a waiver, SBE stated that ballots would be sent no later than October 15th, which is 18 days before the election. It was also noted that in the general election a timely post marked ballot does not have to be received until the second Friday following the election.

Administrative Complaints
Earlier this month, SBE received two administrative complaints challenging the residency of two registered voters who also happen to be candidates for office. One complaint challenged the residency of a candidate for State Senate (District 34), and the other challenged the residency of a candidate for the 5th Councilmanic District in Baltimore County.

Under the administrative complaint process, an individual can file an administrative complaint if s/he feels aggrieved by an action of a local board regarding voter registration. While both complainants alleged that the addresses at which these candidates are registered to vote are not their residences, they also asserted that they should not be permitted to be a candidate for the office for which they have filed.

There is, however, a provision in the Election Law Article that specifically deals with challenging the residency of a candidate. Section 5-305 sets forth an expedited judicial process for challenging the residency of a candidate. The deadline to file under § 5-305 is 9 weeks before the election – which was Tuesday, July 13th for the primary election.

Both complainants were advised that the appropriate vehicle to challenge the residences of these candidates is the process established in § 5-305 and that the administrative complaint process could only address the voter's/candidate's residence for voter registration purposes. After internal discussions and consulting with counsel, Ms. Trella advised both complainants that the administrative complaint process is not the appropriate process to challenge the residency of a candidate and reiterated the process established by § 5-305. One of the complainants filed in the Harford County Circuit Court a lawsuit under § 5-305. After an expedited hearing, the court ruled against the plaintiff, and the plaintiff chose not to appeal the decision. Ms. Lamone noted that SBE was added to the case in the event that the outcome required an order for SBE to make change to the ballots.

Online Absentee Ballot Delivery System
Ms. Lamone reported that, this enhancement to SBE’s voter look-up website is complete and will be used to deliver absentee ballots for the 2010 Primary Election to voters who request an electronic absentee ballot. Ms. Trella hosted three demonstrations for the local boards of elections to attend and ask questions. A copy of the PowerPoint presentation was provided in the meeting folder.

Election Judges’ Manual & Training
Ms. Lamone reported that Rick Urps has approved the election judges’ manual for all local boards. Five local boards, however, have not yet submitted their early voting supplement; these local boards are Howard, Montgomery, Prince George’s, Talbot, and Wicomico Counties. The local boards have been reminded to submit their early voting supplement for review and approval. Mr. Urps has also observed two election judges’ classes (Charles and Washington Counties) and intends to observe four more (Frederick, Montgomery, Prince George’s, and Wicomico County).

Improving Accessibility for Voters with Disabilities
Mr. Urps has also been using the State’s federal funds to improve access to the electoral process for voters with disabilities to make polling places more accessible. Since election officials cannot generally make permanent improvements to polling places, the local boards request certain items that temporarily improve accessibility on election day. The items Mr. Urps has purchased – on behalf of the local boards – include: (1) accessible parking signs and temporary sign posts; accessible entrance signs for early voting centers; (3) parking cones to mark accessible parking spaces; (4) equipment to determine the accessibility of polling places (distance measuring wheel, door pressure gauge), (5) accessible voting booths for provisional voters; (6) portable “door bells” for voters to use to call for assistance from outside the polling place; and (7) sign language interpreting services for election judges.
Voter Outreach for Early Voting
Ms. Lamone reported that SBE’s election support services contract with Cirdan Group includes the production and distribution of voter outreach materials for early voting. Cirdan Group has subcontracted this part of the contract to gkv, a Baltimore-based public relations and design firm. A creative team from gkv presented several themes for early voting and included mock-up brochures, fliers, posters, early voting center banners, billboards, TV and radio spots, and a website. We ultimately decided on a theme of “This election, the first choice you’ll make is which day to vote.” Production of these materials is underway, and the local boards will be responsible for distributing them. At the request of several local boards, gkv will be assisting with the placement of radio, TV, and print ads. Sample outreach materials were provided in the meeting folder. In response to a question by Mr. McManus, Ms. Trella reported that SBE had approximately $230,000 for the outreach campaign. Ms. Duncan noted generally a statewide voter outreach campaign costs over $500,000.

Absentee Ballot Automation
Ms. Lamone reported that staff is continuing to work on a pilot project with several counties to out-source the process of mailing absentee ballots to voters. The pilot will only include Anne Arundel County, Baltimore County, and Worcester County. The process will begin later next week. Initial cost estimates indicate that the automation will save money and significant time and resources at the participating LBEs. The cost savings are due the ability to send the ballots at a bulk, pre-sorted postage rate. This saves approximately 60 to 80 cents per ballot. In response to a question by Mr. Thomann, Ms. Lamone noted that the vendor conducting the pilot project is the same vendor that prints the ballots. They have a ballot security plans and procedures in place to ensure the integrity of the process. In addition, staff will be going to vendor’s facility to inspect the process.

4. Voter Registration
 Provisional Voting Manual
Ms. Lamone reported that a revised and updated Provisional Voting: Training Guide for Processing and Canvassing Provisional Ballots was recently posted to the Online Library and announced in the Registrar. The updates were mostly related to the changes to the voter registration system to accommodate early voting. The Voter Registration Division will be conducting GoTo refresher meetings on provisional voting.

MDVOTERS Software
Ms. Lamone reported that the final software release (2.29) prior to the election was placed into MDVOTERS production the weekend of June 25th. Several “Go-To” meetings were held to demonstrate the new functionalities of this release to the local boards.

Procurement
Ms. Lamone reported that the Division received approval from the Procurement Division of the Department of Information Technology (DoIT) for publication of a CATS II Task Order for operation of our two MDVOTERS data centers. The closing date was July 19th. The proposal evaluation team is reviewing the single proposal received and anticipates selection by the second week in August. The Division is working with DOIT on a CATS II Task Order for MDVOTERS software maintenance.

Early Voting Support
Ms. Lamone reported that Chere’ Evans, MDVOTERS Database Specialist, has been busy creating statistical reports that will show activity during the early voting periods. These reports will be placed on the SBE website for viewing by interested parties. Examples include reports for each county showing (by date): voter counts by Early Voting Center; voter counts by Party; voter counts by congressional district; voter counts by legislative district; and voter counts by gender, age, and party. Summary statewide statistics will also be available for these. The reports will be generated and posted reflecting the activity for the previous day of Early Voting. Ms. Lamone clarified that the reports posted SBE’s website will not have the names of voters. However, a list of voters who voted during early voting will be provided for a fee as part of the public service request (PSR) process. That information will be updated daily throughout early voting. This is similar to the absentee voter information that SBE currently provides as a PSR. Mary Wagner noted that the deadline to request any PSR is the close of voter registration. Finally, in response to a question from Mr. Thomann, Ms. Lamone responded that early voting results will not be released until the polls close on election day.

MVA mailing
Due to lack of personnel resources there will be no MVA mailing prior to the primary election. The next mailing will be done in September.
5. **Candidacy and Campaign Finance**

**Candidate Filing Deadline**

Ms. Lamone reported that the deadline to file as a candidate for the Democratic and Republican primary was July 6, 2010. Additionally, petition and non-principal political party candidate were required to file a Declaration of Intent by the same date. Primary candidates had until July 16th to withdraw their names from appearing on the ballot. Finally, central committees had until July 21st to fill any vacancies on the primary ballot. SBE handled nearly 100 candidates filing for office on the last day.

Petition and non-principal political candidates had until August 2, 2010 at 5:00 pm to submit the remaining requisite documents to appear on the General Election ballot.

701 State and federal candidates have officially filed for the 2010 Gubernatorial Election. Murray Hill, Inc. did attempt to file as a candidate for Congress, however, the candidate was disqualified because it did not meet the age requirement.

**Candidate Names**

Ms. Lamone reported that in response to the passage of emergency regulations regarding candidate names, staff sent out notices to nearly 20 candidates requiring additional documentation in support of their affidavit for an alternate name. The candidates had until July 23rd to supply SBE with the additional documents otherwise the candidate’s ballot name would appear as his or her legal registered name.

Ms. Lamone stated that she rejected candidate Barry Chapman’s nickname based on her determination that his proposed nickname, “Bail Out People” was related to his bail bond business and was therefore impermissible under COMAR 33.01.06.04A(3)(c).

**Audit of Campaign Reports**

Ms. Lamone reported that the Candidacy and Campaign Finance Division has finished its audit of the 2009 Annual campaign finance report. During the review, the most common deficiencies were missing or incomplete addresses, incorrect entries for reimbursements, and a lack of explanation for expenditures. The political committees had until July 23rd to amend their campaign finance reports. 306 committees received deficiency notices, which is down from last year by 13%. Currently, nearly 70% have filed the required amendment to correct the reporting deficiency.

**New Committees**

Ms. Lamone reported that, as July 27, 2010, over 1,350 new political committees have been established this year. The last week of candidate filing saw nearly 600 new political committees established.

**Disclosure Report**

Ms. Lamone reported that on August 5, 2010, the semi-annual Contribution Disclosure Form, a required filing by either a person who does business with the State involving consideration of $100,000 or more and makes campaign contributions of $500 or more or a person who provides lobbyist compensation and makes campaign contribution greater than $500, was due. The Candidacy and Campaign Finance Division received over 190 disclosure forms from qualifying persons from the last filing.

**Campaign Finance Reports**

Ms. Lamone reported that on August 17, 2010, the 2010 Gubernatorial Pre-Primary 1 campaign finance report is due for all political committees designated for the gubernatorial election. The transaction period ends on August 10th. The Pre-Primary 2 report is due on September 3rd which is also the first day of early voting.

**Authority Line Regulations**

Ms. Lamone reported that the Administrative, Executive, and Legislative Review Committee, AELR, (the General Assembly’s joint committee that has oversight of regulations) met to consider the emergency regulation dealing with authority line requirements as applied to social media. During the hearing, the committee members had concerns about Regulation .04 regarding requirements to retain campaign material. The retention provisions in the regulations were consistent with the requirements of §13-403 and only sought to clarify the applicability to social media. Nonetheless, the committee was concerned that it created a burden and possibly expanded the retention requirement.

The AELR committee ultimately voted to approve the regulations, but struck Regulation .04. They also delayed the effective date by two weeks in order to give campaign committees time to get into compliance. Since the regulations were no longer the same as what had originally been approved, Ross Goldstein sent an email to
each of you on July 22\textsuperscript{nd} to determine whether you still approved of the regulations. Since we heard no objections, the regulations went into effect on August 3\textsuperscript{rd}.

The Candidacy and Campaign Finance Division sent out a blast email to every treasurer, chairman and candidate regarding the new social media regulations. Additionally, the new regulations have been posted on the website under the Campaign Finance tab.

**Seminars**

Ms. Lamone reported that on July 19\textsuperscript{th}, Jared DeMarinis conducted a campaign finance compliance seminar on campaign finance regulations, responsibilities of the chairman and treasurers and a general overview of election law at the Frederick County Board of Elections. It was attended by 20 people.

On July 22\textsuperscript{nd}, Mr. DeMarinis conducted the campaign finance compliance seminar for candidates and political committees at SBE. It was attended by over 50 people.

On July 27\textsuperscript{th}, Mr. DeMarinis conducted an ELECTrack EFS seminar focusing on how to use ELECTrack EFS and how to properly electronically file a report. It was also attended by over 50 people.

During the week of August 2-6\textsuperscript{th}, the Candidacy and Campaign Finance Division held a teleconference seminar from 2-4 pm everyday on the use of ELECTrack EFS. Due to system limitations, class sizes are limited to 12 people.

**Enforcement Actions**

Ms. Lamone reported that the Candidacy and Campaign Finance Division continues to monitor the Maryland Republican State Central Committee progress in repayment of the outstanding debt to the Michael Steele for Maryland Committee. All parties are in compliance with the MOU. It looks like the debt the will be paid off completely within the next month.

The Candidacy and Campaign Finance Division received a complaint and has notified the Office of the State Prosecutor on the alleged unlawful use of county employees for campaign purposes by Prince George’s County Sheriff Michael Jackson.

The Candidacy and Campaign Finance Division has received complaints on following political committees for lack of authority lines on campaign material:

- Friends for Joe Bartenfelder
- Friends of David Harrington

Additionally, one committee self-reported an authority line violation, James Petitt 4 Delegate. The Candidacy and Campaign Finance Division has sent a letter to the committee informing them of the authority line requirements.

6. **Voting Systems**

**2010 Ballot Production**

Ms. Lamone reported that ballot programming and production has been taking place for the 2010 Gubernatorial Primary. There are 587 different ballot styles statewide. The ballot programming takes place at SBE and proofs are sent to the local boards of elections. SBE then makes any corrections before sending out the final database for local board signoff, so that ballot printing can begin and Logic and Accuracy testing may commence. Natasha Walker and Paul Aumayr deserve special recognition for the time and effort they put into this process, especially working with a new ballot programmer.

**Logic and Accuracy Testing**

Ms. Lamone reported that during logic and accuracy testing the ballot information is loaded on each voting unit and then each voting unit is tested to ensure that it correctly displays the ballot and accurately counts the votes that are cast as part of the test.

**Conducting the Election Guide**

Ms. Lamone reported that the updated version of the Conducting the Election (CTE) Guide has been published. This document details the processes for preparing for the election, conducting it, and reporting of results using the voting system and the electronic pollbook. Major revisions were required due to the introduction of early voting for 2010.
Ms. Lamone reported that the voting system team has also been ensuring that all local boards have the supplies and consumables necessary for the use of the equipment for the election. To this end the team has obtained paper rolls, batteries, printer ribbons, tamper tape and other items.

**Electronic Pollbooks**

Ms. Lamone reported that the 2010 production release of electronic pollbook application software meeting all functional requirements for both early voting and election day was received from ES&S on July 19th. Regression testing was completed on July 21st and upgrade materials and instructions were distributed to all local boards by July 23rd. As of August 2nd, about 80% of the State’s 6,200 electronic pollbooks had been upgraded. This task is scheduled to be completed by August 13th.

**7. Information Technology**

Ms. Lamone reported that the Information Technology Division has recently completed the installation, set-up, configuration, and training on SBE’s new firewall. She noted that the installation did not impact other operations.

**ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL’S REPORT**

Mr. Darsie reported on the status of the slots referendum case *PPE Casino Resorts Maryland, LLC v. Anne Arundel County Board of Elections*. An appeal was taken from the circuit court’s ruling that the zoning law at issue was not subject to referendum. The Court of Appeals reversed the judgment of the circuit court. Of importance to SBE is that the decision affirms the ability of SBE to set uniform petition standards.

Mr. Darsie also noted that a second related case, *Anne Arundel County Tax Payers Assn. v. Anne Arundel County Board of Elections*, has been dismissed as untimely. That decision is also being appealed.

**APPROVAL OF REGULATIONS**

Ms. Trella presented the proposed changes to COMAR 33.10.02 and 33.17.07 to the Board for final adoption. The proposed changes were both published in the *Maryland Register*, and the public comment periods are now closed. One comment was received on 33.10.02.07. The comment, not related to the proposed changes, suggested codifying the current practice of determining the number of voting units to deploy based on active registered voters. Ms. Trella recommended that the regulations be adopted as proposed and that the change suggested during the public comment period be considered at another time. Ms. Mack made a motion for final adoption of the proposed regulations, and Ms. McGuckian seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Next, Ms. Trella presented the proposed changes to COMAR 33.07.05, 33.17.06, and 33.10.02.38 to the Board for final adoption. The proposed changes were published in the *Maryland Register*, and the public comment period is now closed. No comments were received. Ms. Mack made a motion for final adoption of the proposed regulations, and Ms. McGuckian seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**DEMONSTRATION – ABSENTEE DELIVERY SYSTEM**

Ms. Trella provided an overview of the absentee delivery system. The delivery system uses the existing voter look-up website to deliver absentee ballots. For the local boards, there are no changes to processing an absentee ballot application from a voter who wishes to receive his or her absentee ballot via this system. Instead of creating an individual email to send to the voter, SBE will forward this information to the University of Maryland – College Park (who hosts and maintains the voter look-up website) and notify the voter that his or her absentee ballot is ready to print and vote.

**APPROVAL OF WAIVERS OF CAMPAIGN FINANCE LATE FEES**

Mr. DeMarinis presented to the Board 27 committees for which the State Administrator recommended a waiver of late fees. The committees are:

1. Benson, Joanne C. Friends Of, A394
2. Progress For The People Slate, A4860
3. Slate For Fiscal Responsibility, A7105
4. Love, Mary Ann Friends Of, A500
5. Keating-Volke, Karyn Citizens For, A8369
6. Praisner, (Marilyn) People For, A1545
7. Kauffman, Phil Friends Of, A6620
8. Washington County Democratic Central Committee, A138
10. EPIC Pharm PAC, A739
11. Moses, Lawrence Jamaal Citizens For, A6573
Mr. Thomann made a motion to approve the Administrator’s recommendation to waive the late fees and Ms. Mack seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

REQUEST OF CONFIDENTIALITY
Mr. DeMarinis presented to the Board the requests of 12 candidates seeking to keep their residence address and telephone numbers confidential. Eleven of the candidates are judges and one candidate is a former prosecutor and current defense attorney. These individuals all fall under one of the categories under COMAR 33.04.02.02 for requesting confidentiality. Ms. Mack made a motion to approve the Administrator’s recommendation to waive the late fees and Mr. Thomann seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS
There was no old business.

NEW BUSINESS
Mr. Goldstein requested that one Board member pick a number out of a container for the purpose of selecting a voting unit for election day parallel testing purposes. Ms. McGuckian selected Talbot County. A voting unit from Talbot County will be randomly selected by a member of the public at the public demonstration of logic and accuracy testing. The unit will be delivered to Annapolis where it will be set up and tested throughout election day.

SCHEDULING OF NEXT MEETING
The next meeting was scheduled for September 27, 2010, at 2:30 pm.

ADJOURNMENT
Mr. Walker adjourned the meeting at 3:45 pm.