

State of Maryland 

State Board of Elections Meeting – March 24, 2011

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Attendees: Robert Walker, Chair  
Bobbie Mack, Vice Chair  
David McManus, Member  
Rachel McGuckian, Member  
Charles Thomann, Member  
Ross Goldstein, Deputy Administrator  
Jeff Darsie, Assistant Attorney General  
Paul Aumayr, Voting Systems Project Manager  
Donna Duncan, Election Management Director  
Jared DeMarinis, Candidacy and Campaign Finance Director  
Valerie O'Connor, Budget and Finance Director  
Nikki Trella, Election Reform Director  
Rick Urps, Election Reform Deputy Director

Also Present: Michael Dawson, Constitution Party of Maryland  
Barbara Sanders, League of Women Voters  
Abigail Goldman, Baltimore City Board of Elections  
Armstead Jones, Baltimore City Board of Elections  
Jerrold Garson, Montgomery County Board of Elections  
Mary Kiraly, Montgomery County Board of Elections  
Holly Joseph  
Stan Boyd, Save Our Votes  
Lynn Garland  
Cory Siansky, Friends of Cory Siansky

**DECLARATION OF QUORUM PRESENT**

Chairman Walker called the meeting to order at 2:05 pm and declared that a quorum was present.

**APPROVAL OF THE PRIOR BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

The minutes of the February 10, 2010, board meeting were presented for approval. Ms. Mack made a motion to approve the minutes, and Mr. McManus seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

**APPROVAL OF EARLY VOTING DATES FOR BALTIMORE CITY ELECTIONS**

Ross Goldstein explained that the Baltimore City Board of Elections will be presenting six early voting dates for approval, instead of the three dates approved at the prior meeting. Armstead Jones, Election Director for the Baltimore City Board of Elections, explained that the City of Baltimore's budget and law offices have now agreed to six days of early voting for the primary election and six days of early voting for the general election. Mr. Jones presented for approval the following:

- (1) Early voting for the primary election would run from Thursday, September 1<sup>st</sup> – Saturday, September 3<sup>rd</sup> and Tuesday, September 6<sup>th</sup> – Thursday, September 8<sup>th</sup>; and
- (2) Early voting for the general election would run from Friday, October 28<sup>th</sup> – Saturday, October 29<sup>th</sup> and Monday, October 31<sup>st</sup> through Thursday, November 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Mr. Jones reported that the proposed dates have been approved by the Deputy Mayor, and Mr. Goldstein confirmed that the proposed dates were approved by the State Administrator. In response to a question from Ms. McGuckian, Mr. Jones stated that security during non-voting hours is provided by the City Police Department. Ms. Mack made a motion to approve the early voting dates for the 2011 Baltimore City Primary and General Elections, and Ms. McGuckian seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

**APPROVAL OF ABSENTEE VOTING INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE BALTIMORE CITY ELECTIONS**

Nikki Trella presented the proposed absentee voting instructions for the 2011 Baltimore City Primary and General Elections. She explained that the only changes from the 2010 instructions were updates to the receipt deadlines to reflect the 2011 election calendar. Ms. Mack made a motion to approve the absentee voting instructions for the Baltimore City elections, and Mr. McManus seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

## APPROVAL OF WAIVERS OF CAMPAIGN FINANCE ENTITIES

Mr. Goldstein presented requests for waivers of late fees for the following political committees along with the Administrator's recommendations for approval:

1. Acree, Carol Citizens for, A7517
2. Adams, Barry A. Citizens for, A7701
3. Allegany County Republican Central Committee, A142
4. Anne Arundel County Democratic Central Committee, A117
5. Apartment and Office Building Association Md. State PAC, A250
6. Baker, Ramona Moore Friends of, A8846
7. Ball, Beverly Friends Of, A7930
8. Baltimore County West Democratic Slate, A7455
9. Bell, Elizabeth Morton Advocates For Education in Support Of, A7959
10. Bennett, Brian Committee To Elect, A7963
11. Bernstein, (Neil) for Register of Wills, A7569
12. Bienemann, Daniel Citizens to Elect, A7665
13. Boccelli, Raymond Citizens For, A7977
14. Booze, John Friends Of, A7980
15. Boston, Jerry Committee to Elect, A7706
16. Boyce, Tom Citizens for, A8888
17. Bricklayers Local No. 1 Political Action Committee, A1080
18. Briscoe, Thomas For Central Committee, A7995
19. Brooks, Wayne Friends of, A7875
20. Brown, Beatrice Citizens for, A7754
21. BSC America PAC, A317
22. Burris, Robert - School Board Dist. 3, A7646
23. Capps, William Thomas Jr. Friends of, A7161
24. Citizens For A Better Frederick PAC, A6997
25. Compton, Wade Friends of, A7772
26. Dungee, Lisa Friends Of, A8145
27. Ealim, Perry Citizens for Election of, A7606
28. Earnest, Broughton "Bo" Citizens To Retain Judge, A6724
29. Evans, Betty Friends Of, A8163
30. Friends Of Charter Home Rule, A6770
31. Harcum, W. Blan Sr., A8786
32. Inter. Union of Elevator Constr. Local No. 10 PAC, A3963
33. Lake, Janice J. Dorchester County Central Committee For, A8359
34. Jones, Julian Citizens For, A4944
35. Schaefer, (Michael) For Sheriff, A8658
36. Schmidt, (David) For Delegate, A6894
37. Service Employees International Union Local 500 PAC, A246
38. Siansky, Cory Friends Of, A4315
39. Stocksdale, Nancy Friends Of, A531
40. Wheatley, Teresa Dayton Friends For, A8853
41. White, Theresa Friends of, A8454
42. McCullough, John for Republican Central Committee, A8792
43. Hughes, Betsy Friends of, A8530
44. Boyce, Michael Joe Committee For, A8753
45. Falter, George Friends Of, A8167
46. Winston, Mark Friends of, A7610
47. Robbins, Greg Write In For, A8885
48. Citizens For Better Government Slate, A6744
49. Savoy, Clifton Friends Of, A8640
50. Lenett, Mike Friends Of, A4366
51. Roesser, Jean Friends Of, A110

There was a motion to approve the State Administrator's recommendations on the waiver. The motion was seconded and was approved unanimously.

## ADMINISTRATIVE CLOSURE OF CAMPAIGN FINANCE ENTITIES

Mr. Goldstein presented for approval the administrative closure of Believe Baltimore PAC. Mr. Goldstein reported that the committee's treasurer has left Maryland, and the State Prosecutor's Office cannot serve the treasurer and has recommended the administrative closure of the account. In response to a question from Mr. McManus, Mr. Goldstein reported that the reported cash balance is not necessarily what actually remains in the bank. Remaining funds in the bank account cannot be seized by SBE and would most likely be considered abandoned funds. Mr. McManus made a motion to approve the administrative closure of Believe Baltimore PAC, and Ms. McGuckian seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

## ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Mr. Goldstein informed the Board that Linda Lamone was attending a conference and that he would be reporting to the Board in her place.

### 1. Staff Updates

Mr. Goldstein introduced Whitney Faust who started working at SBE on February 16<sup>th</sup> as the new Procurement Officer. Ms. Faust worked previously for the State of Maryland at the University of Maryland Center for Health and Homeland Security (Baltimore campus) as a law and policy analyst developing emergency management plans for local jurisdictions such as the City of Annapolis and Anne Arundel County. She has also worked for a local private law firm in the family law field prior to coming to SBE.

## 2. Meetings and Important Dates

### U.S. Election Assistance Commission's (EAC) Standards Board Meeting

Ms. Trella attended a meeting of the EAC's Standards Board on February 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. Ms. Trella reported that the members were briefed on the work of the EAC and the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) and election legislation in the 112<sup>th</sup> Congress, including legislation that would abolish the EAC and divide its current statutory functions between NIST and the Federal Election Commission. Panel discussions included implementing the Military and Overseas Voter Empowerment (MOVE) Act, costs of elections, and working with representatives of the media during an election.

### Election Directors' Meeting

Mr. Goldstein reported that there was an Election Directors' meeting on March 8<sup>th</sup>, which focused primarily on new voter registration initiatives being considered by the General Assembly this year. At the Election Directors' meeting, David Becker from the Pew Charitable Trusts provided a detailed overview of an interstate data sharing initiative being championed by Pew. The data sharing will lead to more accurate voter registration lists by identifying duplicate voters in other states. The other initiative also involves online voter registration which will greatly streamline the registration process and save time and money. Mr. Goldstein reported that Ms. Lamone and Mary Wagner were at a conference to set up the governing body of State election officials that will run the data sharing initiative.

Mr. Goldstein explained at the Election Director's meeting that SBE will be conducting a 2010 Gubernatorial Election audit of each local board's compliance with federal and State laws, regulations and procedures. The audit, which SBE is required to conduct, will provide a good learning opportunity for all involved. Regional managers will be assisting with the audit by collecting certain information and observing certain processes. In response to a question from Mr. Walker, Mr. Goldstein explained that various SBE staff members will be performing the audit. Rick Urps will be responsible for compiling the audit results, and Mr. Goldstein stated that he expects the audit results to be completed during the summer.

### Meeting with John Kuo, Administrator of Motor Vehicle Administration (MVA)

Representatives of MVA and SBE met on March 11<sup>th</sup> to discuss plans to improve the voter registration process at the MVA. Both agencies are working to move forward with a model similar to what is used in Delaware. Currently, in Maryland, when an individual is at the MVA and indicates that he or she wants to register or update an existing voter registration, the individual is given an application to complete and turn back into the MVA clerk, drop in a box, or mail to the local board of elections. In comparison, the Delaware model automates the voter registration process and transmits the data directly to the appropriate election official. MVA visited Delaware and has concluded that they can replicate the Delaware model in Maryland. Since that meeting, representatives from both agencies have been communicating frequently regarding technical details and SBE has been working on costs estimates for the necessary hardware and software.

In response to a question from Mr. McManus, Mr. Goldstein reported that there are at least 100,000 individuals who indicated during an MVA transaction an interest in registering to vote or updating their registration information and that information was not provided to election officials. The letters that MVA has been sending out over the last couple of years are in response to the problem. Mr. Walker asked about the hardware and software costs, and Mr. Goldstein explained that both MVA and SBE will have some expenses. There was discussion about the cost of the solution, but the estimate provided included other projects.

## 3. Election Reform & Management

### Voters with Multiple Voting Credits

Voters who were identified as voting more than once in the 2010 Primary Election were referred to the State Prosecutor in January. A representative of the State Prosecutor's office has been in contact with at least one local board of elections about the primary election referrals. The process of identifying voters who may have voted more than once in the 2010 General Election is almost complete. Ms. Trella has reviewed reports and documents from 23 local boards of elections and is awaiting information from one local board of elections. Once this information is received and reviewed, the identified voters will be referred to the State Prosecutor. In response to a question from Mr. Walker, Ms. Trella reported that 32 primary election voters were referred.

### 2011 & 2012 Election Judges' Manual

Mr. Goldstein reported that Mr. Urps and several representatives of the local boards of elections continue to meet to review and update the election judges' manual and forms for the 2011 Baltimore City elections and the 2012 Presidential Elections. During the last several meetings, the committee reviewed and updated forms

used by election judges, reviewed the software upgrade for the electronic pollbooks, and is in the process of updating the Voting Location Evaluation Form (formerly called the Polling Place Evaluation Form).

#### University of Maryland's Election Center Website

Cheré Evans, Natasha Walker, Stacey Johnson, and Ms. Trella are working with the University of Maryland College Park's Center for American Politics and Citizenship (CAPC) to identify and prioritize changes to the voter look-up website and the online absentee ballot delivery system for the 2011 and 2012 elections. SBE intends to continue to work with CAPC on the website and online absentee ballot delivery system through the 2012 Primary Election, but due to budget reasons, these projects will be brought in-house starting with fiscal year 2013 (starting July 2012). Mr. Goldstein noted that the upcoming online campaign finance filing system will replace the part of the CAPC's current website that relates to campaign finance.

#### United States Postal Service (USPS)

Ms. Trella reported that, less than three weeks before the 2010 General Election, a USPS representative verbally informed the Baltimore County Board of Elections that voter registration cards could no longer be mailed at the nonprofit postage rate and must be mailed at the first class postage rate. Immediately after the general election, the Baltimore County Board of Elections requested an appeal of this decision. Since the request for an appeal, Katie Brown, the Election Director for the Baltimore County Board of Elections, and this office have followed up numerous times with the USPS, but the Baltimore County Board of Elections has yet to receive a response. On March 16<sup>th</sup>, letters were sent to the members of Maryland's Congressional Delegation that represent Baltimore County, Congressman Hoyer, and Senator Schumer, Chairman of the U.S. Senate Rules and Administration Committee who has assisted at least one other jurisdiction on this issue. In response to this letter, several offices are now working on this issue. A copy of Baltimore County's request for an appeal and one of the Congressional letters was included in the board meeting folder.

### **4. Voter Registration**

#### First MDVOTERS Release for 2011

Version 3.0, the first MDVOTERS software release that will be delivered by our new contractor, The Canton Group, is scheduled to be put into MDVOTERS the third week in April. The Voter Registration Division has been conducting User Acceptance Testing on the new software, and The Canton Group's support has been excellent. Online "Go To" meetings will be held by The Canton Group to train the local boards of elections following installation of the new software. This first release includes enhancements to the election worker assignment process and reporting, improves numerous screen formats, and fixes a variety of issues.

#### MVA and Online Voter Registration Legislation

In preparation for potential MVA data sharing and online voter registration legislation, the Voter Registration Division has been meeting with the MDVOTERS software contractor (Canton Group) and data center contractor (Sidus Group) to identify the changes needed in the MDVOTERS software and the data center equipment to accommodate this exciting new functionality.

#### Libertarian and Green Party Petitions

The Libertarian and Green Parties have submitted signature pages for their party's petitions. The Voter Registration Division preprocessed the pages and distributed them to the local boards of elections. The Division is also processing all Libertarian party 2<sup>nd</sup> submission pages statewide. The deadline to complete signature verification is March 28<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Goldstein noted that Jeff Darsie will address in his Attorney General's report the recent opinion by the Court of Appeals.

### **5. Candidacy and Campaign Finance**

#### New Committees

During the 2010 Gubernatorial Election year, the Candidacy and Campaign Finance Division processed 1,770 new committees, with the biggest month coming in July. As of March 4, 2011, only 10 new committees have been established.

#### Late Fees Collected and Waived

Mr. Goldstein reported that, as of March 4, 2011, SBE collected \$56,850 in late fees resulting from the 2010 campaign finance reports. An additional \$27,860 in late fees has been waived by the Board. Finally, there is an outstanding amount of \$119,530 in late fees still owed. In response to a question from Mr. Walker, it was noted that the late fees are allocated to SBE's budget for auditing purposes. Mr. Walker inquired as to whether these amounts are normal, to which Mr. DeMarinis noted that the 2010 election is the most active election with the highest number of committees. Mr. Goldstein also noted that 2010 was the first year that local committees were required to file with SBE; in the past, they had filed with the local boards of elections.

### Final Report Required

Section 13-311 of the Election Law Article requires a candidate committee to terminate and file a final report within 8 years after either: (1) the candidate's most recent term of office; or (2) the date of the election in which the individual last was a filed candidate, whichever is later. The Candidacy and Campaign Finance Division has sent out notices to the following candidate committees requesting that they dispose of surplus funds and submit a final report, as required by § 13-311 of the Election Law Article:

- |                            |                                     |
|----------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1. Robert Santoni, A1446   | 10. Michael Wein, A1728             |
| 2. Thomas Bromwell, A71    | 11. Arthur Cuffie, A823             |
| 3. Leslie Sipes, A1977     | 12. H. Victoria Goldsborough, A3921 |
| 4. Harold Huggins, A3025   | 13. Charles Feaga, A95              |
| 5. Jeffrey Pritzker, A3274 | 14. Che Sayles, A6622               |
| 6. Thomas Dewberry, A328   | 15. Israel Cason, A6511             |
| 7. Jean Roesser, A110      | 16. Karen Kuker-Kihl, A1009         |
| 8. Larry Young, A4874      | 17. John McGahagan, A537            |
| 9. Jinhee Wilde, A1798     |                                     |

### Over-Contributors

The Candidacy and Campaign Finance Division has started working on a report that identifies persons who have contributed more than \$4,000 to a single political committee in the last election cycle. Once completed, a notice will be sent.

### Referrals

On March 3<sup>rd</sup>, the Candidacy and Campaign Finance Division referred Metropolitan Management Company to the State Prosecutor for two potential violations: exceeding the \$10,000 aggregate contribution limit and making contributions in the name of another. In response to a question from Mr. Walker, Mr. DeMarinis explained that Metropolitan Management Company had been provided a copy of the complaint SBE received and during a meeting, admitted that contributions were made in the name of another. Mr. DeMarinis noted that when that admission was made, he ended the meeting.

On March 15<sup>th</sup>, the Candidacy and Campaign Finance Division referred over 100 political committees to the Office of the State Prosecutor for failure to file the 2010 Pre-Primary 1 and/or Pre-Primary 2 campaign finance reports.

### Procurement

The Campaign Finance Reporting and Management System (CFRMS) RFP was posted on eMaryland Marketplace on March 17<sup>th</sup>. Bids are due back on April 14<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Goldstein explained that this contract will cover all of the campaign finance filings, managing the accounts, and an online lookup feature for the public to access campaign finance information.

### Political Parties

On March 4<sup>th</sup>, the Constitution Party informed SBE that it would not be able to meet the requirements to retain its political party status. As a result, the Constitution Party may no longer have a central committee and will need to close.

## **6. Voting Systems**

### Voting System Maintenance

Post-election maintenance has begun in 17 counties and includes voting units, electronic pollbooks, pollbook printers and optical scanners. Two counties have fully completed post-election maintenance. Seven counties are planning to begin post-election maintenance within the next ten weeks.

Andrew Johnson and the regional managers are preparing to perform preventive maintenance activities on the duplicator units. The duplicators are used to copy voter registration data onto the memory cards used in the pollbooks. This week the team completed updates to the acceptance procedures to be performed on repaired duplicators.

One new maintenance issue that has been reported is voting units that have what staff has been referring to as a "dead zone" – a sector of the screen that, when touched, does not respond. Currently, there have only been reports of six units with this problem. There is a voting unit in Allegany County with this issue which was discovered on election day, and a unit in Prince George's County that was discovered during post-election

maintenance. In response to this problem, staff will obtain and test one of the units with this issue and is developing plans to randomly sample units in Phase I counties for additional testing to determine if there are problems with either this new issue or with calibration.

Mr. Goldstein reported that SBE is continuing to gather information on this issue. In response to a question from Mr. Walker, Mr. Goldstein reported that, on election day, the voting unit in Allegany County was shut down. At the time the issue was discovered, the voter's ballot would have been canceled, a new voter access card would have been issued, and the voter would have been directed to another unit. Mr. Goldstein reported that SBE has done research into the voting unit component and it does not seem that the screen is wearing out as the screens are tested for extremely high use. Ms. Mack suggested discussing the issue with Georgia, as they use the same voting system.

#### Municipal Election Support

The Voting System Division prepared electronic pollbook databases and reports to support the City of Salisbury primary and runoff elections and for the "Student Member of the Board" election taking place at 64 schools throughout Montgomery County on April 13<sup>th</sup>.

#### Geo-Coding

Mr. Goldstein reported that Bob Murphy performed geo-coding (latitude and longitude) of registered street addresses for all 3.7 million registered voters. This data will be useful for evaluating any forthcoming changes or additions to early voting sites.

#### Information Sharing

Mr. Murphy and Mr. Johnson met with Matt Masterson, Josh Franklin and James Long of the EAC on March 9<sup>th</sup> to share Maryland's experience with implementing, testing and utilizing electronic pollbooks. Maryland provided the EAC with various documents, forms and reports that might be suitable as templates for jurisdictions in other states. Mr. Thomann noted that he heard nothing but praise for the electronic pollbooks.

Mr. Murphy provided data to the U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO) task group studying the feasibility of weekend voting. Data included an analysis of Maryland polling places by type of facility, and raw data showing early voting and election day voter turnout versus the distance from voter's registered address to the polling place.

## **7. Legislation**

Mr. Goldstein reported that there are a total of 150 bills that staff is tracking this year and made available to the board members a copy of the status of all of the bills. In response to a question, Ms. Duncan stated that she would include the board members on the distribution list for the status reports.

1. Election Dates – SB820/ HB 671 and SB 501: The primary purpose of these bills is to change certain dates to ensure that there is sufficient time for ballots to be sent to military and overseas voters 45 days before the election. SB 820/HB671 changes the gubernatorial primary to the fourth Tuesday in June, while SB501 changes it to the third Tuesday in June. Both bills change the presidential primary to the first Tuesday in April. Donna Duncan reported that SB 501 was on 2<sup>nd</sup> reader in the Senate this morning.
2. Exchange of Voter Registration – SB 765/HB561: This bill will provide legal authority for SBE to share voter registration data with data sharing initiative being established by the Pew Charitable Trusts.
3. Online Voter Registration SB 806/HB740: This bill directs SBE to provide individuals the ability to register to vote online. Generally, in order to use the online registration service, the individual will have to have a Maryland Driver's License or identification card. In response to a question from Mr. Walker, Ms. Duncan noted that she was not sure of the status of this bill but noted that SB765 was on 3<sup>rd</sup> reader in the Senate.

Mr. Goldstein referenced a letter Rebecca Wilson of Save Our Votes sent to Mr. Walker. With respect to Ms. Wilson's questions concerning procurement and contract management, Mr. Goldstein noted that SBE had been without a procurement officer for several months and that the RTI report acknowledged that SBE does not have enough procurement and contract management resources. Mr. Goldstein pointed out that, while the RTI report stated that having multiple contracts (rather than one larger umbrella contract) "may" have saved money, the report did not say how much money would have been saved. Mr. Goldstein reminded the board that the election system support contract was competitively bid and the bidders were required to get good quotes from subcontractors to submit a proposal. One advantage to having a larger, umbrella contract is that it gives SBE more flexibility. Mr.

Goldstein gave the example of voter outreach for early voting, which was originally in the contract but the funding was initially cut and then reinstated. Because voter outreach was part of the contract, the contractor could quickly identify resources and implement the education plan. This may not have been possible if SBE had to procure these services separately. Mr. Goldstein reviewed the contracts listed in Ms. Wilson's letter and explained that the voter registration contract has been divided into two contracts, the Computer Science Corporation contract is on-going but has been dramatically reduced, the project management contract with EDS has ended, the contract with the University of Maryland is on-going but will be reduced in future years, and the field support contract for the voter registration contract is continuing.

Ms. Trella addressed Ms. Wilson's questions about the online absentee ballot delivery system by deferring a formal conversation about the availability of the system until the absentee ballot application for the 2012 elections are presented for adoption. She explained that staff is exploring technological solutions that would reduce duplication times and the number of ballots needing to be duplicated will be reduced in future elections because card-stock and machine-readable ballots will be mailed to military and overseas voters. Currently, ballots for military and overseas voters are printed on regular copy paper that must be duplicated upon their return. Ms. Trella noted that ultimately, this issue is a balance between voter convenience and the administrative burden on election officials.

Mr. Walker asked staff to provide Ms. Wilson with a written response when all of the information has been collected.

#### **ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL'S REPORT**

Mr. Darsie explained that the Deputy Attorneys General desired to wait until after legislative session and review enacted legislation before returning and discussing campaign finance related activities. In response to a question from Mr. Walker, Ms. Duncan confirmed that the legislation creating a task force to review campaign finance issues is moving through both houses.

Mr. Darsie stated that March 7<sup>th</sup> was the agreed deadline for new political parties to submit petitions. Prior to that date, the Court of Appeals was asked to issue an expedited opinion relating to signature verification of petitions. The Court issued the requested opinion this week, and Mr. Darsie is in the process of reviewing the opinion and developing new guidelines based on that decision. During the petition review process, SBE flagged those signatures that were rejected based on the signature so they can be easily revisited in light of the opinion. The deadline to certify the petitions is Monday, March 28<sup>th</sup>.

#### **OLD BUSINESS**

There was no old business.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

Prior to the meeting, Stan Boyd of Save Our Votes requested 5 minutes to address the board. Mr. Boyd asked for a written response to Ms. Wilson's questions and asked staff the following questions:

1. The status of SB 765 and HB 561 and the cost of the legislation. Ms. Duncan responded that SB 765 was scheduled for third reader in the Senate on March 25<sup>th</sup> and that she was not certain of the status of the House bill. Ms. Duncan referred Mr. Boyd to the General Assembly's website where a fiscal note for the legislation is available.
2. An explanation why the contract amounts for the voter registration system are significantly higher than the prior year's amount. Mr. Goldstein said that he would need to look into the costs as the cost figure on the February meeting minutes might be for more than one year.
3. Whether pre-election or post-election testing would have discovered the "dead zone" on the voting units and whether the units with this issue will be used again. Mr. Goldstein responded that, since pre-election and post-election testing require touching the screen, it should be discovered during these tests. He noted that Prince George's County Board of Elections discovered the issue during post-election testing. Mr. Goldstein restated that election officials are still identifying the issue.

#### **SCHEDULING OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting was scheduled for April 28, 2011, at 2:00 pm.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. Walker adjourned the public meeting at 3:10 pm.