

State of Maryland 

State Board of Elections – December 4, 2020 Meeting

Attendees (via conference call):

Michael R. Cogan, Chair
Patrick J. Hogan, Vice Chair
William G. Voelp, Member
Malcolm L. Funn, Member
Linda Lamone, Administrator
Andrea Trento, Assistant Attorney General
Nikki Charlson, Deputy Administrator
Donna Duncan, Assistant Deputy, Election Policy
Jared DeMarinis, Director, Candidacy and Campaign Finance
Mary Cramer Wagner, Director of Voter Registration
Keith Ross, Director of Project Management
Tracey Hartman, Director of Special Projects
Art Treichel, Chief Information Security Advisor
Fred Brechbiel, Chief Information Officer
Shafiq Satterfield, Regional Manager Supervisor
Keith Ross, Assistant Deputy, Project Management

Also Present: Katie Brown, Election Director, Baltimore County Board of Elections

DECLARATION OF QUORUM PRESENT

Mr. Cogan called the meeting to order at 2:00 pm. After taking roll call, he stated Kelley Howells, Board Member, was absent, but that the other members were present and that there was a quorum. He also stated that the meeting was being livestreamed.

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

There were no additions to the agenda. Mr. Cogan stated that the end of the agenda items, he will read a statement from Ms. Howells.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Hogan made a motion to approve the minutes from the August 5, August 7, August 12, August 19, August 28, September 4, September 11, September 28, and October 8, 2020 meetings, and Mr. Funn seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Mr. Cogan stated that only highlights of the Administrator's Report would be presented verbally, but that the full report is available on the SBE website.

Announcements & Important Meetings

Board of State Canvassers

Ms. Lamone stated that the Board of State Canvassers met virtually earlier today to certify the results of the 2020 Presidential General Election. All five members of the Board of State Canvassers were present, including Comptroller Peter Franchot who chaired the meeting, Secretary of State John Wobensmith, Treasurer Nancy Kopp, Attorney General Brian Frosh, and Clerk of the Court of Appeals Suzanne Johnson. Ms. Lamone was present as the Secretary of the Board. The Board unanimously certified the results of the general election.

2020 General Election Overview

General Election Statistics

Ms. Charlson stated that the turnout was approximately 74.5%, which is in line with the last four presidential elections in Maryland. Half of all voters voted by mail, which is the highest in Maryland history. Typically, around 4-5% of voters vote by mail. The return rate for mail in ballots was 90%, and increase from the typical return rate of 78%. About two-thirds of mail in ballots were returned at a ballot drop box. Half of Maryland voters voted in person. Historically, most in-person voters vote on election day, but the percentage of early voters has been increasing over the last few elections. This year, the number of early voters surpassed the number of election day voters. Typically, the last two days of early voting are the busiest. This year, the first and third day of early voting were the busiest. The same day registration and address process was also record breaking, as this was the first election with same day registration available on election day. Ms. Charlson stated that SBE staff is still analyzing election data and more information will be available over the next several weeks.

Data Processing Center

Ms. Charlson thanked to the agencies involved in making the data processing center a reality and success.

Use of Online Voter Services

Ms. Charlson stated that use of SBE's online suite of voter services hit record highs this election. On election day, there were about 370,000 searches on our [voter look-up tool](#) and [vote center locator](#), whereas in 2018 these two tools had approximately 200,000 searches.

Of the voters who received their mail-in ballots via web delivery, 61% of voters downloaded a blank ballot and marked their ballot by hand. The remaining voters used the online ballot marking tool to mark their ballots. These voters either returned their ballots by mail or at a ballot drop box.

Safe In-Person Voting

Ms. Lamone reported that 381 individuals served as Health Ambassadors during the election. These individuals were recruited by the Maryland Department of Health (MDH) Maryland Responds - Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) and contributed approximately 9,100 volunteer hours in 27 early voting centers and 98 election day vote centers in Baltimore City and Carroll, Harford, Montgomery, Prince George's, and Worcester Counties. The Health Ambassador volunteers distributed face masks and hand sanitizer to voters as needed, sanitized surfaces, provided health information, and helped voters maintain 6-foot social distancing while waiting in line. She thanked the MDH Maryland Responds - MRC for supplying the volunteer support to help Marylanders vote safely in-person in light of the pandemic.

Public Awareness Campaign - Highlights and Measurements

The campaign was led by KO Public Affairs with Mission Media, Sandy Hillman Communications, GriebO, Cool and Associates, and Campfire Communications playing critical roles. Ms. Charlson provided the following highlights from the 3½ month statewide campaign, which demonstrate the campaign's reach and voters' interest in the election-related information.

- The digital campaign received 65,849,393 impressions, 870,707 clicks, and 2,417,030 plays of campaign videos (not including the ads viewed on TV).
- 28 proactive [press releases](#) were distributed during the campaign to approximately 750 media outlets and reporters generating just over 1400 media placements. Many of these releases were translated into Spanish and distributed to Hispanic media outlets. She reported that a 29th press release was circulated prior to this meeting regarding the election certification of the Board of State Canvassers.

- SBE staff participated in over 25 special community events, including webinars and town halls, to inform voters about the election process.
- SBE's videos about mail-in voting were well used. The *Requesting a Mail-in Ballot* video had approximately 13,000 views, and the *Receiving and Returning Your Ballot* video had approximately 7,500 views. Both videos were posted on SBE's YouTube Account.

The campaign delivered several key messages, and there are data points associated with each of those key messages. The key messages and the associated data points are listed below, and the data demonstrate the desired voter response.

- Sharing information about how to register to vote and update existing registrations. This message was delivered in August and September, and voters listened. Typically, voter registration activity peaks around the voter registration deadline in October, but in this election, new voter registrations and updates to existing records peaked in September. Moving the peak earlier gives the local boards more time to process the forms.
- Promoting voting by mail as the safest way to vote in a pandemic. This message resonated with voters as shown by the dramatic increase in the percentage of voters who voted by mail.
- Reminding voters to return their mail-in ballots. Ms. Charlson stated that the return rate of mail in ballots was higher than ever seen before.
- Informing voters about using a ballot drop box to return voted ballots. This was a key message due, particularly in light of nationwide problems with the postal service.
- Asking voters who wanted to vote in person to vote early - that is, vote during early voting and vote early during the early voting period. This is the first election where more voters voted during early voting than on election day. This is also the first election where the two busiest early voting days were early in the voting window (the 1st and 3rd days) rather than the last two days.
- Inform voters about the same day registration and address change process.
- Promoting our [voter look-up tool](#) as a place to find out where to vote and how to track your ballot. As previously stated, the usage of this tool on election day usage was significantly greater than in prior elections.

Ms. Charlson stated that we are still waiting on a final report, but that the numbers show that the messaging campaign was successful as it did change voters' behavior.

Mr. Cogan pointed out that half of Maryland voters still voted in person during a pandemic, which could lead to less mail in voting in the future.

Social Media

Ms. Duncan stated that there is a 24/7 need to monitor social media, and that it is an important tool to share information regarding the election process. She reported that there were over 4 million combined views of SBE's Facebook and Twitter platforms, and nearly 1000 new followers. She noted that we could not have done this without excellent, dedicated staff at SBE.

Voter Support

Email Support: Ms. Duncan reported that SBE has two main general information email accounts - info.sbe@maryland.gov and absentee.sbe@maryland.gov - which were heavily used, and took countless SBE staff to manage. She stated that the email process will be reviewed for improvement for the future.

Call Center: Ms. Duncan reported that the call center service ended on November 25. During the 3

months of handling calls, more than 182,600 calls were processed.

Voting Equipment Performance

Ms. Charlson reported that overall our equipment performed well and we will be able to provide a more detailed accounting in our next briefing.

In response to a question from Mr. Voelp regarding a glitch in the voting system that resulted in a delay in reporting election day results on election night, Ms. Charlson stated that the glitch was really a feature in the voting system software. She explained that when uploading a results thumb drive from a scanner to the central results database, the database software will scan the thumb drive to look for ballots from each precinct in the jurisdiction. If a precinct does not have ballots on the thumb drive, the election official has to respond to an alert from the database to confirm, for each precinct without ballots, that it is acceptable to proceed and the results can be uploaded.

This alert occasionally appears during early voting, but because there is usually eight days of early voting, the number of precincts without ballots is generally less. There is also more time to upload results early voting results and therefore there is not a delay in reporting those results. However, the move to voting centers for one day of voting (election day) meant that there would be more precincts without ballots on each thumb drive, more alerts for election officials to resolve, and more time to transfer the results from the thumb drive to the central database. The process of responding to the alert and downloading results was taking around eight to ten minutes per stick, instead of the normal two to three minutes. For some of the larger jurisdictions, this was a significant delay.

Ms. Charlson stated that when SBE learned of the delay and cause, SBE contacted the vendor and learned of a work around to cut down the time to respond to the alert and download the results. Because of the delay, five of the largest jurisdictions were not able to report on election night unofficial results from election day voting. However, the work around allowed some of the five jurisdictions to report unofficial election day results the next day, and all jurisdictions reported results the day after that. Ms. Charlson reiterated that the delay did not impact reporting unofficial results from early voting, results from mail-in voting, and election day results for 19 of the 24 local jurisdictions.

Post Election Audits

Ms. Hartman stated that after each general election, we perform three post election audits- an automated ballot tabulation audit, a manual tabulation audit, and a comprehensive audit of election processes.

Automated Tabulation Audit

Ms. Hartman reported that the automated audit of ballot images from the 2020 General Election is complete. The automated tabulation audit has two phases, with the first being completed prior to local certification, and the second phase being completed prior to state certification. Before certifying election results, each local board received five reports comparing the voting system's results against the results from the independent tabulation performed by the automated audit software for all ballots cast during early voting, on election day, and all mail in ballots canvassing prior to election day. These same reports were updated after the completion of the second phase and shared with the Board of State Canvassers.

These reports showed that:

1. The voting system and audit system tabulated the same number of ballots (cards cast).
2. Any differences between the two systems' results were less than 0.5%.
3. The voting system accurately tabulated the results.

Ms. Hartman stated that the comparison reports and automated audit results (generated before we provided the voting system's results) are posted on SBE's website. The public portal of ballot images and reports will be published soon.

In response to a question from Mr. Voelp, Ms. Hartman stated that there were no discrepancies in any contest statewide that were close to the threshold of 0.5%.

Manual Tabulation Audit

Ms. Hartman stated that the manual tabulation audit takes place after the election is certified and serves as a second way to verify the accuracy of the voting system results. One manual audit is performed by each local board, which will take place in January and February of next year.

On October 23, Ms. Charlson and Ms. Hartman met virtually to randomly select an early voting center for each county with more than one early voting center. Due to the pandemic, the members of the State Board delegated this duty to Ms. Charlson. Local boards were notified of the selected early voting centers the day prior to the first day of early voting.

On November 13, Mr. Cogan, Mr. Hogan, Ms. Charlson, and Ms. Hartman met at the SBE office, with Ms. Lamone joining virtually to randomly select one election day vote center in each county to audit. Local boards were notified of the election day vote centers that day.

The local boards of elections selected absentee and provisional ballots for the audit. During the absentee and provisional canvasses, the ballots selected for the audit were scanned and results were printed. The results and selected ballots are secured for the audit.

Local boards will conduct the manual audits in January and February 2021. After all manual audits are completed, SBE will produce a report within 14 days of the conclusion of the last audit.

Comprehensive Audit

Ms. Hartman reported that work has begun on the comprehensive audit for the 2020 General Election. The comprehensive audit has three main sections that include approximately 15 subsections related to election processes. SBE staff is collecting and reviewing various documentation from the local boards to complete their auditing tasks, including canvassing minutes, drop box forms, polling place evaluations, pollbook data, and voting system reports, amongst other reports.

Once all of the data is collected and analyzed, each local board receives a report of findings and corrective actions to resolve any findings. A full report for each local board will be completed in the spring.

In response to a question from Mr. Cogan, Ms. Hartman clarified that the comprehensive audit compares the number of voters checked in to vote against the number of ballots cast at each vote center.

Voter Registration

MDVOTERS

Ms. Wagner welcomed Nikodimus (Niko) Kassa to the voter registration team. Niko joins us from the Candidate and Campaign Finance Division and like others in that Division, during this last election took on the extra duty of responding to the overwhelming number of emails. Niko will be working closely performing user acceptance testing for upcoming MDVOTERS releases among other voter registration related responsibilities.

Joint Application Design (JAD)

SBE is planning a JAD meeting for January 25 - 28th. JAD meetings are conducted to prioritize MDVOTERS issues and enhancements for the upcoming calendar year.

User Acceptance Testing (UAT)

Ms. Wagner reported that UAT is currently underway for the 7.4 MDVOTERS release. This release primarily focuses on issues identified in the candidacy module as well as enhancements. This release is scheduled to go into production in January of 2021.

Candidacy and Campaign Finance (CCF) Division

Candidacy - 2022

Mr. DeMarinis stated that in less than three months, candidates may begin to file for the 2022 elections. The CCF Division is undergoing planning and program development for SBE and the LBE's to be ready to accept candidates in late February.

On December 14, the Electoral College will meet at the Statehouse. We are working with the Governor's office and Democratic State Party to coordinate the event. He stated that the meeting would be livestreamed to accommodate current health guidelines regarding the pandemic.

Campaign Finance

Mr. DeMarinis stated that the contribution disclosure statement was due on November 30 for entities with government contracts of \$200,000 or more, and for entities that employ a lobbyist and make applicable contributions. Over 90% of the statements were filed timely. Late fees are occurring against the non-filers. The late fee penalty is the same as for political committees; up to \$1,000.

The Presidential Post-General campaign finance report was due on November 17. Nearly 90% of committees filed timely. An individual may not assume elective office if the candidate has failed to file a campaign finance report. Failure to file includes not paying the late fee.

Enforcement

Mr. DeMarinis reported that the CCF Division received payment for the following civil penalties:

1. Baltimore City Fraternal Order of Police PAC Fund committee paid \$250.00 on October 7, 2020 for the failure to include an authority line.
2. Friends of Zoran (Z) Stephen Horvat For Judge committee paid \$250.00 on October 7, 2020 for the failure to include an authority line.
3. Friends of Elizabeth (Betsy) Gardner committee paid \$600.00 on October 9, 2020 for the failure to record all contributions and expenditures.
4. Friends of Anthony Robert "Rob" Warren committee paid \$500.00 on October 30, 2020 for the failure to record all contributions and expenditures.
5. Friends of Glen Glass committee paid \$200.00 on October 30, 2020 for the failure to record all contributions and expenditures.
6. Bridgette Johnson for Harford committee paid \$200.00 on November 11, 2020 for the failure to record all contributions and expenditures.
7. Pet Lovers for Effective Advocacy for Maryland's Animals PAC paid \$100.00 on November 12, 2020 for disbursement by unauthorized method - cash greater than \$25.00.
8. Orphans Court for Fred McNeil committee paid \$1,000.00 on November 16, 2020 for the failure to record all contributions and expenditures.
9. Friends of Cindy Rose committee paid \$100.00 on November 25, 2020 for disbursement by

unauthorized method - cash greater than \$25.00.

10. Friends of Ryan Turner committee paid \$300.00 on November 19, 2020 for the failure to record all contributions and expenditures.

Project Management Office (PMO)

Mr. Ross reported that operational support for the 2020 General Election is nearly complete with a couple of close-out tasks needing to be completed. The on-site operations support went very well with a number of individuals recording voter calls and updating and maintaining the Election Operations Support dashboard that was accessed by SBE employees and local board management and staff during early voting and on election day.

FY2022 Pollbook Project

The PMO continued working on tasks related to the project. They include:

- The Request for Proposals (RFP) for the pollbook solution was completed and approved by DGS and DoIT for release for responses from vendors. The pre-proposal conference was held on November 30, and the current due date for responses is January 18, 2021.
- Continued work with the pollbook project team on the governance, financial, and technical aspects of the project and the increased involvement of SBE and local board management and staff.

Information Technology and Security

Data Processing Centers (DPC)

Mr. Brechbiel reported that in addition to the primary DPC located at the Motor Vehicle Administration (MVA) headquarters, a secondary DPC was configured and reserved at the University of Maryland Global Campus (UMGC) Marriott in Hyattsville, MD to provide a contingency site if the primary site became inaccessible or to expand capacity if needed. The third DPC was established at the request of the Prince George's Board of Elections to increase their MDVOTERS processing capacity.

Email Notifications

IST created a data-driven voter notification process to keep voters informed on their mail-in ballot status. Examples include ballot request processed, ballot request is untimely, ballot received, and ballot has been counted. Mr. Brechbiel reported that 4,575,675 email notifications were sent during this election to help keep the public informed.

Graphical Information Systems (GIS)

IST utilized several GIS tools to provide easy-to-understand maps to assist board members and staff in the approval of early voting centers, election day voting centers, and ballot drop boxes for this election. Population density data was visually incorporated to help insure coverage.

IST also developed and posted mobile friendly custom google maps to the SBE website to provide location information and driving directions for all Maryland early voting centers, election day voting centers and ballot drop boxes. Visitors to the SBE website viewed these maps a total of 10,427,936 times.

Election Cybersecurity Recap

Mr. Treichel referred the Members to the Administrator's Report for the election cybersecurity recap, and asked that they contact him if there were any questions. He thanked SBE's partner cybersecurity organizations- the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency, the Maryland Fusion Center, and the FBI.

In response to a question from Mr. Hogan regarding a statement from the Administrator's Report which stated that SBE teams updated defenses in real time, Mr. Treichel stated that the defensive actions taken were proactive, based on attacks that were occurring elsewhere in the nation. Mr. Treichel explained that though the cybersecurity team was busy during on election day due to taking proactive measures, that from an alert standpoint, it was a quiet day.

NOVEMBER 3 ELECTION DISCUSSION

Member Remarks

Mr. Cogan stated that unless there was an objection, the discussion of the November 3 election would occur at this point in the meeting, followed by the remainder of the agenda. There were no objections.

Mr. Hogan began the discussion by stating that the election was an "unmitigated success." Mr. Cogan thanked those involved with the success of the election from the State Administrator to the election judges. Mr. Cogan stated that he drove to vote centers in approximately 18 jurisdictions, during early voting and on election day, to see the result of the work of the Board and staff first hand. He stated that everyone involved succeeded in the face of extenuating circumstances. Mr. Voelp reiterated Mr. Cogan and Mr. Hogan's statements, noting that the Board received input from everyone involved for the many decisions they had to make. He thanked everyone for their hard work and input and added that the hard work did not go unnoticed. Mr. Funn also reiterated the previous point and added that Maryland can be an example for other states. Mr. Funn stated that he visited vote centers in Calvert County and was very impressed with the smoothness of the entire voting process, from line management, to COVID safety protocol, to separating voters in line based on their precinct. He also gave kudos to the Maryland Elections Workgroup for the meetings they had which resulted suggestions that were implemented. Mr. Funn closed by thanking everyone involved and gave congratulations on a job well done. Ms. Lamone thanked the members for their kind words, and gave a special thanks to Ms. Charlson for her hard work leading the staff.

ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL'S REPORT

Mr. Trento gave an update on the following cases:

1. *Fusaro v. Davitt et al.*, No. 20-1879 (U.S.C.A. for the 4th Cir.). Mr. Trento stated that this is no longer explicitly a vote list usage case, but now is a first a first amendment case, as Mr. Fusaro obtained the requested voter list. Mr. Fusaro continues his appeal though challenging the vote list usage restriction, while the issue of access to the voter list is now moot. The usage restriction requires that the voter list only be used for purposes related to the electoral process. Mr. Fusaro's argument that this requirement is vague was dismissed by the Fourth Circuit, which he has appealed to the United States Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit. On November 23, 2020, the defendants filed their response brief to plaintiff's opening brief. Plaintiff's reply brief is currently due December 24, 2020.
2. *National Federation of the Blind, Inc., et al. v. Lamone et al.*, No. 1:19-CV-02228-ELH (U.S. District Court, D. Md.). Mr. Trento stated that this case is regarding usage of ballot marking devices in Maryland. On November 12, 2020, the parties filed a joint motion to stay the case for 60 days to allow for a focused period of settlement discussions, which was also granted by the Court. The stay is set to expire on January 11, 2021.
3. *Chong Su Yi v. Hogan*, Nos. 480720, 480721, 480722, 480723 (Cir. Ct. Montgomery Cty.). On October 9, 2020, the Plaintiff filed notices of appeal to the Court of Special Appeals in

all of his cases regarding the Court's dismissal of his motions for reconsideration of the Court's dismissal orders of his original motions. No briefing schedule has been set.

4. *Swain et al. v. Slusar, et al.*, No. C-12-CV-20-00757 (Cir. Ct., Harford Cty.). Mr. Trento reported that this is a new matter. On Tuesday, October 27, 2020, plaintiffs Daniel Swain and Luke Swain filed a complaint in the Circuit Court for Harford County seeking a statewide injunction against the enforcement of the Governor's order requiring the use of facial coverings as applied to polling places. Over the next few days, plaintiffs amended their complaint several times to include claims that the enforcement of the mask order violated several provisions of the Election Law Article and Health General Article of the Maryland Code, and the Maryland Constitution and Declaration of Rights. On Thursday, October 29, 2020, the Harford County Board of Elections filed an opposition to plaintiffs' request for preliminary injunctive relief. On Friday, October 30, 2020, after a hearing, the Circuit Court denied plaintiffs' request for preliminary relief.

APPROVAL OF FINAL REGULATIONS- COMAR 33.19.02.01- SAME DAY REGISTRATION AND ADDRESS CHANGE (PUBLIC NOTICE)

Ms. Hartman presented a proposed amendment to COMAR 33.19.02 – Same Day Registration and Address Change – Public Notice for final adoption. These proposed regulations were approved by the Board at its July 23, 2020 meeting and published in the September 11, 2020, issue of the *Maryland Register* (Vol. 47, Issue 19). The public comment period closed on October 11, 2020. Ms. Hartman stated that no public comments were received.

Ms. Hartman presented for final adoption COMAR 33.19.02.01 – Minimum Requirement and explained that no comments were received. Ms. Hartman recommended adopting as published.

There was no discussion on the adoption of the proposed regulation as final. Mr. Funn made a motion to adopt the proposed regulation for final publication, and Mr. Voelp seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

APPROVAL OF AMENDMENTS TO BYLAWS- BALTIMORE COUNTY

Mr. Hartman presented amended bylaws for the Board of Elections for Baltimore County, which were approved by the local board at its July 2020 meeting. The specific amendments are as follows:

1. Addition of text to the duties of the President allowing for other members of the Board as the point of contact for the Election Director (Article 2, Section 2.2, Subsection C).
2. Addition of a requirement that if the President is to cancel a meeting because there is no new business to discuss, that the remaining members of the Board must give unanimous consent (Article 3, Section 3.1, Subsection D).
3. Allows for a majority of the Board making application to the President to call for a special meeting, in addition to the President being able to call a special meeting (Article 3, Section 3.1, Subsection E).
4. Changed the requirement of in-person meeting attendance, unless requested and approved by the President beforehand, to allow for attendance to be in person, via phone, or via video conference (Article 3, Section 3.2, Subsection B).

In response to a question from Mr. Voelp, Ms. Brown stated that the amendments were general housekeeping items that had been overlooked previously. In response to a second question from Mr. Voelp regarding the amendment to Article 2, Section 2.2, Subsection C, Ms. Brown stated that the amendment is clarifying that other members may contact the election director directly and do not have to always go through the Board President.

There was no further discussion on the approval of the proposed amended bylaws. Mr. Voelp made a motion to adopt the amended bylaws for the Board of Elections for Baltimore County, and Mr. Voelp seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

APPROVAL OF LATE FEE WAIVERS

Mr. DeMarinis presented a request from seven campaign committees to waive late fees incurred by the committee. Eight campaign committees were denied waivers of late fees and were presented to the board for informational purposes. Mr. DeMarinis stated that SBE has collected approximately \$87,000 in late fees this year.

The committees requesting a waiver of late filing fees were:

1. Addison, Jackie Citizens to Elect
2. Anderson, Christopher (Chris) 2020 People For
3. Brittingham, Troy Jr. Citizens for
4. Committee to Restore Term Limit
5. Reynolds, Ehren Friends of
6. Roland, Jenna State Senate Campaign Committee
7. Serrette, Cathy H. Friends of Judge

Mr. Hogan made a motion to approve the waiver requests, and Mr. Voelp seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Cogan thanked everyone he came in contact with at the vote centers he visited for their hospitality and patience.

There was no other old business.

NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business.

SPEAKER

There was no public speaker.

DISCLOSURE OF CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTIONS

Mr. Cogan disclosed the following campaign contributions:

- | | |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. Loeffler for Senate - \$75 | 7. Nunes for Congress - \$50 |
| 2. Perdue for Senate - \$500 | 8. James for Senate - \$175 |
| 3. Ernst for Senate - \$375 | 9. Collins for Senate - \$100 |
| 4. McCarthy for Congress - \$50 | 10. McSally for Senate - \$345 |
| 5. Scott for Senate - \$175 | 11. Scalise for Congress - \$17 |
| 6. McConnell for Senate - \$135 | |

12. National Republican Congressional
Committee - \$330
13. National Republican Senate Committee -
\$1,095
14. Republican National Committee - \$1,292

15. Republican State Leadership Committee
- \$150
16. Maryland Republican Party - \$100
17. Trump for President - \$75
18. Noem for Governor - \$50

SCHEDULE NEXT MEETING

The next three meetings are scheduled for Tuesday, January 12, 2021, at 2 p.m.; Thursday, February 11, at 2 p.m.; and Thursday, March 25 at 2 p.m.

MESSAGE FROM KELLEY HOWELLS

Mr. Cogan stated that Ms. Howells has tendered her resignation to the Governor from the Board effective January 1, 2021. Mr. Cogan stated that he has valued having Ms. Howells as a colleague.

Mr. Cogan read the following message from Ms. Howells:

"I regret that I am not able to attend the Board meeting today. This meeting would have been my last, and after five and a half years on the Board, I don't want to leave without saying goodbye. To my colleagues on the Board- Malcom, Mike, PJ, and Bill- it has been an honor to serve with you. I know how much time and effort is required to serve on the Board, and the fact that you do it so well without expecting a reward is a credit to all of you. You are truly public servants. To the agency staff- Nikki, Linda, and the rest of the team- I have been consistently impressed with your skill and dedication. The fact that you hold steady, and do this work in the face of constant pressure makes me admire you all the more. Please know that I am fine- I am a lucky person who has all the important blessings in life.

I wish you all the best,

Kelley"

CLOSED SESSION- LEGAL ADVICE AND SECURITY BRIEFING

Mr. Cogan requested a motion to close the board meeting under General Provisions Article, §3-305(b)(1), which permits closing a meeting to discuss compensation of employees over whom the State Board has jurisdiction, and (7) and (8), which permits closing a meeting to consult with counsel to obtain legal advice and with staff about pending or potential litigation.

Mr. Funn made a motion to convene in closed session under General Provisions Article, §3-305(b)(1), (7), and (8), and Mr. Voelp seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The motion having passed, the Board met in closed session in accordance with exemptions defined in (b)(1), (7), and (8) of Section 3-305 of the Open Meetings Act to discuss compensation of employees over whom the State Board has jurisdiction and receive advice from counsel and consult with staff about pending or potential litigation.

The closed session began at 3:31 pm. Mr. Cogan, Mr. Hogan, Mr. Funn, and Mr. Voelp attended the closed meeting. In addition to the board members, Ms. Lamone, Ms. Charlson, Mr. Trento, and Ms. Duncan attended the closed meeting.

Mr. Trento provided legal advice and the board consulted with staff on potential or pending litigation. The members approved a motion establishing compensation of an employee over whom they have jurisdiction.

The closed meeting adjourned at 4:19 pm.

ADJOURNMENT

The open meeting adjourned at 3:17 pm.