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Following Vote Discrepancy, Prince George's County Board of Elections to Re-Certify Results

Election Outcomes Will Not Be Impacted

(Annapolis, MD May 31, 2024) The Prince George's County Board of Elections conducted Maryland State Board of Elections mandated post-election audit procedures of the mail-in ballot canvass.

The post-election audit detected a vote discrepancy. Four-hundred and forty-six mail-in ballots, contained in a secure ballot storage bin within the onsite canvass premises, had not been scanned during the mail-in ballot canvass. The ballots had been properly received, processed, and securely stored. But, because the ballots were not scanned, they were not included in the election results certified by the Prince George's County Board of Canvassers.

The Prince George's County Board of Elections initiated the decertification process of their election results, in consultation with and with guidance from the State Administrator of Elections, so that they could properly canvass and scan the additional mail-in ballots.

Following the scanning of the 446 ballots, the mail-in ballot canvass results will be re-certified by Prince George's County Board of Canvassers. Both the county and State Boards of Elections will audit the election results again prior to State certification in two weeks. The State and Prince George's County Boards of Elections are confident that all mail-in ballots were processed, scanned, and tabulated accurately because of the scanning of the 446 ballots. No election outcomes were changed due to the recertification. There will be no delays to the upcoming certification of statewide results by the State Board of Canvassers.

The mail-in ballots were not initially scanned during the first or second mail-in ballot canvass due to unanticipated circumstances that took place during the canvass process. The Prince George's County Board of Elections had scheduled to move its canvass from the First Baptist Church of Glenarden Family Life Center to their office in the middle of a day of canvass, because of a non-election related event being held at the First Baptist Church. During the move, a single bin of mail-in ballots was overlooked and, therefore, not scanned. This isolated occurrence is not anticipated to occur again in any future canvasses and additional verification measures will be put into place in the General Election.

The State Board has processes in place to make sure election officials can account for every ballot cast in an election. The discovery of the 446 ballots was a result of these processes. The State Board will continue to strengthen the post-election

auditing procedures for mail-in ballots as election turnout continues to rise for mail-in voting. As always, the State Board, in conjunction with the local boards of elections, will review those processes to ensure voters can remain confident in the fairness, accuracy, and transparency of their elections.

While decertification and recertification is not ideal, the State Board remains committed to being open and transparent regarding the election results and ensuring every vote counts. Verification of the election results and chain of custody process instill confidence in the election administration. This is the hallmark that the State Board has set to combat any dis or misinformation on election results and tabulation.

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