

**BOARD MEMBERS**

MICHAEL W. DETMER  
PRESIDENT

THOMAS M. CORKRAN  
VICE PRESIDENT

RALPH C. LEWIS JR.  
SECRETARY

WILLIAM E. BATSON  
BOARD MEMBER

ROBIN A. WILLEY  
BOARD MEMBER



**DORCHESTER COUNTY  
BOARD OF ELECTIONS**

HUBERT H. WRIGHT, IV  
ATTORNEY

GWENDOLYN H. DALES  
ELECTION DIRECTOR

BRITTANY M. PHILLIPS  
ELECTION PROGRAM ASSISTANT

JESSICA R. NORANBROCK  
ELECTION PROGRAM ASSISTANT

KIMBERLY K. JONES  
ELECTION PROGRAM IT SPECIALIST II

SLOANE P. HURLEY  
ELECTION PROGRAM ASSISTANT

**ATTENDEES:** Michael W. Detmer, President  
Thomas M. Corkran, Vice President  
Ralph C. Lewis, Secretary  
Robin Connolly, Member  
Hubert H. Wright, IV, Attorney

Gwendolyn H. Dales, Election Director  
Jessica Noranbrock, Election Asst.

**ABSENT:** William Batson, Member

**GUESTS:** Sarah Gavian

***MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING February 22, 2022***

**Call to Order and Determine Quorum:**

President Detmer called the meeting to order at 10:05 AM; quorum was determined.

**Welcome any Guests:**

President Detmer welcomed the guest, Sarah Gavian.

**Report any Board or Staff Absences:**

William Batson, Member

**Additions to Agenda:**

Director Dales would like to add a closed session to discuss confidential voter status, and added an article on redistricting to the Board packets.

**Approval of Minutes:**

• **12.14.21 Minutes**

Mr. Lewis motioned to approve the minutes, seconded by Mr. Corkran. The minutes were approved.

**Election Director's Report:**

- **Budget: FY2022 –December 2021 and January 2022 year/date/monthly expenditures**

Director Dales distributed the monthly budgets.

**Old Business:**

- **Redistricting Discussion**

Director Dales presented an article to the Board on redistricting and informed the Board there are several pending lawsuits regarding the Legislative and Congressional maps, some with dates going into April. There is a lot involved in redistricting. For our County, the biggest changes look like they will take place for voters assigned to the Cambridge-South Dorchester High School and St. Paul's United Methodist Church Hall polling places.

Ms. Dales informed the Board that the Maryland Association of Election Officials (MAEO) is proposing a couple of different changes due to how late we will be redistricting. One concept is having vote centers, similar to how the elections were in 2020. Another idea is moving Primary Election Day so that we have time to make changes. Mrs. Connolly asked if they move the Primary when would it be? Ms. Dales said possibly July. Mr. Detmer said that they may move the candidate filing deadline again if the lawsuits won't be over until April.

Ms. Dales mentioned that other counties are taking this opportunity of redistricting to combine precincts that would have the exact same ballot styles. We noticed a few lines that could be changed, if this Board would be interested in doing so. The most noticeable suggestion would be Elliott Island. With 40 registered voters, they could be combined with precinct 11-1 and be assigned to the adjacent precinct in Vienna to vote. Mrs. Connolly said that with mail-in voting it seems very expensive to open a polling place for 40 registered voters. Ms. Dales mentioned that the State considered a precinct with less than 50 voters ideal to be combined with another precinct. Mr. Detmer said that if we are going to consider these changes we need to hold a public hearing at the next meeting.

Mr. Corkran stated that from passed experience there will be a lot of public outcry if we try to make changes. Ms. Dales said that the office will do the work required to make any of the changes, if the Board decides they want to consider the options at the next meeting with a public hearing. Ms. Dales is not advocating for any of the changes, just letting the Board know that if they were considering changes, during redistricting is a good time. Mr. Corkran asked if they don't make changes now do they have to wait another 10 years? Ms. Dales said the Board can make changes at any time, it's just a more opportune time during redistricting.

Mr. Detmer thanked Ms. Dales for her and the office staff's due diligence in bringing this to the Board, but felt that with the uncertainty of things, it's best to leave things as they are for now.

- **Update – City of Cambridge Special Election Request**  
Director Dales informed the Board that the City of Cambridge Attorney reached out to us about running a special election for the Mayoral seat. We respectfully thanked them for asking us, but told them we are unable to work with their timeline. Mr. Detmer said at their last meeting they received a lot of negative pushback about removing the Mayor seat. Ms. Dales said that our priority is the Gubernatorial Elections. Mr. Detmer agreed.
- **Update – Petition**  
Director Dales provided the Board a copy of the letter of advanced determination of sufficiency that was sent to the petitioners. We sent the petition and letter to the Board Attorney, Mr. Wright, and the Assistant Attorney General for the State Board of Elections, just to confirm sufficiency each. Mr. Detmer asked if Ms. Dales could characterize what the petition was about. Their petitions relate to the county manager and adding a section on transparency to the County Charter. Ms. Dales said the original verbiage was very lengthy. She suggested they shorten it or provide a summary, but made it known in the letter that they need to provide the entire verbiage to signers, if requested.
- **Update – BMDs**  
Director Dales informed the Board we received four (4) new BMDs and will be receiving three (3) more. This procurement was due to the settlement with the National Federation of the Blind which requires 50% of our polling places have two (2) BMDs, and 25% need to be our farthest polling places.

**New Business:**

- **Financial Disclosure due April 30<sup>th</sup>**  
Director Dales reminded the Board the financial disclosure deadline is approaching.

**FYI:**

- **Candidate Filing Deadline now March 22, 2022**  
Director Dales provided the Board with the Court Order describing the extension of the candidate filing deadline.
- **Received 1,045 Mail-In Ballot Application Requests as of Feb. 15<sup>th</sup>**  
Director Dales informed the Board that as of February 15<sup>th</sup> we have received 1,045 mail-in ballot application requests.
- **Election Judge Manual Status**  
Mrs. Noranbrock informed the Board that the manual is currently in the process of being approved by SBE.
- **2022 Election Judge Training Schedule**  
Director Dales provided the Board with the tentative election judge training schedule.

- **Legislative Summary**  
Director Dales provided the Board with a summary of current election-related legislation.
- **New Pollbook Printers Status**  
Director Dales informed the Board we will be receiving ten (10) new printers for training, and we are supposed to have the rest for the Primary Election.

**Closed Session:**

Director Dales asked the Board to go into closed session to discuss confidential voter status. Mr. Corkran made a motion to go into a closed session, seconded by Mr. Lewis. The Board went into a closed session at 10:42 AM. The regular meeting resumed at 10:53 AM.

**Public Comment Following Closed Session:**

The Board went into closed session to discuss confidential voter status. President Detmer expressed his intent to resign from the Dorchester County Board of Election in order to run as a candidate for County Council. Mr. Detmer thanked the Board and staff for all their hard work over the years and said he has always been proud to be a part of this Board and in his role as President.

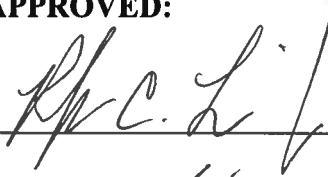
**Confirmation of Next Meeting:**

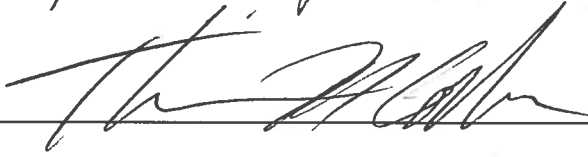
The next board meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 22, 2022 at 9:00 AM, in Room 110 of the Dorchester County Office Building, 501 Court Lane, Cambridge, MD 21613.

**Adjournment:**

Mr. Lewis motioned to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Corkran. The meeting adjourned at 11:09 AM.

**APPROVED:**

  
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