

# St. Mary's County Board of Elections

23250 Leonardtown Hollywood Road  
Leonardtown, MD 20650

## Board Meeting Minutes of 13 December 2021

### Present:

#### **Board Members:**

Jack Payne, Board President (R)  
Rebecca Wathen, Board Secretary (D)  
Kenneth Boothe, Member (R)  
Ann Raley, Member (D)  
Mary Coombs, Member (R)

#### **Staff Members:**

Wendy Adkins, Director  
Susan Julian, Deputy Director  
  
Cynthia Panos, Board Attorney (via telecon)

**Absent:** None

At 10:31 AM, Mr. Jack Payne, Board President, determined that there was a quorum present and called the meeting to order.

**Guests Present:** Ms. Joan Sullivan Cowan

### **Documents Distributed:**

- Ballot Drop Box Locations for 2022

**Approval of Minutes:** The minutes of the December 1, 2021 meeting will be presented at the next regular meeting.

**Meeting Agenda:** The meeting agenda was reviewed. No changes or additions were noted.

**Director's Report:** Ms. Adkins reported the following:

- The Early Voting Site approval process will occur at the SBE meeting scheduled for December 16, 2021 at 2 pm.

### **Old Business:**

- **Ballot Drop Boxes:** Ms. Adkins provided a listing of the Ballot Drop Box locations proposed for the 2022 Election Cycle. The list contained how many ballots were collected from each site during the 2020 General Election. Based upon this information, Ms. Adkins proposed the following changes:
  - The ballot box at the Lexington Park Library is proposed to be moved to the Bay District Fire House in order to have the ballot box in the same location as the Early Voting Site.
  - The ballot box at the old BOE location on Tudor Hall Road is proposed to be moved to Dynard Elementary School to provide an additional drop box location in the Northern end of the County.
  - The ballot box at Lettie Dent Elementary School is proposed to be moved to the Mechanicsville Fire House in order to have the ballot box in the same location as the Early Voting Site.
  - The ballot box at the Margaret Brent Middle School is proposed to be moved to Piney Point Elementary School to provide an additional drop box location in this area of the County.

**Public Comment:** Ms. Joan Sullivan Cowan spoke about the Drop Box locations in Lexington Park. Her primary concern was having a drop box location on the northern side of Great Mills Road where there are none currently


located. Residents in that area would need to cross a business road in order to safely drop their ballots into the drop box. Her recommendations were to the Sherriff's District Office or the St. Mary's County Health Department hub. The Board members held a discussion and explained to Ms. Sullivan Cowan that there are criteria that must be met for any drop box location. Things that must be considered are Parking, Traffic Patterns, Accessibility, and 24/7 Camera Surveillance. While the proposed locations may meet some of the criteria, they do not meet all of the criteria required by the SBE. The Board discussed other locations along the north side of Great Mills Road, but no feasible locations were identified.

A motion was made Ms. Wathen to accept the proposed ballot box locations for 2022 as presented by Ms. Adkins; seconded by Ms. Coombs. Motion Carried.

**Next Meeting:** The next meeting will be February 2, 2022 at 9 AM.

A motion was made by Ms. Wathen to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Ms. Coombs. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 10:58 AM.

Respectfully Submitted,

  
Rebecca J. Wathen  
Board Secretary