

St. Mary's County Board of Elections

23250 Leonardtown Hollywood Road
Leonardtown, MD 20650

Emergency Board Meeting Minutes of 27 March 2023

Present:

Board Members:

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

* Members attended virtually

Staff Members:

Wendy Adkins, Director
Susan Julian, Deputy Director

Cynthia Panos, Board Attorney

Absent: None

At 11:33 AM, Mr. Jack Payne, Board President, determined that there was a quorum present and called the meeting to order.

Guests Present: None

Documents Distributed:

- HB410 – Election Reform Act of 2023

Approval of Minutes: N/A due to the Emergency Meeting

Meeting Agenda: The meeting agenda was reviewed and no changes were requested.

Director's Report: N/A due to the Emergency Meeting

Old Business: N/A due to the Emergency Meeting

New Business:

- **HB410 – Election Reform Act of 2023**

Katie Berry is the Legislative Committee chair for MAEO. She has provided all LBEs a form letter that she would like each LBE to sign and forward to their Ways and Means Committee in Annapolis. MAEO is taking exception to this legislature for the following reasons:

- A "Disenfranchised Voter" is not defined within the Bill
- The Bill cites outdated census data. They used references to 2018 (pre-pandemic) census data where the current info is 2020.

The Board members reviewed the letter and discussed various aspects of the House Bill and Letter content. A motion was made by Ms. Wathen to had Ms. Adkins and Ms. Panos tailor the letter with Local Board of Elections concerns and that the letter be signed by Ms. Adkins, Election Director, and Mr. Jack Payne, Board President, seconded by Ms. Coombs. Motion carried. The draft letter will be sent to all Board Members to review prior to signing and sending.

MAEO has also requested that the LBEs attending the hearing in person. The hearing is scheduled for March 28, 2023 at 1:00 PM to express their dislike of the proposed Bill. Ms. Adkins advised that she and several of her staff members would be attending for voice their concerns.

Next Meeting: The next meeting will be on April 5, 2023 at 11:00 AM.

A motion was made by Ms. Wathen to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Ms. Coombs. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 11:49 AM.

Respectfully Submitted,



Rebecca J. Wathen

Board Secretary