

The Totem Poll

Harford County's Election Poll Workers Newsletter

Building a better election process one election judge at a time

Volume 6 Issue 1

Summer, 2012

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Special points of interest:

2012 Presidential Election Dates:

Registration Deadline: October 16th

Early Voting Dates:

October 27-November 1st

Presidential Election: November 6th

New Director's Letter:

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself. My name is Kevin Keene and I officially assumed the duties as the Election Director for Harford County Board of Elections on June 27, 2012. While I will be new to the position as Election Director, I am no stranger to elections. For the past four years I have been a member of the Election Board and the prior four years I was legal counsel to the Board. I have been a resident of Harford County since 1987 and was born and raised in Baltimore County. I obtained my J.D and a B.S in Business Management from the University of Baltimore. I received my service retirement from the Baltimore County Police Department in 2002 and have been practicing law in Harford County since my retirement.

I am looking forward to continuing my service with the Board in my new capacity and thank them for this op-

portunity. I am especially looking forward to working with the Election Office staff, many of them who I have come to know during my time on the Board. I have watched this dedicated, conscientious and competent group of public servants work tirelessly behind the scenes to ensure the integrity of our voting records, and administer fair and impartial elections. Watching this group over the past eight years I have learned one thing about them, they are not satisfied with doing a good job, they strive for perfection. Until you actually see and participate in an election with them, it's hard to really appreciate the time and sacrifices the staff makes to ensure that one of our most precious rights, the right to participate in the process to determine who will govern us, is conducted with integrity, fairness and impartiality.

Finally, I would be remiss if I did not recognize the extraordinary performance by Dale Livingston as Acting Director and Shawn Larson as Acting Deputy Director, stepping up to manage the office during a dynamic transition when the Board needed them. I see my mission as continuing to guide the office down the path where every member is valued and the goal is perfection, because that is what the citizens of Harford County deserve.

Kevin Keene

Don't Forget About McFaul...

Early voting is available again for the 2012 General Election. If you know that you will be out of town or unavailable for Election Day on November 6th, or if you would prefer to avoid the potential long lines at the polls, then you can vote early at the McFaul Activity Center in

Bel Air. The activity center is located at 525 W. MacPhail Rd in Bel Air, off Rt. 24 behind the MVA.

Early voting dates are October 27 thru November 1st from 10am to 8pm, with the exception of Sunday October 28th (12-6pm).

2012 MAEO Conference at the Wisp Resort in McHenry



There were seminars, speakers, food, surprises, food, entertainment, door prizes, food, chair lifts, mountain coasters, singing, dancing, and more food. The 2012 MAEO Conference at the Wisp Resort in McHenry, MD was an enjoyable experience for its members.

Among the topics discussed were redistricting, the upcoming automated absentee delivery program, refresher training for election judges, and Best Practices presentations.

The Maryland Association of Election Officials (MAEO) is the professional membership organization comprised of local election officials and Election Boards from all 24 jurisdictions in the State of Maryland. The purpose of the organization is to improve the election

and registration procedures in the State; to improve the operation of the offices of the Boards of Elections throughout the State; to recommend desirable new legislation affecting voting and registration to the State Board of Elections; and to encourage fellowship and exchange ideas.

MAEO Conferences aren't all seminars and innovations, what's a conference without a little bit of entertainment? The conference concluded with performances by the Teal Steel Band, karaoke, Maryland Trivia, and our own special interpretation of American Idol cleverly entitled "Election Idol."

Did You Know?

Havre de Grace, an incorporated city in Harford County, was once under consideration to be the capital of the United States rather than Washington, D.C. It was favored for its strategic location at the top of the Chesapeake Bay; this location would facilitate trade while providing security in time of war.

Special Thanks to Harford Day School

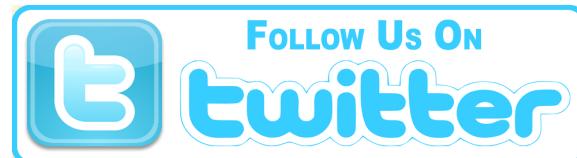
Harford County Board of Elections would like to send a special thanks to Harford Day School for allowing us to use their school as a polling place for the 2012 Presidential Primary Election. Unfortunately due to certain circumstances, we will not be using the facility for the General Election in November. District/Precinct 3-15 which was Harford Day School will now be combined with Southampton Middle School (3-18) and become a combination precinct (3-15/3-18). The Southampton Middle School location will provide better parking and will be as convenient for the voters

as the Harford Day School location.

We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause but we feel confident that this move will be in the best interest for all who are affected by it.

Turnout for the 2012 Presidential Primary
22.53%

Turnout for 2012 Havre de Grace Municipal Election
18.93%



@HarfordVotes

Classes are in Session!!

It was a record year for the Harford County Board of Elections. In all, our office assisted five schools in their Student Government Association (SGA) Elections including the Harford County Regional Association of Student Counsels (HCRASC). Fallston High School, Edgewood Middle, Bel Air High and North Harford High School students all voted via touchscreen, electing their future President, Vice President, Treasurer, etc. Just like the real Election, the voters (students) came, gave their name, received a voter access card and cast their ballot before heading back to class. What makes this a win-win is that this comes at no cost to the schools, but is simply a voter outreach program that the Harford County Board of Elections provides for the benefit of all students and schools involved. What better way to give the students an early start on the democratic process!

More school election pictures can be seen on our website at www.harfordvotes.info



Students voting at Fallston High School



At Bel Air High School, Check-In Judges (on the left) administer voter cards to the student voters.



Junior voters at Edgewood Middle School patiently wait in line to receive their voter card.



Eager student at Edgewood Middle School directing students where to go to vote.

 A graphic with a blue header and footer. In the center is a circular logo with the word 'VOTE' and stars. To the right, the text 'CHECK YOUR VOTER STATUS!' is written in large, bold, blue letters. A large red checkmark is on the right. Below the checkmark is a list of four questions, each preceded by a small 'VOTE' icon.

- Are you a registered voter?
- Has your address changed?
- Has your name changed?
- Do you wish to change your party affiliation?



Get Connected

Super Election Supervisor!!!

Harford County Board of Elections would like to welcome our new Election Supervisor Diana Moran! Diana served as Election Supervisor for the Baltimore County Board of Elections for 17 years. Her years of experience makes her an invaluable addition to our office. In the short period of time Diana has been here, her personality has already been a glowing influence on the staff. We look forward to working with you Diana and we will continue to make your transition to Harford a smooth and successful one!



Diana Moran brings knowledge and experience to Harford County Elections.

Absentee Automation

Beginning with this 2012 Presidential General Election, Maryland will introduce a new automated absentee delivery program. This program will allow requested absentee ballots to be processed via automation and mailed to the voters from a centralized location.

The designer of this new program is a company known as Runbeck Election Services (RES). Runbeck is one the country's leading election partners and a one-stop shop providing customers with total election solutions including ballot production, election materials printing, postal voting solutions and everything in between. With 40 years of election services experience, the company prides itself on meeting customer needs by delivering results that are efficient, accurate and transparent.

With the production facility based out of Florida, RES uses state-of-the-art technology and know-how to provide the most accurate ballot printing and processing system available.

Under this new system, the Maryland State Board of Elections (SBE) will receive the absentee requests via the Local Boards of Election (LBE). RES will receive the applications in a Portable Document Format (PDF) from the State Board. Runbeck will then generate the ballots in Florida, process them, send test ballots to the local boards for approval, then barcode and mail the approved ballots to the voters, who requested an absentee. The bar coding is the tracking system that ensures proper delivery and security of the ballots.

Ballots are printed using the Sentio Ballot on Demand machine. The Sentio is an extremely valuable tool because it is:

- **Efficient.** Sentio automatically produces the exact quantity of ballots needed for each absentee run. This eliminates the need to store pre-printed ballots, as well as the time-consuming task of manually counting, sorting and organizing the ballots.
- **Accurate.** Sentio improves quality by eliminating possible human error in selecting and handling the ballots.
- **Cost-Effective.** Sentio generates the exact quantities of ballots needed, which eliminates the waste that occurs with ordering absentees and duplicates in advance.

- **Secure.** Sentio's multi-layered security protects against unauthorized use. Once logged in, ballot generation is controlled and monitored. Reports are available showing every ballot produced by each user.
- **Verifiable.** Sentio reconciles print output against ballot requests. This provides a verifiable audit trail of all requested ballots printed while protecting against unauthorized ballot printing.

We believe this new delivery program will assist us in our efforts to deliver absentee ballots in a timely manner.

With all this new technology, not everything will be automated. Ballots will still go through a visual inspection after printing is completed.

Several counties in Maryland took part in a trial run of this process during the Primary Election in April (Harford was not one of them). In all, the participating counties came away very pleased with the process. Because of this success the State Board of Elections proceeded with their plans to continue the program for the General Election. As a result of the trial run during the Primary, a total of 5,800 absentee ballots were mailed successfully.

Harford County Board of Elections certainly looks forward to implementing this new program, set to begin in August, and is excited about the opportunities it brings!

New Precinct Locations for 2012:

- 1-01 Magnolia Elementary School
- 1-05 Deerfield Elementary School
- 1-07 Trinity Lutheran School
- 1-13/22 St. Francis De Sales
- 1-19 Edgewood High School
- 1-16/20 Church Creek Elementary School
- 3-02 Churchville Recreation Center
- 3-13 Red Pump Elementary School
- 3-14 Bel Air High School
- 3-15/18 Southampton Middle School
- 3-17 Wakefield Elementary School



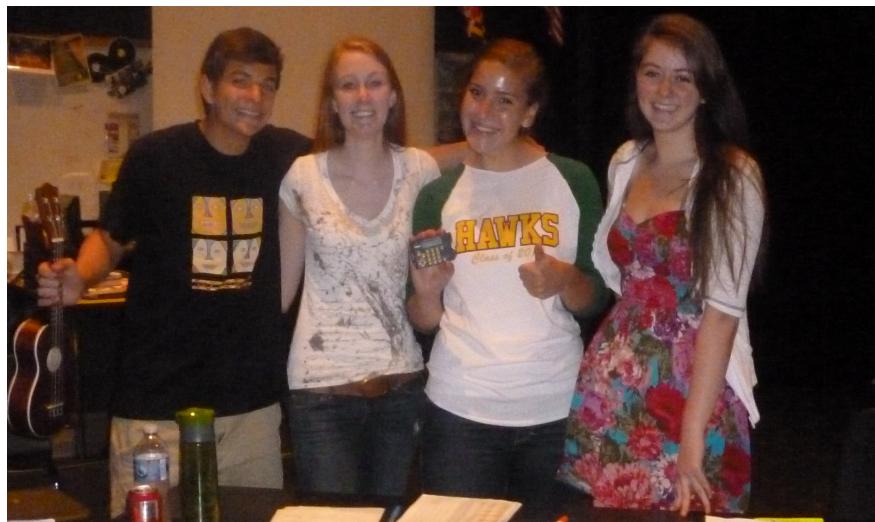
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Harford County Board of Elections



The Maryland State Board of Elections (SBE) will improve the participation and voting experience of voters by implementing an online voter registration system (OLVR). This will enhance the State's existing online absentee ballot delivery system. This is significant in that it addresses 3 critical components of the voting process – registering to vote, requesting a ballot, and voting the ballot. The OLVR system will be a new system in Maryland designed to:

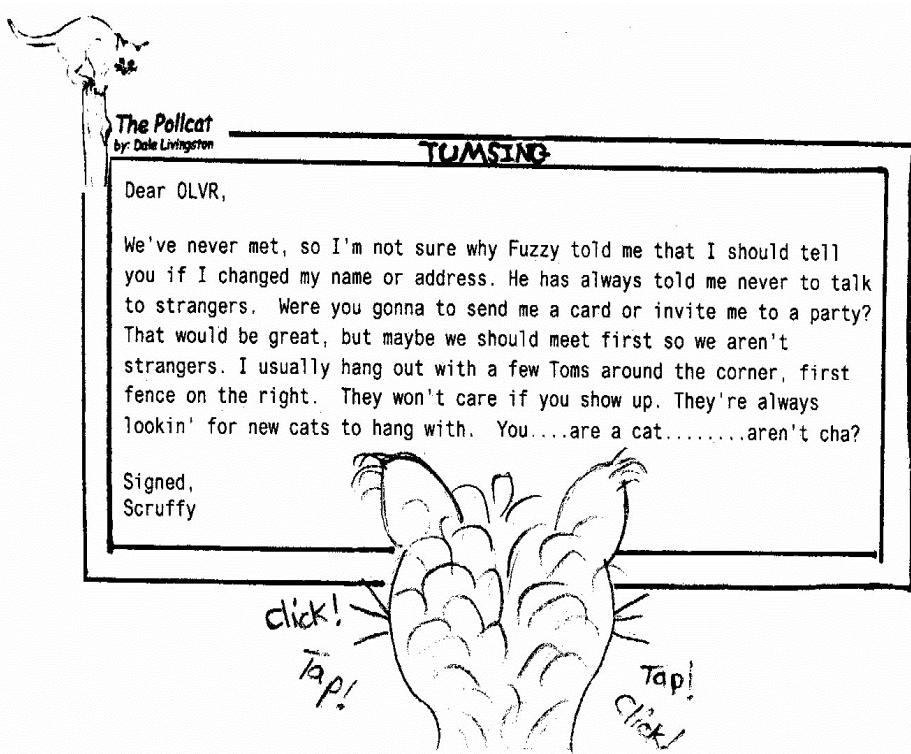
1. Allow voters to register to vote in Maryland or update their existing voter registration record online
2. Allow voters to submit a request for an absentee ballot as part of their online voter registration application
3. Be cost-effective, sustainable, and easily adapted for use by other jurisdictions using different voter registration systems.



Students at North Harford High School participated as Check-In Judges for their SGA Election.



Units are lined up and ready to go at North Harford High.



Did You Know?

Harford County now has only two Congressional Districts! (Cong. 1 & Cong. 2)

If you would like to know what Congressional District you live in, as well as Legislative and Councilmanic, visit our website at www.harfordvotes.info under "Election Maps" select any of the aforementioned District links

Harford County Board Members:

Molly Neal,
Board President

B. Daniel Riley

Maria Terry

Edward D. Yoder

Vacancy

Carolyn W. Evans,
Board Council

Southampton getting some company!



As mentioned earlier, Dist/Prec 3-15, which was located at the Harford Day School, has been re-located and will be combined with 3-18 at Southampton Middle School. The school's cafeteria will be the polling location.

What is “Check Your Voter Status”????

I’m sure by now you have noticed our “Check your voter status” campaign and you may be asking, “What do you mean by this?” Well, in our attempt to cut down on the potential of a high number of Provisional Ballots, we are urging voters in Harford County to make sure their personal information is up to date; especially if they recently moved or changed their name. Voters usually tend not to keep us in mind when they make these changes in a non-election year.

With this campaign we are sending a reminder to voters that if their information is not up to date (such as address or name changes) it could make it a little more difficult for our election judges to look up names in the poll book, which could also create longer lines at the polls.

In the coming months leading up to Election Day you will find inserts in the mail, fliers posted at various locations, street signs along roadways, videos playing on You Tube and Facebook, and announcements on local radio stations all for the voters in Harford County (mainly) to make sure the information we have in your voter record is accurate when you arrive at the polls on Election

Day.

So what are the ways to check your voter status?

One way is to visit our website at www.harfordvotes.info. On our homepage, click on the “Check Your Voter Status” picture link.

From there you will be brought to the University of Maryland Voter Information webpage. Simply enter your information in the requested blank fields and select “Find Voter Registration Information.” You will be given the latest information we have for you in the registration system. If any of that information is inaccurate, call your local election office and you will be instructed on how to update your information.

Which brings us to the other method of checking your voter status in Harford County. Simply call our office at 410-638-3565 and someone will assist you in making sure your records are indeed up-to-date.

Don’t take the risk of running into issues at the polls during Early Voting or Election Day. If you wish to update or change any information, you have until October 16th to do so. Make life easier for yourself and for us and.....

CHECK YOUR VOTER STATUS!

Harford County Staff Members:

Kevin Keene,
Director

Dale Livingston,
Deputy Director

Administrative Support

Wanda Mengel

IT Support

Vanessa Graham

Shawn Larson

Jessica Fleming

Voter Registration

Diana Moran

Marge Belt

Susan Lentz

Nancy Fleming

Brenda Johns

Stephanie Taylor

Election Judges

Elke Anthony

Maggie Mundle

Clerical Support

Kim Boone

Kathy Carter

Cornelia Cheney

Pauline Winskowski