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BOARD MEMBER

EMORY E. TAMPLIN JR.  
BOARD MEMBER



**DORCHESTER COUNTY  
BOARD OF ELECTIONS**

Amanda K. Forester-Cannon  
Attorney

GWENDOLYN H. DALES  
ELECTION DIRECTOR

BRITTANY M. PHILLIPS  
ELECTION PROGRAM ASSISTANT

JESSICA R. NORANBROCK  
ELECTION PROGRAM ASSISTANT

KIMBERLY K. JONES  
ELECTION PROGRAM MANAGER

SLOANE P. HURLEY  
ELECTION PROGRAM ASSISTANT

**ATTENDEES:** Thomas M. Corkran, President  
Ralph C. Lewis, Vice President  
Emma D. Pinkett, Secretary  
Emory E. Tamplin Jr, Member  
William J. Bishop, Member

Gwendolyn H. Dales, Election Director  
Jessica Noranbrock, Program Asst.  
Amanda K. Forester-Cannon, Attorney

**ABSENT:** None

**GUESTS:** Ted Bryant and Vince Gisriel, Jr.

*MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING October 9, 2024*

**Call to Order and Determine Quorum:**

President Corkran called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM; quorum was determined.

The Board was sworn in as the Board of Canvassers by the Clerk of the Court, Amy Craig.

**Welcome any Guests:**

Ted Bryant and Vince Gisriel, Jr.

**Report any Board or Staff Absences:**

None

**MD Voter Integrity Group asked to speak at the board meeting**

Mr. Bryant introduced himself and Mr. Gisriel. Mr. Bryant mentioned a situation he witnessed at the City of Cambridge Election. Director Dales informed him that we do not administer the City's elections. Mr. Bryant mentioned that voter integrity was important, expressed his concerns, and that they want to make sure everything is honest.

Mr. Gisriel thanked the Board for having him and said that at the local level we are doing a great job. The problems they are seeing are changes that are needed at the State level. Mr. Gisriel distributed information and a list of 5 deceased people he said were on the local rolls in Dorchester. President Corkran asked if any of the deceased people voted. Mr. Gisriel said he didn't do the research, but none that he saw had voted. Ms. Dales said the office staff will look

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into the list, and if ever they have a concern we want to know. We have an open-door policy and support their endeavors. Mr. Gisriel thanked the Board for their time.

**Approval of Minutes:**

**August 14, 2024, Minutes** – Mr. Tamplin motioned to approve the minutes with a typo correction, seconded by Mrs. Pinkett, approved.

**Additions to Agenda:**

Mr. Tamplin reported that he attended an event for Johnny Mautz.

Mr. Bishop reported that he donated to the Harris and Alsobrooks' campaigns.

Ms. Dales would like to discuss two additional topics under the Polling Place Compensation section of the agenda.

**Election Director's Report:**

- **Budget: August & September 2024 year/date/monthly expenditures.**  
Director Dales distributed the monthly budgets.
- **Monthly CC Statement – (August 2024)**  
Director Dales distributed the monthly credit card statements.

**Old Business:**

- **Updated Canvass & Meeting Dates: Oct. 15<sup>th</sup> Exemption**  
Ms. Dales informed the Board that we received an exemption to canvass mail-in ballots beginning October 15, 2024, because we didn't foresee having enough ballots received to warrant a canvass, and we need to protect the privacy of votes.

**New Business:**

- **Approve Judges List**  
Director Dales distributed the list of election judges. Mr. Bishop had questions about the disparity between Democratic and Republican election judges. Ms. Dales informed him that we have a good balance, but there has historically been more registered Democratic voters in Dorchester County than Republican voters. Mrs. Noranbrock told the Board that we are always accepting applications and will continue to train election judges until the election. Mrs. Pinkett motioned to approve the list of election judges, seconded by Mr. Bishop. The list of election judges was approved.
- **Discuss Polling Place Compensation Increase**  
Director Dales said that since receiving the grant, we would like to increase polling place compensation from \$250 per facility to \$350. The cost of everything has gone up and to ensure we have polling places in the future, and to remain competitive, we'd like to increase compensation now.

The first item added to this section from Ms. Dales is to discuss an increase in the pay rate for Election Field Support (EFS), as well as an increase for Logic and Accuracy testers (L&A testers). Mr. Bishop asked how many people she was talking about. Ms. Dales said 2 – 4 L&A testers and 8 – 9 EFS.

Mr. Corkran asked what the office was looking to buy with the rest of the grant. Ms. Dales said that we are currently looking into bullet-proofing the front window and a device to open mail safely. Mr. Corkran asked about the Sheriff's Department. Ms. Dales said that we normally have a deputy here on election night, but as early voting gets under way, we will reassess our needs, if necessary.

Mrs. Pinkett motioned to accept the three suggestions for spending grant money, seconded by Mr. Bishop. The motion was approved.

- **Randomly Select Precincts for Supply Verification**  
The Board randomly selected 04-001 and 07-006 for the supply verification. Early voting supplies are automatically selected because we have one early voting center.

**FYI:**

- **Future Municipal Elections**  
Director Dales informed the Board that the new Administration has interpreted the law to mean that we can no longer support municipal elections. Ms. Dales will keep the Board informed if anything changes.
- **Rural & Nonmetro Election Infrastructure Grant**  
Director Dales informed the board that we received a grant for \$50,000.
- **Judges Training**  
Director Dales shared a picture from a training. Ms. Dales would like to purchase larger televisions with the grant funds for training. The training classes have concluded, but Mrs. Noranbrock will continue to train new judges as they apply.
- **L&A Testing**  
Director Dales informed the Board that Logic and Accuracy testing (L&A) of the equipment has begun.

**Additions to the Agenda:**

Director Dales informed the Board that Mrs. Noranbrock is now on the MAEO Board and is the only representation from the Eastern Shore.

**Confirmation of Next Meeting:**

Director Dales reminded the Board that early voting runs from Thursday, October 24 through Thursday, October 31. Election Day is Tuesday, November 5. The board should be here at 8:00 AM for early voting tabulation and 8:00 PM to randomly select precincts for an audit. The first

canvass will be on Thursday, November 7. The Provisional canvass will be on Wednesday, November 13. The final canvass will be on Friday, November 15.

The next regular Board meeting will be held on Tuesday, December 17, 2024, at 10:00 AM.

**Adjournment:**

Mr. Lewis motioned to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mrs. Pinkett. The meeting adjourned at 11:33 AM.

**APPROVED:**

  
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Emma Pinkett  
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Angie C. Tamplin  
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William Bishop  
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