



*City of Annapolis*  
Office of the City Clerk  
160 Duke of Gloucester Street  
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## VIRTUAL MEETING

### BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF ELECTIONS

#### Minutes

The Regular Virtual Meeting of the Board of Supervisors of Elections of the City of Annapolis was held on February 25, 2021. Chair Leahy called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

Present: Chair Leahy, Member Cuffie, Member Myers  
Staff Present: City Clerk Watkins-Eldridge, Assistant City Attorney Leonard, Election Assistant Eckert  
Others Present: Karma O’Neill, Keanuú Smith-Brown, Tameka Smith

#### **APPROVAL OF MEETING DATE CHANGE**

Member Myers moved to have the meeting date changed, due to inclement weather, from February 18, 2021 to February 25, 2021. Seconded. CARRIED on voice vote.

#### **ADD ITEM TO AGENDA**

Member Cuffie moved to add discussion of a Candidate Question to the Agenda. Seconded. CARRIED on voice vote.

#### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Member Cuffie moved to adopt the January 21, 2021 meeting minutes. Seconded. CARRIED on voice vote.

#### **DISCUSSION:**

##### **Certificates of Candidacy:**

##### **Ward 2 Alderwoman, Karma O’Neill**

Member Myers moved to accept the Certificate of Candidacy for Ms. O’Neill. Seconded. CARRIED on voice vote.

##### **Ward 3 Alderman, Keanuú Smith-Brown**

Member Myers moved to accept the Certificate of Candidacy for Mr. Smith-Brown. Seconded. CARRIED on voice vote.

##### **Ward 7 Alderman, Rob Savidge**

Member Myers moved to accept the Certificate of Candidacy for Mr. Savidge, recognizing that the Affidavit of Candidate & Candidate’s Treasurer specify the declaration of intent to receive contributions or make expenditures, and to add the campaign manager’s signature date. Seconded. CARRIED on voice vote.



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#### **Election Update:**

##### **Status of Memorandum of Understanding between City of Annapolis and Anne Arundel County**

Chair Leahy has scheduled a meeting with Anne Arundel County Board of Elections Director and Deputy Director to discuss the status of the Memorandum of Understanding, mail-in voting procedures, and 2020 Election statistics for the City of Annapolis. The Board acknowledged that finalizing the Memorandum of Understanding is a priority.

#### **City Elections Office Update**

City Clerk Watkins-Eldridge and Election Assistant Eckert briefed the Board on the status of the City Law/City Clerk's office build-out, general administrative tasks and candidacy inquiries. Election Assistant Eckert will work with the City's webmaster to update and add links for improved information access on the City's website. The Board requested further information on the location of the physical Election Office that will be in place when ballots are submitted.

#### **Legislation Update:**

##### **Independent Expenditures**

Chair Leahy sent draft legislation to Alderman Savidge and Jared DeMaranis, the Maryland State Board of Elections Candidacy and Campaign Finance Director for review and feedback. Further discussion and actions on this item will be included on the March meeting agenda.

##### **Recommendations to the Charter Revision Commission**

Chair Leahy confirmed her appointment to the Charter Revision Commission and reported that the Commission plans to meet in the coming weeks. The Board does not have specific recommendations to the Commission at this time, but expects non-partisan v. Partisan Elections and changing the Election Year Cycle will again be considered. Specific procedures on Ballot Questions along with consideration of total review and updating of all Election Code may be areas for future discussion.

##### **Election-related Bills before the 2021 Regular Session of the Maryland General Assembly:**

Member Cuffie reported on the status of various election-related bills currently before the General Assembly.

#### **Candidate Question:**

The Board reviewed a question about whether a City employee could participate in a Candidate's virtual fundraiser. Assistant City Attorney Leonard did not find any Election Code violations provided the fundraiser does not occur during the employee's regular work hours or uses City owned licenses, property that requires special access and equipment. Assistant City Attorney Leonard will follow up with the candidate and the employee for additional details, and Chair Leahy will request feedback from the Maryland State Board of Elections.



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**Ballot Questions:**

The Board discussed gaps in the Code for the process of placing questions on the ballot in City elections. Recognizing the need to be prepared if a ballot question is proposed for inclusion in the 2021 Municipal Election, further information is needed. City Clerk Watkins-Eldridge will inquire with a neighboring municipality as to an alternative process that the Board might consider, along with checking if ballot questions have been posed in the past in Annapolis and what process was used.

**Final Campaign Report Filings:**

Information from the Maryland State Board of Elections was reviewed, and the Board will not be considering changes on final report filing requirements at this time. Losing candidates will be notified of the option to close campaign fund accounts at the end of the current election cycle to avoid the necessity of additional report filings, but not required to do so.

**Campaign Fund Report Review Update on Audited Reports:**

Elections Assistant Eckert reported that all outstanding reports and late filing fees have been received.

**Elections Information Outreach:**

The Board discussed various options for information outreach to citizens via the city website, social media, and/or community groups. Continued discussion will take place at the Board's March meeting.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Member Cuffie moved to adjourn the Regular Meeting at 8:07 p.m. Seconded. CARRIED on voice vote.

Susan Eckert  
Election Administration Assistant