

City of Hyattsville Board of Supervisors of Elections
Tuesday, November 12, 2024 - 4pm
IN PERSON MEETING
City Building, 3rd Floor Mayor's Office
AGENDA

MEETING MINUTES

Attendees:

- Staff: Nate Groenendyk, Quianna Taylor
- BOSE: Zach Peters, Erin Payne, Greta Mosher, Nicola Konigkramer
- Public Observer: Mike, resident of Ward 3

Call to order

- Zach Peters called the meeting to order at 4:04pm.

Approval of minutes

- Minutes unanimously approved by BOSE
- Moved to approve – Greta Mosher
- Seconded – Zach Peters

Code Changes (Simplified Ones)

- Feedback from City Counsel Skip Cornbrooks has been received
- Propose that Dec 2 Council Meeting will be the first reading/discussion of the simplified code changes
- Dec 16 would be second reading
- If moving forward on current timeline, these code changes should be codified and final ahead of the May 2025 election
- Discussion about Mayoral Election and Candidates
 - Data on past Special Elections – from the last 20 years, 5 of the 8 past mayoral elections have triggered a special election because the candidate elected was a sitting council member whose seat was not up for re-election
 - BOSE discussed 2 possible options on this
 - Zach to write up a BOSE “position” on this and will circulate for BOSE member review

Ranked Choice Voting

- Council members brought up the idea of a May referendum on RCV during the next election
- City staff met in October with CM Schaible
- Topic of adding it to the May ballot was on the November Council meeting agenda – but the Council did not reach that agenda point due to other agenda items – perhaps will be added for November 18
- Data: 30% of races had three or more candidates, and in the majority of those, the winning candidate won a majority (>50%) of the vote.

2025 Election

- Nate in process of obtaining quotes from vendors
- Nate will start pulling out the calendar for May 2025 election prep
- BOSE should start to think about planning out some opportunities for “pop-up” registration given the new residents moving in.

New Business

- No new business from BOSE

- Public Comment:
 - Recommended that the BOSE look again into Ranked Choice Voting and how it could be implemented in Hyattsville for the benefit of the votes
 - Some resources to consider:
 - Fairvote.org
 - Research on proportional ranked choice voting (only works with non-staggered terms)
 - Single transferable vote
 - Cambridge, MA is the biggest city that uses this version (and has been doing so for a long time)
 - Chair Peters and other BOSE members thanked Mike for his thoughts and contributions. The BOSE reiterated that we are interested in learning more about RCV and how it could be implemented in Hyattsville, but, at this current time, it is not the priority for the BOSE. This will likely be pursued after the election this May.

Next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, December 3.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:55pm.