

City of Hyattsville Board of Supervisors of Elections
Tuesday, December 3, 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 4:06pm.

Approval of minutes

- Minutes for November meeting will be approved in January

Filling Vacancy Presentation

- In the presentation, along with recommending that the council member must resign his/her seat to run for Mayor, BOSE will be recommending that there are 2 separate candidate registration periods – one for mayor and then one for open council seats.
 - This only applies if council approves the concept of resigning seat to run for mayor
- The presentation is currently schedule for January 6 or a delay date of January 21
- BOSE is not waiting on Skip for any feedback. We have what we need to move forward with presenting to Council.

2025 Election

- Election is May 13
- Nate presented a timeline/calendar of key events in lead up to election
- BOSE votes to recommend to council that the May 13, 2025 election a Vote by Mail election
 - Greta Mosher – motioned to declare VBM
 - Zach Peters – seconded the motion
 - Unanimously voted in favor of VBM by all of BOSE
 - This will be recommended to Council
- Nate is looking at ballot vendors. The two options are:
 - ES&S – who the city has gone with in the recent past. If Hyattsville started to implement RCV, they could do it but would have to outsource it for the right software.
 - Clear Ballot – meeting Dec 16 for a demo. Their software is RCV ready. Clear Ballot works in VA and PA already, but not yet in MD.
- Candidate packet will be prepped in January
- The legal notices about the election and candidate registration time will be published in January
- Nate will follow up on the ballot tracking service
- Nate to meet with Comms department to figure out communication strategy around election

Code Changes (Simplified)

- 1st reading/approval was at the Council meeting last night
- There will be one additional ready in December
- 2 mailings to all households, 2 to all voters, and 1 voter guide to households – these changes were well-received.

New Business

- Ranked Choice Voting
 - CM Schaible brought it forward and Nate represented BOSE during that meeting
 - Nate let CM Schaible know that there is an appetite for researching/exploring RCV, but currently the resources and priority is on filling vacancies and registering voters
 - During the RCV meeting, Nate recommended that RCV not be included as a referendum during the upcoming election but proposed a process in which BOSE is charged by the Council to look into RCV, develop a recommendation, and then Council can vote on the recommendation.
 - BOSE members agreed with this process and recommendation from Nate and confirmed that this would be after the May election.
 - Info on RCV around the region:
 - Mixed bag on its approval and use
 - College Park charged their BOSE with researching. In the end, the CP BOSE recommended against it and the Council voted it down.
 - DC recently voted for RCV (in November 2024)
- Public Comment:
 - Ward 3 – there are a lot of new opportunities for additional public engagement there. Some new residents have a lot of interest in being involved.
 - Some ideas for engagement:
 - Using neighborhood WhatsApp chat groups
 - Working with building managers to get a table for voter registration in the lobby
 - Follow up on RCV from last meeting:
 - Cambridge, MA has been doing it since 1941, both proportional representation and RCV
 - BOSE response – confirmed that there was a 2015 referendum on changing the structure of the Hyattsville City Council, but it did not pass

Next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 7.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:50pm.