



BALTIMORE CITY DEMOCRATIC STATE CENTRAL COMMITTEE

Executive Committee

Tammy Stinnett

*Chair
41st District*

June 17, 2024

Diana Emerson

*1st Vice Chair
District 43A*

Scherod C. Barnes, President and
Members of the Board
Baltimore City Board of Elections
Benton Office Building
417 E. Fayette Street, Room #129
Baltimore, MD 21202

Robin Boston

*2nd Vice Chair 40th
District*

Madeline Martinez

*Recording Secretary
46th District*

Re: Presidential Primary Election in the City of Baltimore

Dear President Barnes and Board Members,

Angie Winder

*Corresponding
Secretary
District 43A*

As you know, the Baltimore City Democratic State Central Committee (the BCDSCC) is comprised of 40 elected members from five legislative districts in Baltimore City. The Central Committee is responsible for building the Democratic Party at the city level, registering Democratic voters, and encouraging Election Day turnout among Democratic voters. Central Committee members are the grassroots-level elected volunteers of the Maryland Democratic Party.

Joe DiSeta

*Treasurer
46th District*

On behalf of the BCDSCC, we would like to thank the Baltimore City Board of Elections for their efforts to ensure that all voters have their voices heard in the 2024 Primary Election. That said, please accept this letter outlining specific concerns about the election. We hope you will review the list and give guidance on how these issues can be resolved moving forward to the 2024 general election.

Tiffany Jones

*Sergeant at Arms
45th District*

Jermaine Jones

*Parliamentarian
45th District*

List of concerns about the Primary Election:

Nick Frisone

*Elected Member
46th District*

1. ENSURING ACCESSIBLE BUILDINGS FOR VOTERS

Nancy Mead

*Elected Member
46th District*

ISSUE: On election day, people with disabilities were denied access to their assigned polling location at School #221 Mt. Washington Upper School because the building did not have an accessible entrance to the polling location. School #221 Mt. Washington Upper School can be accessed through one entrance on the ground level; however, there is no elevator to the second floor, which is where the voting machines were located.

Furthermore, voters were advised to travel to the nearest polling location at School #247 Cross Country Elementary School, to submit a provisional ballot.

2. MAKE CERTAIN THAT SAMPLE BALLOTS CAN NOT BE MISTAKEN FOR OFFICIAL BALLOTS

ISSUE: During early voting, the Board of Elections received sample ballots in the mail and at some of the drop box locations from voters. In addition, it is also our understanding that not all voters were notified of the error and not given the opportunity to submit an official ballot.

3. ENSURING THAT INDIVIDUALS RELEASED FROM A CORRECTIONAL FACILITY ARE INFORMED OF THEIR VOTING RIGHTS

ISSUE: Effective as a law beginning June 1, 2021, Senate Bill 224/House Bill 222 entitled Election Law- Correctional Facilities – Voter Registration and Voting requires the Maryland Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services to provide each individual who is released from a correctional facility with a voter registration application and documentation informing the individual that their voting rights have been restored. In addition, the State Board of Elections is required to adopt regulations establishing a program to inform eligible voters of upcoming elections and how to exercise the right to vote and to report annually on the program and the implementation of the bill as a whole.

4. ENSURE ALL POLLING LOCATIONS ARE OPEN ON TIME AND THAT A BACK-UP SYSTEM IS IN PLACE

ISSUE: Several polls opened late on Primary Day including Graceland Park/O’Donnell Heights Elementary/Middle School, Mergenthaler Vocational-Technical High School, Walter P. Carter Elementary/Middle School, and Woodhome Recreation Center. Voters who arrived on time had to wait or were forced to leave.

5. ACKNOWLEDGE THE IMPORTANCE OF MAKING SURE ALL ELECTION JUDGES ARE FULLY TRAINED AND CAN GET THE APPROPRIATE SUPPORT

ISSUE: BCDSCC members reported several training issues with election judges ranging from issues concerning the issuance of provisional ballots to knowing the requirements to register voters to knowing how to provide election day counts.

6. IDENTIFY WAYS TO IMPROVE SIGNAGE AT POLLING LOCATIONS

ISSUE: Some polling locations did not have clear and visible signs to direct voters to the appropriate location to vote. With such low voter turnout on Primary Day, some locations had mistakenly appeared to be closed or not open. It would be beneficial for voters to have clear concise signage at every polling location.

7. RE-EVALUTE THE LOCATION OF BALLOT DROP BOXES TO ENSURE ALL BOXES ARE ACCESSIBLE

ISSUE: Many of the ballot drop boxes citywide are in an area requiring a voter to walk a distance, cross streets, access steps and/or curbs to drop off a ballot. In addition, the slot on the ballot box blends very easily causing some voters to not see where to insert their ballot.

8. MAKING SURE THAT BOARD OF ELECTIONS HAS ENOUGH STAFF TO HANDLE PHONE CALLS FOR ASSISTANCE ON ELECTION DAY

ISSUE: Some of our BCDSCC members reported that they had a long wait time on the phone to talk with someone at the BOE on Primary Day. Members called for various reasons during Primary Day and found it difficult to be helped efficiently.

9. INCREASE COMMUNICATIONS ABOUT THE NEWEST EARLY VOTE LOCATION IN SOUTH BALTIMORE

ISSUE: The eight (8) day total for early voting at Farring-Baybrook Recreation Center in Brooklyn had a total count of 166 voters, an average of 20 per day.

We look forward to working with you and the Board of Elections to remedy any of the above issues and assist with improving the voting experience in preparation for the Presidential General Election on November 5, 2024. Thank you for your time, and we look forward to hearing from you soon!

Sincerely,



Tammy Stinnett
Chair