



MINUTES

A TASK FORCE TO STUDY THE CITY MUNICIPAL ELECTION LAWS

VIRTUAL MEETING Thursday, April 13, 2023 6:00 PM

Task Force Members Present: Faye Gaskin, Scott Gibson, John Michael Gudger, Andrew Miller, and The Honorable Ian Pfeiffer. Eileen Leahy, an *ex officio* member, was also present.

Others Present:

- Mark Hildebrand, City of Annapolis TV

All task force members being assembled at 6:00 PM, Mr. Pfeiffer called the meeting to order.

The group then discussed the documents shared by Ms. Leahy in advance of the meeting. These documents included:

- Annapolis Board Of Supervisors Of Elections - Election Priorities Moving Forward – 2018;
- Annapolis Board Of Supervisors Of Elections - Report on the 2021 Annapolis Municipal Elections;
- 2021 Charter Review Commission Report ; and,
- The Maryland State Board of Elections Summary Guide (2022).

In reviewing the work of these groups (i.e., prior Boards of Supervisors of Elections and the Charter Review Commission) a few areas of focus arose:

- Partisan versus non-partisan elections (Mr. Gibson noted that this should be framed more broadly);
- Election cycle (i.e., should the municipal election be aligned with the presidential or gubernatorial election);
- Fair elections reform;
- Ambiguity in the elections code and procedures as well as lack of enforceability; and
- Ballot access and how people cast their ballots.



One particular issue of note is whether to continue vote by mail, which was accomplished in the last election by resolution in light of the pandemic emergency. With the pandemic managed, any furtherance of vote by mail in similar form would likely require a code update.

The task force then handled administrative matters. On motion duly made and seconded, the minutes of the March 22, 2023 meeting were approved. Mr. Gibson advised that it would be unlikely that he would be able to attend the next meeting due to a work commitment and that someone would need to take minutes in his stead.

There being no further business, the Task Force adjourned at 7:15 PM. The next meeting will be on April 26 at 6pm and held virtually.

Respectfully submitted,
Scott T. Gibson, Secretary