

# The Election Connection

## June 2025

### Good-bye Dear Friend

The Talbot County Board of Elections is sad to announce that James Ray "Jim" Butts passed away Monday, March 3, 2025. He was 81. Jim served as a contract Trainer and County Tech for SBE assisting the Eastern Shore counties since at least 2006. From 2014 to 2024 he was the County Tech and Trainer for the Talbot County Board of Elections. Jim was known as "The Expert" because of his vast knowledge of the existing pollbooks. His contribution to making each election cycle successful was invaluable. Jim's always kind and helpful spirit and especially his caring friendships, will be missed by all who knew him.



James Ray "Jim" Butts  
Trainer and County Support Tech  
September 7, 1943 – March 3, 2025  
Talbot County



### IMPORTANT DATES

The office will be closed:

06/19/25- Juneteenth

07/04/25- July 4<sup>th</sup>

2026 Gubernatorial Primary  
Early Voting

June 11-18, 2026

Election Day June 23, 2026

2026 Gubernatorial General  
Early Voting

October 22-29, 2026

Election Day

November 3, 2026

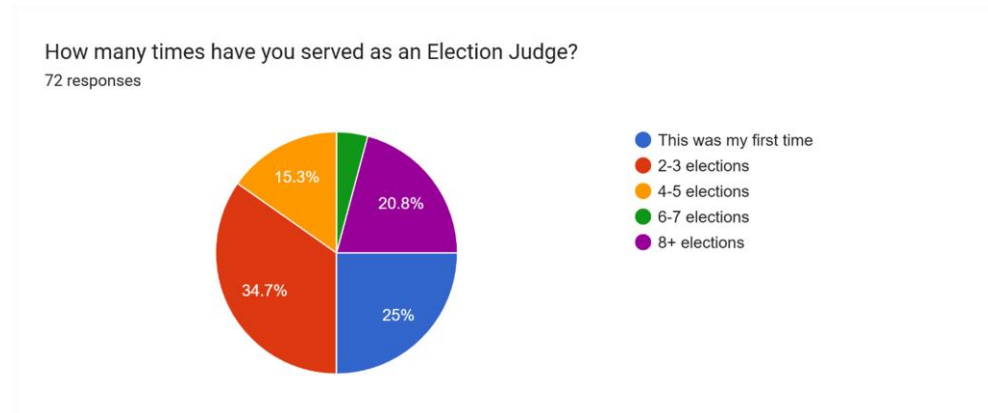


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## 2024 Presidential Election Cycle Survey Says.....

Thank you to everyone who responded to our 2024 Presidential Election Cycle Survey. We had a 48% return response rate, which is fantastic! Responses were anonymous.



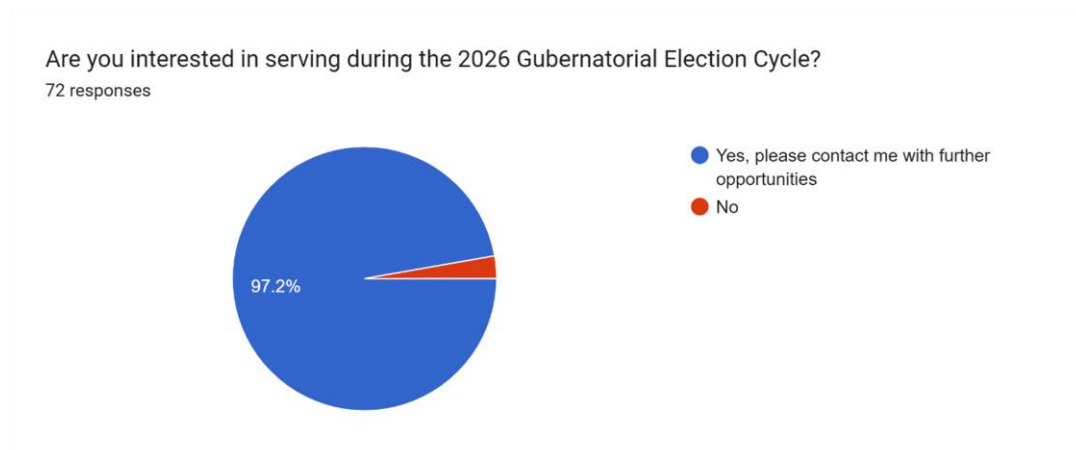
Reflecting on the training received prior to the election, over 94% of respondents AGREED OR STRONGLY AGREED that they felt prepared to serve voters.

93% felt safe serving as an Election Judge.

93% felt the team at their polling place worked well together.

We also received some valuable feedback including requests for additional training on Provisional voting, Challengers & Watchers, and using the BMD. The long day and the possibility of working shifts were also mentioned.

We received some great comments that we hope to use on brochures or social media postings.



The best news.... at this time, 97% of our survey respondents are interested in serving as Election Judges again during the 2026 Gubernatorial Election Cycle!

EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2025

- ❖ STATE BOARD OF ELECTIONS SHALL DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT A MARKETING CAMPAIGN TO RECRUIT ELECTION JUDGES.
- ❖ A STATE OR COUNTY EMPLOYEE WHO SERVES AS AN ELECTION JUDGE DURING HOURS THAT THE EMPLOYEE IS OTHERWISE SCHEDULED TO WORK FOR THE STATE OR COUNTY SHALL RECEIVE UP TO 8 HOURS OF ADMINISTRATIVE LEAVE AND THE ELECTION JUDGE COMPENSAION.
- ❖ THE STATE BOARD SHALL ADOPT REGULATIONS TO STANDARDIZE AND MINIMIZE FORMS OR DOCUMENATION REQUIRED TO APPLY, SERVE, OR RECEIVE COMPENSATION AS AN ELECTION JUDGE.

THE STATE BOARD OF ELECTIONS IS CURRENTLY WORKING ON THIS. UPDATES WILL BE DETAILED IN UPCOMING ISSUES OF OUR NEWSLETTER.



THE STATE BOARD OF ELECTIONS CONTINUES TO MONITOR THE PRESIDENT'S EXECUTIVE ORDERS PERTAINING TO ELECTIONS. VISIT [ELECTIONS.MARYLAND.GOV](https://elections.maryland.gov) AND CLICK ON THE QUICK LINK: PRESS ROOM TO STAY INFORMED.

One Election is over, but another is right around the corner! So, what are we doing???????

- ✓ Equipment checks
- ✓ Election Judge recruitment....it never stops!
- ✓ Meetings with State and other LBE staff to review Election procedures, forms, and the 2026 Election Judge Manual
- ✓ Reviewing & updating training materials
- ✓ Polling Place plans
- ✓ Daily Voter Registration and List Maintenance tasks
- ✓ Training opportunities
- ✓ Office task support for municipalities as they prepare for their 2025 elections

“The best preparation for tomorrow is doing your best today.”

- H. Jackson Brown, Jr.  
American author

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## 2025 Maryland State Legislative Session

Below are key pieces of legislation that may impact our polling place staffing in 2026.

SB 308	SB 586
<p>This legislation takes effect October 1, 2025.</p> <p>This legislation further defines Election Law pertaining to election Judges.</p> <p>It states that, to the extent practicable, each polling place will have an equal number of election judges, including Chief Judges from the majority party and the principal minority party.</p> <p>If the total number of election judges for a precinct is six or more, a local board may provide one or more election judges who are not registered with either the majority party or the principal minority political party; and may provide one or more election judges who are minors.</p> <p>It further adds that if unable to designate Chief Judges for a polling place at least 45 days before Early Voting, the Election Director shall designate one Chief Judge from the majority party or the principal political party and one Chief Judge who is not registered with either the majority party or the principal minority political party.</p>	<p>House Bill 586 defines a RETURNING Election Judge as an election judge who has served a term of office for the immediately preceding statewide election. Returning judges earn \$100 more per day than the compensation provided to a non-returning judge.</p> <p>This legislation also states that training compensation of at least \$50 for training be paid only after an Election Judge actually serves.</p> <p>For service as an Election Judge, a public school student in the State may earn hours toward the Service-Learning Requirement for Graduation OR receive the Election Judge compensation.</p> <p>This legislation takes effect October 1, 2025.</p>
HB 945/ SB 645	HB 983
<p>This legislation moves Gubernatorial Primary Elections to the fourth Tuesday in June and Presidential Primary Elections to the fourth Tuesday in April.</p> <p>This legislation takes effect October 1, 2025.</p> <p><b>NEW 2026 Gubernatorial Primary Dates</b> <b>Early Voting: June 11-18, 2026</b> <b>Election Day: June 23, 2026</b></p>	<p>This shall take effect October 1, 2025.</p> <p>This act establishes the Language Assistance Program and requires a local board of elections to participate in the program if the State Board determines there is a significant need for language assistance to the voters in the county in a language other than English.</p> <p>More to come if this impacts our county.</p> <p>Regardless, Talbot County does have access to the Language Line Solutions for language assistance needs during the election.</p>

Visit [mgaleg.maryland.gov/mgawebsite](https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/mgawebsite) for more information about the legislative session.

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## STATE BOARD OF ELECTIONS (SBE) BIENNIAL MEETING &

### THE MARYLAND ASSOCIATION OF ELECTION OFFICIALS (MAEO) CONFERENCE

DURING MAY 4-9, 2025, THREE STAFF, FOUR MEMBERS OF THE LBE BOARD, AND THE LBE BOARD ATTORNEY ATTENDED THE SBE BIENNIAL MEETING AND THE MAEO CONFERENCE HELD IN OCEAN CITY, MD. THESE OPPORTUNITIES ALLOWED FOR NETWORKING WITH PEERS, RECEIVING REFRESHER TRAINING, AND HEARING UPDATES FROM THE 2025 LEGISLATIVE SESSION.

THE HIGHLIGHT OF THE WEEK WAS WHEN TCLBE DIRECTOR TAMMY STAFFORD WAS RECOGNIZED AS THE MARYLAND ELECTION OFFICIAL OF THE YEAR!



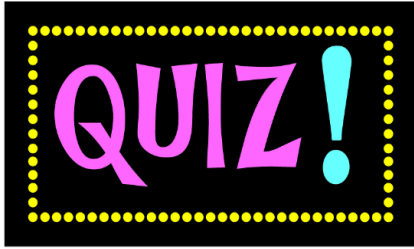
PROUD OF  
YOU  
TAMMY!

### *Story Time..... In Honor of Flag Day, June 14th*

#### **A 17-year-old student from Ohio designed the current American flag**

In 1958, with Alaska and Hawaii likely to become states, Bob Heft decided to design a 50-star flag for a history project during his junior year of high school. Heft cut up his parents' 48-star flag and borrowed his mother's sewing machine to create his design. Although he received a B- for his project, Heft sent his arrangement to his congressman, Walter Moeller. Following the admission of both new states in 1959, Moeller proposed Heft's flag to President Eisenhower. Eisenhower chose Heft's design and invited him to Washington, DC for its first display on July 4, 1960. Heft's teacher changed his grade to an A.

(Source: america250.org)



So, You Think You Know Maryland??????

- 1) What is the state bird?
- 2) What is the state tree?
- 3) True or False.... The state capital is Baltimore.
- 4) What is the state flower?
- 5) What is the state fish?
- 6) What is the state cat?
- 7) True or False.... Maryland was the seventh state.
- 8) What is the state dog?
- 9) True or False.... Maryland borders Pennsylvania.
- 10) What is the state sport?

Sources: [www.braingle.com](http://www.braingle.com) and Google



### **New Newsletter Features for 2026!**

**Training Toolbox-** tidbits of information to ensure that our Election Judges have the necessary tools to feel confident & be successful during the Election Cycle.

**Dis-spelling Those Rumors!** - straight from the State Board of Elections, the trusted source of Election information for our State.




### Answers to the Maryland Quiz

- |                     |                             |                      |
|---------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------|
| 1) Baltimore Oriole | 2) White Oak                | 3) False             |
| 4) Black-Eyed Susan | 5) Rockfish (Striped Bass)  | 6) Calico Cat        |
| 7) True             | 8) Chesapeake Bay Retriever | 9) True 10) Jousting |



WAY TO  
GO!



*“June is the pearl of  
summer, shining with  
warmth and joy.”*

- *L.M. Montgomery,  
Canadian Author*

### KEEP YOUR INFORMATION UP TO DATE

Be sure to email us at [Talbot.elections@maryland.gov](mailto:Talbot.elections@maryland.gov) if you move or change your contact information, especially your email address!