

City of Salisbury Election Board - Minutes

Thursday, June 6, 2024

Salisbury HQS Building

Members Present: Susan Carey, Chair, Harry Basehart, Secretary, Lou Rimbach.

Others Present: Kim Nichols, City Clerk, Julie English, Assistant City Clerk, Ashley Bosche, Law Office of Cockey, Brennan, Maloney, Maggie Atherton, City Council Intern. No members of the public were present.

Call Meeting to Order

Susan Carey, Chair of the Salisbury Election Board, called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m.

Approval of May 16, 2024 Minutes

- No additions were noted. A punctuation error was corrected. Dr. Basehart moved for approval of the May 16 minutes. Motion was seconded by Mr. Rimbach. Motion was approved, 3-0.

Review and Discussion of the following:

- Chapter 1.12 City Campaign Advertising and Finance
(Ms. Ashley Bosche)
Plan is to move forward with this discussion over the next meeting or two and have recommendations for City Council consideration this summer.

1.12.020 – Books, Records and Receipts

Dr. Basehart moved an amendment to be placed at the end of 1.12.020 C: “and shall not be used for any personal use which is an obligation or expense of any person that would exist irrespective of the campaign of a candidate.” Motion was seconded by Ms. Carey, and approved 3-0.

1.12.030 – Campaign contributions

Section C – Mr. Rimbach – Loan forgiveness. Discussion centered on creating new language on loan forgiveness that would prohibit a person or group from making a contribution to a candidate and then forgiving a loan to the candidate, which taken together would exceed campaign contribution limits. Ms. Carey moved that Ms. Bosche review this issue and propose language for the next meeting that expresses the Board’s intent regarding contributions/loan forgiveness. Motion was seconded by Mr. Rimbach, and approved 3-0.

Ms. Carey suggested a new section to be added as .035. It would prohibit or limit the transfer of a candidate's campaign funds to another candidate. Current code allows such transfers. Ms. Carey moved that Ms. Bosche propose language, modeled after State of Maryland law, at the next meeting that would allow transfers with a \$450.00 limit. Motion was seconded by Mr. Rimbach, and approved 3-0.

- 2027 City Election Candidate Packet
(Ms. Julie English)

Domicile Memo – Discussion focused on the proposed change from “residency” to “domicile” in SC 2-2, 3-2, and in the Certificate of Nomination in the candidate packet. Reference and discussion centered on a proposed change in SC 6-6 – Nomination, specifically “and any other information required by the City of Salisbury Election Board.” Consensus was that the Board of Elections will not require additional information to document domicile unless a complaint is made to board.

Packet will contain a document titled “Guidance for Candidates Regarding the Domicile Requirement” and candidates will certify that they meet the domicile requirement, are at least 21 years of age and are a registered voter of the City of Salisbury. Consensus on two additional items: the address line on the “Certificate of Nomination” shall read Address/Domicile and the document “Guidance for Candidates Regarding the Domicile Requirement” will appear immediately before the “Certificate of Nomination.”

Table of Contents page has been added. Names of the three members of the City of Salisbury Election Board will be added to the “Important Information” page.

Ms. English will revise the “Affidavit of Use of Alternative Name” using the State of Maryland form as a model.

All forms in packet serve a purpose and are required, except for “Elected Officials Participation in the State Retirement and Pension System of Maryland” (p.41). Human Resources informs newly elected officials of this option when they meet with H.R. Board members agreed to the removal of this form.

It was noted that all nomination certificates and all finance reports shall be sent to the board. Board must approve nomination certificates before a person becomes an official candidate. Ms. Bosche and Ms. English will revise the “I understand that final acceptance of this Certificate...”

- Complaint Policy
Reviewed, no problems noted.
- Revised Charter Amendments
SC 6-6. – Nomination.
Motion was made by Ms. Carey and seconded by Mr. Rimbach to delete proposed language “*and any other information required by the City of Salisbury Election Board.*” Approved 3-0.
- Topics for Next Meeting
Final review of Chapter 1.12 - City Campaign Advertising and Finance
Final Review of 2027 City Election Candidate Packet
Final Review of SC 6-6

Public Comments

- None.

Next Meeting is at 10:00 a.m., Tuesday, June 18, 2024, Council Chambers, SBY HQS. This meeting has been rescheduled to 11:00 a.m., Thursday, June 20, 2024.

Meeting Adjourned at 11:36 a.m.

Harry Basehart, Secretary

Approved June 20, 2024