

ORIGINAL

CITY OF ROCKVILLE  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF ELECTIONS

POST-ELECTION FORUM I

Thursday, January 30, 2020

1 PARTICIPANTS:

2 Board of Supervisors of Elections:

3 DR. LOIS NEUMAN, Chair

4 GRAHAM JOHNSON

5 ROBERT KURNICK

6 SOFYA ORLOSKY

7 STEPHEN WEINER

8 Staff:

9 SARA TAYLOR-FERRELL, City Clerk/Director  
10 of Council Operations

11 JUDY PENNY, Election Specialist

12 Speakers:

13 JACK GELIN

14 BRIDGET NEWTON  
15 Mayor, Rockville, Maryland

16 BERYL FEINBERG  
17 Rockville City Council

18 MARK PIERZCHALA  
19 Rockville City Council

20 JOE JORDAN

21 BRIGITTA MULLICAN

22 ED FEINBERG

DREW POWELL

MATT PERKINS

1 PARTICIPANTS (CONT'D):

2 DON NICHOLS  
3 National Lead for Political and Mailing  
4 Services  
5 United States Postal Service

6 GABRIEL HAMILTON  
7 Postmaster, Rockville, Maryland

8 MONIQUE ASHTON  
9 Rockville City Council

10 VINCENT RUSSO

11 LINDA COHN  
12 League of Women Voters

13 VIRGINIA ONLEY

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## 1 P R O C E E D I N G S

2 DR. NEUMAN: Good evening. It is 7:00  
3 p.m. and we welcome you to the Rockville Board of  
4 Supervisors of Elections Forum, a post election  
5 forum where we are here to hear from you as to  
6 what your response was to the elections and  
7 anything you wish to tell us about elections. We  
8 appreciate you taking your time to share your  
9 thoughts with us.

10 And I will be brief and then we'll get  
11 started. I want to introduce the members of the  
12 Board of Supervisors of Elections, Graham Johnson,  
13 Robert Kurnick -- the names are in alphabetical,  
14 they're not seated in alphabetical order -- Sofya  
15 Orlosky, Stephen Weiner, and I'm Lois Neuman, the  
16 Chair. We also have Sara Taylor Ferrell, who is  
17 over at the table, who is the City Clerk, and Judy  
18 Penny, who you all met when you came in.

19 The purpose of this forum is to give the  
20 Board of Supervisors of Elections the opportunity  
21 to hear your comments about the 2019 election, so  
22 this is in essence our fact finding mission.

1 We're pulling together as much information as we  
2 can to see the overall picture of the election.

3 So we want to hear your thoughts about  
4 the election process, suggestions for ways to  
5 facilitate the voting process, and ideas for how  
6 to enhance voter participation, which is our  
7 charge by the code.

8 The Board will consider what we learn at  
9 each forum -- as you know, there are two of them  
10 -- to factor into our reports and presentations.  
11 So you are giving us data that we can work with,  
12 qualitative data, but data. Procedurally, this is  
13 not a formal meeting. The Board created the forum  
14 format to obtain information from you.

15 You have comment cards -- this is called  
16 overkill -- we have comment cards, we have a  
17 survey, we have a sign in sheet for you to let us  
18 know that you're here tonight, and a signup sheet  
19 if you wish to speak. Now, if you do wish to  
20 speak, I'll have a couple of words to say about  
21 that, but we will have a hand microphone going  
22 around that Judy will give to you, so you don't

1 need to stand and move.

2           There will be a second post election  
3 meeting on Saturday, February the 8th, from 10:00  
4 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. with the same format. And you  
5 can certainly come again as you wish. As is the  
6 tradition of the Board, we try to do things in  
7 various times, on various days, to allow people  
8 the opportunity to come at convenient times. So  
9 here we are in the evening and we will be in the  
10 morning on a weekend.

11           You should have an agenda, which you  
12 could have either printed off or that we had a  
13 copy, and you should also have a survey that you  
14 picked up at the door as you came in, and it looks  
15 like this, which gives you the opportunity to  
16 share your thoughts for the future and how you  
17 would like to see elections. So let us know if  
18 you need a copy.

19           If you wish to speak, I will call you in  
20 the order of your names on the signup sheet. We  
21 will provide a microphone that you can just stand  
22 if you wish and then speak into the microphone.

1 And, as you see, we are being recorded by  
2 television, as well as by audio, so we need you to  
3 speak in the microphone so that we can capture all  
4 of your comments.

5 Now, to be sure we have time for  
6 everyone, each person will have a five minute time  
7 limit with a fifteen second warning right before  
8 the end. And you can return for an additional  
9 five minutes after all speakers have completed  
10 their remarks. This gives everybody an  
11 opportunity to say what they have to say and then  
12 we can go back and hear more after everybody has  
13 had their chance.

14 Please submit any written material  
15 before you speak. So if you brought anything with  
16 you that you wish to share with us, you can give  
17 it to us prior. You can also send us comments and  
18 send them to the City Clerk by February the 29th,  
19 and there is a website on the -- an email -- thank  
20 you -- an email on the survey instrument.

21 The board itself will be on a listening  
22 mission her. We may encourage you to add

1 information, such as we may say tell us more or  
2 explain what you mean by or give us some examples  
3 to tell you that we don't exactly get what you're  
4 saying and it would benefit by having more  
5 information.

6 We want to hear information,  
7 clarification, details, and concerns for the  
8 board's discussion and we may be taking notes.  
9 And Sofya is our scribe and so she will be doing  
10 copious note taking.

11 We welcome your involvement in  
12 facilitating the voting process. And as the code  
13 says, we enhance voter participation, and that is  
14 certainly what we want to do.

15 So I will stop talking and I will call  
16 the first speaker. When you get the microphone  
17 you'll please state your name and any identifier  
18 you wish to give us, if you're from out of the  
19 City, if you represent a certain district, if you  
20 represent a certain organization, of whatever you  
21 wish to say. And you will have five minutes once  
22 you start.

1           So I need the signup sheet. We only  
2    have one person that signed up. Okay. Short,  
3    yeah. Jack Gelin. Okay, you're up.

4           MR. GELIN: Do you want me to come up?

5           DR. NEUMAN: No, no, no, no, you don't  
6    have to come over. We're going to give you the  
7    microphone, so you just stay there.

8           MR. GELIN: Thank you. Good evening,  
9    I'm Jack Gelin and I've been active -- since I  
10   retired 22 years I've been active in civic  
11   politics. And there are some things that can't be  
12   helped, such as the lack of newspaper coverage of  
13   Rockville politics -- the Post doesn't do anything  
14   hardly in the metro section, and a population  
15   that's doubled since I'm here. And since a few  
16   months ago I moved to Ingleside at King Farm, a  
17   lot of people, not only just elderly, but they  
18   haven't lived in Rockville and don't feel that  
19   they are part of the community. So we try and get  
20   them involved in issues and show that they are  
21   part of our civic life. And we had a real big  
22   problem in that our ballots were not mailed as

1 supposed to be and it was hard to get people  
2 interested and explain what was going on and how  
3 to take care of it.

4 And what I'd like to know is how you  
5 responded to this -- I think it's been brought to  
6 your attention -- and what steps are being to  
7 avoid this problem, because citizen participation  
8 is critical to the health of our city.

9 And that's about it.

10 DR. NEUMAN: Okay. I have -- as I say  
11 we're asking you for information, can you tell us  
12 anything more about -- none of the ballots  
13 arrived? I mean give us more information.

14 MR. GELIN: They weren't -- they weren't  
15 mailed as timely. They were delivered by hand to  
16 our mailboxes in this large community and the  
17 people weren't ready for them. And it's hard  
18 enough to get them interested and at the last  
19 minute they're not likely to participate.

20 Some years ago the -- 16 percent of the  
21 people voted here, which is abysmal. And mail  
22 voting is -- increases a lot. It's a very, very

1 good idea. And unless the ballots come, they  
2 won't be returned. And I think that's the crux of  
3 it.

4 DR. NEUMAN: Okay. I am limited as to  
5 what I can say, so that's why I need to hear as --  
6 we need to hear as much in detail as we can.  
7 Anytime we heard of difficulty about ballots  
8 reaching the proper place, we did act on it. So  
9 that's the best I can give you at this moment.

10 MR. GELIN: But you have told the City  
11 employees, whoever is in charge of it, that this  
12 is a real problem?

13 DR. NEUMAN: We are very concerned if  
14 any mail did not get to where it was supposed to  
15 get. Yes, we were very concerned about that.

16 MR. GELIN: All right.

17 DR. NEUMAN: And, yes, we did do follow  
18 up with every single place we heard from.

19 MR. GELIN: Okay.

20 DR. NEUMAN: And, you know what, let me  
21 ask one more thing. How would you like your  
22 ballots to come to you?

1 MR. GELIN: By mail.

2 DR. NEUMAN: No, no, no, you say they  
3 were delivered -- they were hand --

4 MR. GELIN: They were hand delivered in  
5 mailboxes.

6 DR. NEUMAN: Mm-hmm.

7 MAYOR NEWTON: (Inaudible) after.

8 MR. GELIN: Yes.

9 MAYOR NEWTON: After the City discovered  
10 that -- because Ingleside residents called the  
11 City and said we don't have our ballots, then the  
12 City hand delivered them. I think that's what --

13 MR. GELIN: That's right. And it's  
14 hard. A lot of these people are new to Rockville  
15 and they don't feel connected, and they should be  
16 because they have a stake in it the way all of us  
17 do. This is a nonpartisan issue, this is just  
18 good governance.

19 DR. NEUMAN: Well, the intent of vote by  
20 mail is to get ballots to everybody and we  
21 certainly attempted to do that. You're 100  
22 percent right in terms of we want to involve

1 everybody in the City and all voters and all  
2 residents and all registered voters, everybody, to  
3 be involved in the local election.

4 And our intent was to eliminate any  
5 barriers and get the ballots to the voter rather  
6 than any obstacles a voter would have to come to  
7 the ballot, which would be at a polling place. So  
8 anything that interfered with that happening is  
9 not a good thing, and certainly we are concerned  
10 about it. And we take anything under advisement  
11 and any suggestions that you have so that kind of  
12 thing would not happen again.

13 But I will --

14 MR. GELIN: It's not complicated. What  
15 they have to do mail them out timely to the  
16 residents and it would be done. I mean this is  
17 not very hard. And I know you're -- you care  
18 about it. That's why you're volunteering for your  
19 job. And this is critical, that's all.

20 DR. NEUMAN: Yes. Well, I will also  
21 tell you we had many conversations with the postal  
22 service and who went above and beyond in terms of

1 making sure that the mail got where it was  
2 supposed to. We also had the drop boxes that  
3 people could use. And anytime we heard of any  
4 difficult at either end, we tried to do the best  
5 we could to intervene. So that's why if we don't  
6 already have the details, we need to have the  
7 details of what happened there so that we can fix  
8 it.

9 Go ahead.

10 MR. GELIN: Yeah. Why wasn't it mailed  
11 to Ingleside, you know, from City Hall? I doubt  
12 it's a problem with the Post Office.

13 MR. JOHNSON: Oh, so your sense is that  
14 the ballots may have been mailed to the wrong --  
15 not to Ingleside?

16 MR. GELIN: No, not timely. I think the  
17 (inaudible) was probably addressed (inaudible).

18 MS. FEINBERG: If I may, I think part of  
19 the issue is that just --

20 DR. NEUMAN: Well, we're five minutes  
21 finished on this topic. So I will ask Mr. -- what  
22 is your last name?

1 MR. GELIN: Gelin, G-E-L-I-N.

2 DR. NEUMAN: Mr. Gelin. Do you wish to  
3 -- you're finished your five minutes and you wish  
4 to pick up with this topic and you'll talk for --  
5 you'll have five minutes. Yes?

6 MS. FEINBERG: I just to want to answer  
7 it, not five minutes on this topic.

8 DR. NEUMAN: Mm-hmm, go ahead.

9 MS. FEINBERG: But I think the  
10 distinction is the distribution of ballots for  
11 assisted living and nursing homes versus  
12 independent living. I believe that's the issue --  
13 is the policy that will be in place for the next  
14 election, how do you send ballots. Some  
15 facilities, and perhaps others in here can correct  
16 if I'm wrong -- a place like Ingleside has both  
17 independent living as well as assisted and I  
18 believe memory care also. So how do you -- to  
19 make that distinction? And I think that's what  
20 Mr. Gelin is referring to, those with independent  
21 living did not receive them by mail in a timely  
22 manner until it was brought to the City's

1 attention.

2 DR. NEUMAN: Yes, there were -- there  
3 are different regulations in nursing homes and  
4 we've got the -- we've got it. And essentially we  
5 will work on this for the recommendations for the  
6 next election.

7 Yes. Any further?

8 MR. PIERZCHALA: I was just going to  
9 add, as a person who has looked at the voter  
10 database over several campaigns, the mailing  
11 address can be the same for 20, 30, 40 people  
12 within one building, because they don't have  
13 assigned room numbers. And I think that probably  
14 complicated the issue in senior living facilities.

15 MAYOR NEWTON: Not at Ingleside where  
16 they have apartment numbers and they get their  
17 mail through the Postal Service to their  
18 apartment.

19 DR. NEUMAN: Okay, thank you.

20 MR. PIERZCHALA: Right. But not  
21 everybody there has that, so.

22 DR. NEUMAN: Yes.

1 MR. KURNICK: Lois, can I ask Mr. Gelin  
2 a question?

3 DR. NEUMAN: Yes.

4 MR. KURNICK: I have a question for Mr.  
5 Gelin. The ballots were preceded by three  
6 separate mailings of post cards. Did people in  
7 that community receive those post cards?

8 MR. GELIN: I think they did.

9 MR. KURNICK: So they received the post  
10 cards but not the ballots?

11 MR. GELIN: That's right.

12 SPEAKER: The ballots were not mailed.

13 MR. GELIN: They were not mailed.

14 MR. KURNICK: Okay, I understand.

15 SPEAKER: Staff was holding the ballots.  
16 Delivered them by hand.

17 DR. NEUMAN: As I say, there were  
18 various procedures done at various nursing homes  
19 and independent living facilities and we will just  
20 -- that will be revisited.

21 Certainly, it is not our intent or  
22 objective to prevent anyone from getting a ballot,

1 just the opposite. So if something is getting in  
2 the way, then we need to fix it.

3 Are there any other comments or any --  
4 is there anything else you wish to bring to our  
5 attention regarding -- yes?

6 MR. JORDAN: Good evening. My name is  
7 Joe Jordan. I live here in Rockville and I was  
8 the campaign chair for the Rockville Forward  
9 Coalition that ran last year.

10 I want to first congratulate you guys  
11 for doing the job you did. As campaign chair, I  
12 attended probably just about every meeting there  
13 was. I missed one or two. And then if I couldn't  
14 make it I sent someone to fill in. But I thought  
15 the results were -- exceeded our expectations. We  
16 had no idea we'd see that many people vote and I  
17 think you guys did a great job and I congratulate  
18 you for that.

19 A couple of concerns I had. One was the  
20 issue that Jack mentioned, that I won't rehash  
21 that, but we were concerned that those ballots  
22 were being hand delivered to the assisted living

1 homes. And we weren't sure how that was being  
2 handled. And if there was -- not that there would  
3 be any bias or anything like that, or influence,  
4 but it just seemed like something we weren't  
5 familiar with.

6 I had some concerns with -- and I think  
7 this is probably not within your venue or  
8 bailiwick -- but the -- it was a surprise, even  
9 though it was proper, that people from City Hall  
10 could participate in the election, support  
11 candidates, and -- which is fine -- contributing  
12 money. What concerned us was the use of social  
13 media, and the use of social media in particular  
14 by any individuals in the Clerk's Office. The  
15 Clerk's Office it seems needs to be about -- you  
16 know, above suspicion or anything else and any  
17 other part of the City since they were funding the  
18 election. And it was a particular clerk employee  
19 -- clerk office employee who was posting on social  
20 media.

21 So that's a concern. I don't know if  
22 it's something the City can address, but I just

1 wanted to bring it to your attention.

2           Having attended all the meetings, one of  
3 the things that really frustrated me -- and I'm  
4 not sure what was going on, what was behind it --  
5 was the frequency of closed meetings, executive  
6 sessions. And some of them went 45 minutes, half  
7 hour, 45 minutes, with 1 or 2 items on the agenda.  
8 One in particular was the evening that you  
9 reviewed the financial reports. And why you would  
10 have to talk about for 45 minutes any legal issues  
11 -- because they were all under the guise of -- or  
12 the -- not the guise of but under the exception  
13 for getting legal advice -- what could possibly  
14 take 45 minutes? What was more egregious I  
15 thought was the November 11 meeting where the  
16 agenda said you were certifying the election and  
17 conducting old and new business, yet you went into  
18 executive session for 45 minutes. There were  
19 several of us -- Mr. Pierzchala was sitting  
20 outside, Miss Onley was sitting outside. And to  
21 be honest with you, having then sat in the  
22 meeting, I couldn't figure out what would take 45

1 minutes because you discussed -- and the agenda  
2 didn't really even cover what was being discussed,  
3 which was some complaints that were filed by some  
4 residents. The more serious complaint had to do  
5 with petitions. One particular candidate didn't  
6 seem to have enough or didn't sign a sheet. That  
7 was kind of dismissed out of hand. Another  
8 candidate, if you looked at it, didn't have the  
9 100 necessary signatures. When you addressed that  
10 particular item, you indicated that, yes, there  
11 was one signature that put him at 100 signatures.

12 Our research showed afterwards that that  
13 wasn't the case. We still couldn't find that  
14 registered voter. It's immaterial; we're moving  
15 on from that.

16 But I'm just concerned about the  
17 executive sessions and how long it took.

18 Let's see, I think that's it. There  
19 seemed to be some information finally getting back  
20 to the Clerk's Office where some candidates had  
21 information in advance of a candidate's. And this  
22 had to do with, for example, how many ballots were

1 collected, how many ballots went up to Montgomery  
2 County Board of Elections. And we were surprised  
3 because we didn't see it publicly, but yet, as I  
4 said, some candidates had some information that we  
5 didn't. So, again, I'm just throwing that out  
6 there as something that we observed.

7 So those are the points I had. Again, I  
8 congratulate you for the job you did and thank you  
9 for doing this forum tonight.

10 DR. NEUMAN: Okay. Thank you for your  
11 comment. Go ahead.

12 MS. ORLOSKY: On your first item about  
13 social media use, was the employee explicitly  
14 identifying themselves as --

15 MR. JORDAN: I'm sorry, I didn't hear  
16 what you said.

17 MS. ORLOSKY: It's okay. On the first  
18 item of concern about social media use, was the  
19 employee explicitly identifying themselves as City  
20 staff on social media?

21 MR. JORDAN: Yes, yes. It was that  
22 particular individual's Facebook page. Yes.

1 MS. ORLOSKY: But did it say explicitly  
2 that they work for the City of Rockville?

3 MR. JORDAN: Oh, I don't know. I don't  
4 -- probably not. It was a personal page. Yeah.  
5 Yes, good question.

6 DR. NEUMAN: Okay, thank you. Anyone  
7 else with -- yes?

8 MR. PIERZCHALA: Thank you. Mark  
9 Pierzchala, 816 Fordham Street and, yes, I've been  
10 a candidate for 6 straight elections. I mention  
11 that because I want to make a comment about the  
12 finance reporting.

13 First -- and I've said this to you all  
14 before -- first of all, it's hugely improved over  
15 previous campaigns. Very easy to do, very --  
16 incredibly easy to submit and get posted, you  
17 know, to the -- to the next person right away and  
18 you didn't have to even be in town. That -- that  
19 was very good.

20 The thing I want to mention about the --  
21 the finance report that the first time I did it  
22 caught me a little bit by surprise was you don't

1 really ask for the bank account balance on a  
2 summary page, you ask for -- and I'm looking at  
3 mine that was just submitted -- balances and  
4 financial accounts. Okay. That's not quite the  
5 same thing because I -- I kept running into my --  
6 what that included was my bank account plus what I  
7 hadn't yet pulled down from pay pal. And so in  
8 previous years we always had to put our bank  
9 account balance, and I think that would be a good  
10 addition to do that, maybe to separate that out a  
11 little bit. But that's really a minor complaint  
12 and probably I stumbled over it only because I was  
13 used to five previous campaigns of putting my bank  
14 balance down. I spent a good hour trying to  
15 balance and I couldn't understand why it wasn't  
16 balancing and then I understood what you're asking  
17 for finally. So thank you.

18           And -- and by the way, overall, just  
19 excellent performance, excellent execution. We  
20 know we have to take care of some things in the  
21 future, but I was very pleased with the result.

22           Thank you.

1 DR. NEUMAN: Thank you. And as you say,  
2 there are things we need to take care of in the  
3 future, and that's exactly why we're here right  
4 now, to determine what those are that we don't  
5 already know.

6 Yes?

7 MS. MULLICAN: I'm Brigitta Mullican and  
8 I was a candidate. I would just like to say this  
9 evening that we have some people from the League  
10 of Women Voters who are very, very interested in  
11 the vote by mail. They're following this. We  
12 have a committee, which I am on. And I'm not sure  
13 if they're going to speak, but they are here and  
14 they have already reached out to a community using  
15 the Nextdoor Neighbor. And there's been a lot of  
16 comments. I just thought there'd be a lot more  
17 people here because people are weighing in on  
18 liking it or not liking it. I think the vote is  
19 mostly they do like it. It did increase the voter  
20 turnout.

21 I have lots of questions. I'll try to  
22 get some of them asked and I guess we're not going

1 to get the answers tonight because you're going to  
2 get too any question. And some of them have to do  
3 with the campaign finance report and the database,  
4 which is the thing I have the biggest problems  
5 with. I know the City did a mailing to -- what --  
6 four times -- I guess that's including sending the  
7 ballots. I was real upset to hear that the  
8 ballots weren't mailed to Ingleside. And I know  
9 that some of the problems with those mailings are  
10 the same problems I have when I mail to voters and  
11 there's no unit number or apartment and it just  
12 goes -- who knows where it goes. And I can tell  
13 you, I did early mailings and I got over 200  
14 returns. I did a first class mailing. That's  
15 very frustrating to see how many were returned.

16 So my question is how many mailings were  
17 clean purged from the four mailings, or the three  
18 previous mailings before the ballots were sent  
19 out? There's no way that I would know that and  
20 that I would like to know. I'd like to know how  
21 many ballots were returned where people did not  
22 vote. So you know how many you mailed in, you

1 know how many voted, so how many threw them away,  
2 you know, discarded them, or whatever.

3 Also, there was concerns about  
4 harvesting votes. And I know that was addressed  
5 by you all. It was on the answers of frequently  
6 asked questions, but people would start asking  
7 those questions and they weren't clear how that  
8 was even being controlled.

9 On closing campaign finance report, the  
10 question I have that's personally from my account  
11 -- you might want to answer it later, I don't know  
12 -- but that is if I have money left over, which I  
13 do -- I have a loan that I have, but I have a  
14 little extra money that's over that, do I -- can I  
15 get that money back to myself? Do I return that  
16 money to one of my contributors? So do I have  
17 that option? I know there is a line -- you know,  
18 there's a code in there where you can return money  
19 to a contributor. So I'm not sure exactly how to  
20 do that and my treasurer is out of town, so she  
21 couldn't be here to ask that question.

22 I might have more questions, but I might

1 mail them in. But I'm here to hear what others  
2 have to say. But the database is a big issue.  
3 How many really were on there, how many got the  
4 mailings, how many were purged and deleted? And I  
5 will tell you that it was very frustrating to  
6 spend a lot of money on first class mailing. And  
7 the Board of Elections said they don't want those  
8 envelopes which shows they were returned to me  
9 undeliverable. And I want to know when the  
10 history data is going to be available so I can go  
11 in there and see, are those addresses still in the  
12 database when they were returned to me  
13 undeliverable. So the database is just kind of a  
14 detail thing that most people don't bother with,  
15 but I want to follow up on that.

16 But I do want to say the League of Women  
17 Voters is looking at this process and they'll come  
18 up with some findings.

19 Thank you.

20 DR. NEUMAN: Well, I will just make one  
21 comment regarding the database, and that is we --  
22 there was a tremendous amount of work and effort

1 that went into purging it and getting it the  
2 cleanest that we've ever seen. However, that  
3 doesn't mean that it's perfect. The answer to  
4 many of your questions is we can't answer it  
5 because it's not our database, it belongs to the  
6 state and to the county, as you know. So to get  
7 the specific answers you're looking for, some of  
8 them may come from the county.

9 MR. FEINBERG: Ed Feinberg, 1200  
10 Halesworth Drive, spouse of a campaign candidate.

11 Several issues. One, I would just echo  
12 what has been said about the accuracy of the  
13 voting list. We have a next door neighbor -- this  
14 is just one example -- who moved a year and a half  
15 ago and received a ballot. There has to be a  
16 better way of ensuring accuracy that -- you know,  
17 I certainly share your concerns.

18 One thing I --

19 DR. NEUMAN: Could you go back to that?  
20 You have a neighbor who just mailed in a year and  
21 a half ago and they received a ballot?

22 MR. FEINBERG: The neighbor moved. I'm

1 sorry. They moved out of state and they still  
2 received a ballot at their present home -- at --  
3 at the home that they had moved from.

4 DR. NEUMAN: And they notified the Board  
5 of Elections that they moved?

6 MR. FEINBERG: No. I don't know. I  
7 mean they have or they may not have, but I would  
8 think a lot of people --

9 DR. NEUMAN: That is -- that is a very  
10 common problem and one of the reasons why there is  
11 an issue with the database, because people move  
12 and they don't let anybody know. And it is the  
13 responsibility of the registered voter to make  
14 sure that their address is correct.

15 But go ahead with your second --

16 MR. FEINBERG: Okay. I mean I  
17 understand, but if the registered voter is moving  
18 out of state, that may not be something that they  
19 do. It's just one issue.

20 Secondly, I implore you -- implore you  
21 -- to revise the 8:00 p.m. deadline for receipt of  
22 ballots. It made no sense to us and to many

1 voters whom we spoke with; that it should have  
2 been received by midnight on Election Day. Or  
3 post -- I'm sorry, postmarked by Election Day. No  
4 one can guarantee that it will be received -- you  
5 can mail -- you could have mailed it Monday and it  
6 may not have been received. I may have been  
7 received Wednesday. So one question that I think  
8 would be helpful for the public to know is how  
9 many ballots were received after 8:00 p.m., how  
10 many were received on Wednesday or Thursday after  
11 the election? Obviously they weren't counted, but  
12 it would be helpful to know just how many were  
13 received.

14 DR. NEUMAN: There was a sweep done by  
15 the postal service and they brought us every  
16 single ballot that they had on Election Day.

17 MR. FEINBERG: What about Wednesday, the  
18 day after?

19 DR. NEUMAN: Well, the day after --  
20 there were no -- we had everything that was  
21 postmarked on November the 5th and that was  
22 received November the 5th.

1 MR. FEINBERG: It was in --

2 DR. NEUMAN: Anything else was November  
3 the 6th and we wouldn't have counted that.

4 MR. FEINBERG: But you should have --  
5 you should have known how many were received to  
6 see if this system was going to work or not.

7 MR. GRAHAM: Maybe Lois can correct me  
8 -- as I understand it, all ballots received after  
9 November 5 were postmarked after November 5.  
10 There were -- correct me if I'm --

11 DR. NEUMAN: It's correct.

12 MR. GRAHAM: There were no -- no ballots  
13 received on the 6th that were postmarked on the  
14 5th or earlier.

15 DR. NEUMAN: And we had them all.

16 MR. GRAHAM: So the post office really  
17 did --

18 MR. FEINBERG: What I'm saying is that  
19 in every other election, when you have an absentee  
20 ballot, you have to have the absentee ballot  
21 postmarked by midnight on Election Day. In this  
22 situation, you could have put something in the

1 mail and it might not have been received on -- by  
2 8:00 o'clock on Election Day. It may have been  
3 received the day after even though it was mailed  
4 within that time. Nobody can guarantee that.

5 And so the postmark should be the -- the  
6 issue, not the received by date.

7 DR. NEUMAN: We have an answer for you.  
8 Hold. Go.

9 MR. NICHOLS: I'm Don Nichols, I'm the  
10 National Lead for Political and Mailing Services  
11 from the United States Postal Service and I was  
12 hoping -- I believed Postmaster Hamilton was going  
13 to speak, so I may be stealing a little bit of his  
14 thunder -- but Postmaster Hamilton on the day of  
15 election did -- went through an inordinate amount  
16 of energy to not only sweep his office, he went  
17 down to our distribution center and made certain  
18 that every single ballot -- walked the floor and  
19 made certain everything got here.

20 And so, you know, I can let him speak  
21 for himself about some of the other efforts he put  
22 in that day.

1 MR. HAMILTON: Thank you. That  
2 particular day every effort was made to retrieve  
3 every ballot from every mailbox, collection box.  
4 It was all hands on deck. I had the -- I was  
5 escorted here by the Postal Inspection Service and  
6 I believe we arrived about 7:45-7:50 with every  
7 ballot that was mailed that particular day.

8 So, again, we made every effort to get  
9 every ballot here on Election Day, without fail.

10 DR. NEUMAN: Thank you.

11 MR. FEINBERG: Then the other issue is  
12 one that I really would request you consider.  
13 There was at least one candidate who was calling  
14 the City when a sign was placed on the  
15 right-of-way. The problem with that is that many  
16 people have lawn mowing services. If the signs  
17 were on the front lawn, many times the lawn mowing  
18 services would take the signs, put them on the  
19 right-of-way so that they could mow the lawn, and  
20 they weren't put back where they should be.

21 We know that there was a candidate who  
22 was driving down in particular neighborhoods to

1 see that and then reporting it in and the City  
2 came and removed the sign. We talked to people  
3 who said, I don't know where the signs went. I  
4 got home from work at the end of the day expecting  
5 to see their signs on their lawn. The signs had  
6 been put on the right-of-way and had then been  
7 removed.

8 So it seems to me an easy way of doing  
9 it is to just give the person 24 hours because you  
10 could actually see where the lawn mowing companies  
11 -- I remember knocking on doors and the lawn  
12 mowing companies were taking the signs out and I  
13 was running after them and putting them back. It  
14 would be very simple to do that. I would just  
15 suggest that that's something to consider.

16 DR. NEUMAN: Did you let the City  
17 Manager know this as well?

18 MR. FEINBERG: I'm sorry?

19 DR. NEUMAN: Did you let the City  
20 Manager know this as well?

21 MR. FEINBERG: Yes.

22 DR. NEUMAN: Good.

1 MS. ASHTON: Good evening, I'm Monique  
2 Ashton. I was a candidate and I'm not a council  
3 member.

4 I did want to just start out saying that  
5 I was thoroughly impressed with the voter turnout.  
6 I think this is a model that other jurisdictions  
7 can learn from and I know you all worked very hard  
8 on this process. So I wanted to say thank you.

9 Since we are talking about lessons  
10 learned and best practices, I wanted to just share  
11 a couple of things. To pull a thread on what Mr.  
12 Feinberg was just talking about, I think because  
13 the process was so new for people, there was a lot  
14 of education that had to be happening -- that had  
15 to happen. Fortunately, we had a lot of  
16 candidates that were helping on that regard. And  
17 I will say that I think a lot of people didn't  
18 really understand that they couldn't put their  
19 ballots in the mail on Tuesday or Wednesday  
20 morning and expect that their ballots would count.  
21 So I think that is one area of additional voter  
22 education that's needed.

1 I saw in some of the later mailings that  
2 there was something about "must be received by".  
3 So I think that was excellent and I think that's  
4 something that we need to do very early and often  
5 to make sure that we're educating voters about  
6 that process. There were many times when we would  
7 knock on doors and see people were still trying to  
8 put things in the mail and we say, no, please  
9 bring them. But I know we weren't able to catch  
10 anyone.

11 So I would love to know that number. I  
12 think that's an important metric for us to  
13 tabulate as to how many ballots did not count  
14 because they were received after the deadline.  
15 Having that would be just a good metric for us to  
16 know.

17 MR. GRAHAM: Can I comment?

18 MS. ASHTON: Yes.

19 MR. GRAHAM: I guess what we found is  
20 all ballots that were mailed by Tuesday, November  
21 5, were received and country. Ballots that were  
22 postmarked on November 6 were not received

1 obviously by November 5 and were not counted. So  
2 every ballot that was mailed by the 5th was  
3 counted.

4 MS. ASHTON: I think it's still a good  
5 metric to know. I know that there were several  
6 ballots that were not counted. And so I just  
7 think that we should know that number.

8 MR. GRAHAM: You're saying ballots that  
9 were mailed --

10 MS. ASHTON: Exactly.

11 MR. GRAHAM: Postmarked after the 5th?

12 MS. ASHTON: Right.

13 MR. GRAHAM: Okay.

14 DR. NEUMAN: Received after the 5th?  
15 The ballots that came in on the 6th and later?

16 MS. ASHTON: Correct.

17 DR. NEUMAN: Let me ask --

18 MS. ASHTON: And I think it just speaks  
19 to --

20 DR. NEUMAN: Let me ask you --

21 MS. ASHTON: -- the voter registration  
22 issue -- the voter education issue.

1 DR. NEUMAN: Let me ask you a question.

2 MS. ASHTON: Yeah.

3 DR. NEUMAN: How much time after the  
4 election do you want to know? Because we still  
5 receive ballots January.

6 MS. ASHTON: That's interesting, because  
7 that's --

8 DR. NEUMAN: It is interesting. And it  
9 is not uncommon --

10 SPEAKER: At least a week.

11 DR. NEUMAN: It is not uncommon --

12 MS. ASHTON: I would say at least --

13 DR. NEUMAN: -- for that to happen in  
14 other states and jurisdictions.

15 MS. ASHTON: I agree with some of our  
16 audience. I think at least a week after would be  
17 good. (Laughing)

18 DR. NEUMAN: Okay.

19 MR. ASHTON: Receive something today, we  
20 don't need to know. But I'm glad people are still  
21 interested.

22 DR. NEUMAN: And we're still tracking

1 it.

2 MS. ASHTON: I do want to say one of the  
3 nice things about vote by mail is it meant that  
4 there were a whole new set of people who were not  
5 engaged in the process but were newly able to vote  
6 -- people who have transportation issues, mobility  
7 issues. And so I think this is an important thing  
8 for us to just document and share with the world,  
9 at least the U.S., if you will, because I think  
10 others can learn from it. We did a great job in  
11 increasing our numbers and I think wouldn't it be  
12 great if we could continue that and improve upon  
13 it.

14 DR. NEUMAN: Can I interject just a  
15 minute? You said something about the candidates  
16 going around and talking about vote by mail and  
17 encouraging people to vote. And I would  
18 underscore that, that I think that was a major  
19 contribution in terms of voter education, because  
20 not only did the candidates become familiar to the  
21 voters, which of course is part of the purpose,  
22 but it also educated the voters as to what was

1 happening in the election this year. And we --  
2 that was done well. We did the mailing and then  
3 the candidates all kind of followed up on that or  
4 went along with it. And it was tremendous. It  
5 really worked in terms of having more people  
6 educated.

7 MS. ASHTON: I think candidates were so  
8 effective by knocking on doors --

9 DR. NEUMAN: Yes.

10 MS. ASHTON: -- that some people were  
11 posting "I voted" on their doors. (Laughter)

12 DR. NEUMAN: We didn't know that.  
13 That's funny.

14 MS. ASHTON: I thought it was clever  
15 and, you know, very smart.

16 The other area I think there's a need  
17 for voter education and just there was some  
18 confusion on the last date that people could  
19 register to vote and still receive a ballot.  
20 There were -- I heard on -- I know that that maybe  
21 shocking, but we did hear that in the field, that  
22 people thought that they could, you know, vote --

1 register to vote up until a certain date. And  
2 there was a -- there was a cutoff date. I don't  
3 remember it exactly right now. But in terms of  
4 being able to have that ballot mailed. I know  
5 that you guys knew to have that to be able to, you  
6 know, get everything out in a timely fashion and  
7 follow City Code, so I totally get that. But I  
8 just think that that area of education and just  
9 reminding voters early and often is needed going  
10 forward.

11 DR. NEUMAN: You know that Maryland has  
12 same day registration?

13 MS. ASHTON: Yes.

14 DR. NEUMAN: And that's exactly what we  
15 did so people who hadn't registered could come in  
16 Election Day --

17 MS. ASHTON: Absolutely.

18 DR. NEUMAN: -- register, and vote.

19 MS. ASHTON: Absolutely. And that was a  
20 -- that's another thing that people were confused  
21 about. We heard, well, if I register same day is  
22 it provisional, is it not. So I think in general

1 it's just an area of where do we need to educate  
2 voters on the new process and when to register and  
3 how and those things.

4 DR. NEUMAN: Well, we do research on  
5 that -- on that person because we have to make  
6 sure that they are indeed -- live at this address  
7 and they are eligible to vote in the City of  
8 Rockville.

9 MS. ASHTON: Absolutely.

10 DR. NEUMAN: But the vote will count.

11 MS. ASHTON: Absolutely.

12 DR. NEUMAN: And the next time around  
13 for the next election, they're registered. I mean  
14 they will be a registered voter and they don't  
15 have to do anything else.

16 MS. ASHTON: That's fantastic.

17 DR. NEUMAN: Absolutely.

18 Congratulations to the State of Maryland and to  
19 us. (Laughter)

20 MS. ASHTON: The other piece I would  
21 say, just again listening to voters and what they  
22 had to say, they were confused about the flap.

1 DR. NEUMAN: The flaps.

2 MS. ASHTON: The flaps. So I heard some  
3 people say, oops, I ripped the flap even though it  
4 says do not tear.

5 DR. NEUMAN: Yes.

6 MS. ASHTON: But I don't know, you know,  
7 what can be done in that regard, but that was  
8 confusing point for people, as well as whether  
9 they're names were showing on the outside or not,  
10 whether there was really privacy. So I just  
11 wanted to flag that.

12 DR. NEUMAN: Yes. Yes, yes.

13 MS. ASHTON: And you all did such a  
14 great job and the candidates did a fantastic job  
15 of getting people to come out and inspiring them  
16 to vote that we ran out of ballots. And so I just  
17 -- make sure -- I think we had to go get more  
18 ballots. That's what we heard anyway. That's  
19 what we heard when we were standing outside.

20 DR. NEUMAN: Never, never.

21 MS. ASHTON: So I don't know if that's a  
22 true --

1 DR. NEUMAN: We never -- we may have had  
2 to transfer them --

3 MS. ASHTON: But that was the word  
4 outside.

5 DR. NEUMAN: -- from one place to the  
6 other. We may have had them in one room and had  
7 to bring them from one room to another room, but  
8 never ever did we run out of ballots. Don't --  
9 squelch that rumor.

10 MS. ASHTON: That was a rumor outside  
11 (inaudible).

12 DR. NEUMAN: We had plenty of ballots.  
13 No, no, no, maybe not in the room.

14 MS. ASHTON: Right.

15 DR. NEUMAN: But we had plenty of  
16 ballots.

17 MS. ASHTON: Perfect.

18 DR. NEUMAN: And that is true of some  
19 jurisdictions, which does hit the newspaper, that  
20 people -- that the jurisdiction did not print  
21 enough ballots. That was not our situation at  
22 all. We have plenty of everything.

1 MS. ASHTON: Great. That's great to  
2 hear.

3 DR. NEUMAN: Yeah.

4 MS. ASHTON: Thank you. Again, I really  
5 appreciate the process and I hope that others can  
6 learn from it and I -- I really would love to see  
7 the write ups that you do get circulated to other  
8 municipalities and (inaudible).

9 DR. NEUMAN: Well, just to -- I'll tag  
10 onto that. The plan is after we get information  
11 from both forums we'll incorporate that into our  
12 report, which will go to Mayor and Council, and  
13 that is the official report. After that there are  
14 other people in other locations that are  
15 interested in hearing from us and then we will  
16 start talking about it. But we won't do it until  
17 we have given the official report to Mayor and  
18 Council.

19 Okay.

20 MR. POWELL: Good evening, my name is  
21 Drew Powell. Unfortunately, my experience with  
22 the election was not quite as positive as some.

1 From my perspective there were several  
2 irregularities, and even violations involving the  
3 2019 Rockville election, including denial of  
4 election documentation to citizens according to  
5 Rockville City Code, improper and invalid  
6 certification of at least two candidates, improper  
7 access to election files by a candidate,  
8 fabrication on the part of the BSE chair regarding  
9 registered voters, lack of registered voters, lack  
10 of timely posting of BSE meeting minutes,  
11 substantial omissions in the BSE meeting minutes,  
12 arbitrary determination of what constitutes an  
13 election challenge, and election code that does  
14 not support the challenge of an election.

15 On September 11, 2019 at approximately  
16 4:00 o'clock I met with the City Clerk in order to  
17 obtain election registration documents, not  
18 financial documents, just registration documents  
19 -- the petitions, signatures, that kind of thing.  
20 The City Clerk and I composed an email together in  
21 her office to facilitate this. Two hours later,  
22 after receiving counsel, the City Clerk informed

1 me that in order to receive registration documents  
2 at least one MPIA would need to be filed with the  
3 City.

4           When I returned to the City Clerk's  
5 Office I was told that I would need to file one  
6 MPIA document with the City per candidate. It  
7 would have come to each one of their registration  
8 folders. Only after consulting Rockville City  
9 Code, Section 8-84, did I determine that an MPIA  
10 was not required, but rather, according to code --  
11 and this is what the code states -- "these  
12 reports, statements, and accounts shall be subject  
13 and open to inspection by any citizen of the City  
14 during the hours in which the City Clerk's Office  
15 is open." This right under the Rockville City  
16 Code was denied to me until I cited it.

17           On September 12 I proceeded to the City  
18 Clerk's Office with a copy of the 8-84 code and  
19 was reluctantly granted access after further  
20 consultation with Rockville's City -- with the  
21 legal department. While receiving copies of  
22 registration documents I observed a candidate for

1 Rockville Mayor and/or Council enter the City  
2 Clerk's Office and proceed directly to the  
3 election files in the City Clerk's inner office,  
4 gaining unsupervised access to them. Upon review  
5 of the registration documents, which took several  
6 weeks of meticulous data collection, it was  
7 determined beyond a shadow of a doubt that at  
8 least two candidates, both on the same slate, had  
9 not been properly certified. One candidate only  
10 received 99 valid signatures while the other only  
11 had received only 92 valued signatures. A  
12 detailed document regarding these matters was  
13 copied to the Rockville BSE and City Clerk's  
14 Office on November 4, 2019.

15 Subsequently, that document was  
16 submitted to the BSE on November 7 in the form of  
17 a challenge to the 2019 election and that was  
18 within the prescribed timeframe of less than 48  
19 hours after the certification of the election.

20 To verify the registration documents I  
21 returned to the City Clerk's Office September 26,  
22 2019 and was told again that I would need to go

1 through a lengthy MPIA process to receive the  
2 requested documented. I again had to present a  
3 copy of 8-84. And having my cell phone ready to  
4 photograph the documents, I and a witness that  
5 accompanied me observed that the City Police had  
6 been called by the City Clerk in order to remove  
7 us from the City Clerk's Office and/or arrest us.  
8 The Rockville City Police Officer present  
9 determined that no crime had been committed and he  
10 left without confronting us in any way.

11 The BSE's November 11, 2019 election  
12 certification meeting, the BSE chair stated that  
13 my challenge letter was arbitrarily deemed as a  
14 letter of complaint and, yes, two of the invalid  
15 signatures of one of the candidate's signature  
16 petitions were indeed invalid, while the remaining  
17 signature, a person named Omi Razi (phonetic), was  
18 valid, thus making the total number of signatures  
19 for that candidate the minimum 100 and therefore  
20 his petition was valid. The chair stated that she  
21 had researched this with appropriate parties.

22 DR. NEUMAN: Mr. Powell, you have 15

1 seconds.

2 MR. POWELL: Great. The following day I  
3 met with Margaret Jurgensen, who stated that no  
4 one with that name was a registered voter and thus  
5 that person was not registered -- was -- thus the  
6 petitions were not valid. It took more than two  
7 months for the BSE November 11 meeting to be  
8 posted and when the posting came out there was no  
9 mention of what was mentioned in that November 11  
10 meeting by the chair.

11 Lastly, no challenge or complaint can  
12 ever move through because once a candidate is  
13 certified, properly or not, it's impossible to  
14 remove that candidate from the ballot. So once  
15 the candidate is certified, there's nothing that  
16 can be done.

17 DR. NEUMAN: Thank you. Thank you, Mr.  
18 Powell.

19 MR. POWELL: I will electronically  
20 submit all supporting documents and would  
21 certainly like to hear some response to these  
22 grave concerns.

1 DR. NEUMAN: Thank you, Mr. Powell. Are  
2 there any other comments?

3 MR. PERKINS: Hi, how are you doing?  
4 I'm Matt Perkins, a candidate in the recent  
5 election. First I'd like to thank and  
6 congratulate the Board for almost doubling  
7 turnout.

8 A couple of issues I'd like to discuss.  
9 One, given I think the unexpected success,  
10 especially in person voting on Election Day,  
11 perhaps the Board can examine having more polling  
12 places open in the next election on Election Day.

13 Second, I would reiterate the request of  
14 others that there be an examination of the number  
15 of ballots received, whether -- regardless of  
16 postmark date, after, because a ballot received I  
17 think is an indication of an intention to vote and  
18 whether it's user error or another cause that  
19 brings the vote in late, we should understand the  
20 scope and extent of the problem.

21 DR. NEUMAN: So you're suggesting?

22 MR. PERKINS: That the Board counts how

1 many ballots were received late and tries to see,  
2 you know, are there commonalities among those  
3 submitting ballots late.

4 DR. NEUMAN: Such as?

5 MR. PERKINS: Recency of registering as  
6 a voter. I don't know. Age of the voter. Trying  
7 to determine if there's any built in causes for  
8 ballots -- ballots being late.

9 And then the only other issue I would  
10 bring up is, as a candidate for the televised  
11 forums, my understanding is that all candidates  
12 were supposed to be invited to televised forums.  
13 I was not invited to the forum held by the Chamber  
14 of Commerce. Speaking with another late  
15 registering candidate who was not on the slate, I  
16 believe I was not the only person who did not  
17 receive an invitation to that forum. So would  
18 urge the Board to take whatever steps are  
19 necessary to make sure that all candidates are in  
20 fact invited and to confirm their invitations.

21 DR. NEUMAN: Did you talk to the City  
22 Manager's Office about that?

1 MR. PERKINS: I have not.

2 DR. NEUMAN: And that would be the place  
3 to talk to in terms of handling this issue.

4 MR. PERKINS: All right. Thank you.

5 DR. NEUMAN: Thank you.

6 MR. RUSSO: Thank you. I'm Vincent  
7 Russo. I was campaign treasurer for a city  
8 council candidate.

9 It was my first time doing that role,  
10 but I found the -- the materials, the spreadsheets  
11 that were prepared for the campaign to be very,  
12 very helpful, and easy to use.

13 One issue that some candidates  
14 encountered was in the case that for the initial  
15 pre-election report, if there were expenses that  
16 predated May 1, it was a little tricky getting  
17 those entered into the report because they fell  
18 outside of the -- the date that was formatted in  
19 the -- in the sheet.

20 My only other little peeve I guess about  
21 the -- the reporting format was, you know, many  
22 candidates have electronic donation services like

1   Paypal and each -- each one of those donations has  
2   a little nominal fee associated with them. And  
3   having to enumerate all those 50 cents, dollar, 75  
4   cent fees was -- got a little -- little tedious.  
5   And I guess I would ask if maybe there is some way  
6   of -- you know, where candidates could aggregate  
7   all of those expenses on a single -- single line  
8   and -- and maybe satisfy the reporting requirement  
9   in that way.

10           I appreciated the note on the -- on the  
11   City website acknowledging the conflict of the  
12   Rockville City Code in terms of the compliance  
13   with the constitutional understanding no of  
14   aggregate donations being limited to \$2,000. And  
15   I would encourage the Board to continue advocating  
16   for that change to be made to the Code to align  
17   with constitutional understanding.

18           Some of the discussion -- and I was  
19   really impressed with the Post Office's diligence  
20   that day of the election. I assume that is great  
21   if you were mailing your ballot into Rockville. I  
22   think we ought to consider also the possibility

1 that, you know, if people mailed their ballot from  
2 their workplace or from -- from somewhere else --  
3 I don't -- I don't know that we would necessarily  
4 expect that same level of service. You know, if  
5 you -- if you work in the District or somewhere  
6 else and you mail your -- mail your ballot in on  
7 -- on the Monday or Tuesday, I -- I guess I would  
8 be curious to see of those ballots that came in on  
9 the 6th or, you know, soon after, where were they  
10 mailed from. That might be interesting to see.

11 And, finally, one question regarding the  
12 -- the tabulation of results. There were  
13 tabulations made by precinct, which is -- which  
14 was nice, but I think, you know, we had some  
15 questions about, you know, the anonymity of the  
16 ballot and, you know, the understanding that the  
17 -- the sleeve or the envelope had maybe some  
18 identifying information, but the ballot itself was  
19 -- was not -- did not have identifying  
20 information. And, you know, I guess we're, you  
21 know, wondering how -- how do results by precinct  
22 get tabulated when the -- the ballot is anonymous.

1 And I guess I would --

2 DR. NEUMAN: Well, I can answer that one  
3 for you. We had ballot styles and the ballot  
4 styles were one through ten, but all of the  
5 ballots were exactly the same. The only  
6 difference was the number and when the -- when it  
7 went through the scanner, then it was tabulated by  
8 that ballot style.

9 MR. RUSSO: So the precinct was marked  
10 on the -- on the ballot?

11 DR. NEUMAN: Correct. Correct. And the  
12 ballot style, the correct ballot style was mailed  
13 accordingly. And then when it was tabulated it  
14 was tabulated by district.

15 MR. RUSSO: And for same day  
16 registrants, if they come they get the --

17 DR. NEUMAN: Ballot style --

18 MR. RUSSO: Appropriate to their --

19 DR. NEUMAN: To their address.

20 MR. RUSSO: -- home precinct?

21 DR. NEUMAN: Right.

22 MR. RUSSO: I think that's it. Thank

1 you.

2 DR. NEUMAN: Thank you.

3 MS. FEINBERG: Thank you very much. I  
4 just have two quick items.

5 One, and it's not under your purview I  
6 don't think, there were yard signs that were put  
7 out saying Election Day vote that were popping up  
8 about encouraging people to come out and vote that  
9 were done by the City, not by individual  
10 campaigns. But it appeared that the distribution  
11 or deployment of those was not done equally across  
12 the City on the same one or two or three days.  
13 Eventually, they appeared to be deployed across  
14 the City, but I think there needs to be some  
15 attention to the distribution, how that's done.  
16 Because, for example, in some parts of the City  
17 you would even see at two different intersections  
18 the same vote for the elections, and then you  
19 would go to other parts of the City and it was a  
20 dearth of them.

21 So it's just a comment about the  
22 distribution and deployment. Again, I don't know

1 if it's here or through public works did the  
2 deployment of those. I'm assuming that's who did  
3 it, but I don't know for sure.

4 And the second one please is on the  
5 ballots. And this is something that a resident  
6 brought to me and I have discussed it with the  
7 City Clerk at the time. If somebody were out of  
8 the country during the period of the elections,  
9 how do they send those back since it's postage  
10 paid -- and maybe the Post Office can help me.  
11 Specifically we reached out about somebody was  
12 going -- a family that was going to be out of the  
13 country the entire time and they would not have  
14 received it until very late. How could they have  
15 returned it? Are postage paid envelopes -- I  
16 don't believe from overseas would work.

17 DR. NEUMAN: The would probably have to  
18 put on sufficient postage from whatever country  
19 they were in in order for it to come --

20 MS. FEINBERG: Right. But there were no  
21 instructions, they had no idea -- we worked with  
22 this family, but it was an issue. And I thought I

1 had heard that this is a problem nationally that  
2 the vote by mail folks are aware of. And I think,  
3 Sara, you and I had actually talked about it.

4 DR. NEUMAN: There's a solution, it's  
5 not a hard one, it's just we have to know there is  
6 said problem. And so we don't have that many  
7 people that have that situation. We did much as  
8 we could with frequently asked questions that we  
9 thought would reach the broad audience. But  
10 anybody who had a question that didn't -- wasn't  
11 covered in frequently asked questions, for  
12 anything, was certainly welcome to call. And we  
13 did have a call line that started early on and it  
14 was always available, and we got back to people  
15 very quickly.

16 MS. FEINBERG: Well, one of the  
17 solutions I had -- had heard might be was the  
18 deployment. Once the ballots were received, if  
19 you were still in town that you could come and  
20 pick it up. And I believe that was one we were  
21 trying to work with the family. It didn't  
22 actually work out. So that's a suggestion for

1 your consideration, if somebody knows they will be  
2 leaving and if the ballots -- they'll be away  
3 during that window when they are sent of the City,  
4 can they come and pick it up. And it's just a  
5 suggestion moving forward.

6 DR. NEUMAN: Well, that was -- that's my  
7 point, which is if we hear of an issue, of a  
8 concern that someone has, we'll do what we can to  
9 work it out so that they can get their ballot and  
10 be able to turn it in in a timely fashion.

11 MS. FEINBERG: Well, we did try and it  
12 didn't work out because the ballots weren't here.

13 DR. NEUMAN: No?

14 MS. FEINBERG: But I'm just asking for  
15 your understanding that there are people who are  
16 out overseas.

17 DR. NEUMAN: Yes, thank you.

18 MAYOR NEWTON: Thank you. I want to say  
19 thank you for moving the City in this direction.  
20 I think it was absolutely affirmed by the increase  
21 in the number of people who were able to  
22 participate. That is wonderful.

1 I look forward to receiving the final  
2 cost and the breakdown and how it all comes out.  
3 Not that I think we count what we spend per vote,  
4 but I think it's -- it's instructive to not just  
5 the City of Rockville, but anybody else who is,  
6 you know, anticipating or -- or moving in this  
7 direction.

8 Number two, I think in the beginning we  
9 heard that there were 44,000 registered voters in  
10 the City, but at one point the number dropped to  
11 38,000. But I'm curious how the culling happened.  
12 That's 6,000 voters potentially. And so what  
13 information did you use to get to that number,  
14 38,000? I don't know if you're going to answer  
15 the question this evening, but it would be helpful  
16 to those candidates to have the -- the list culled  
17 because in several cases when we knocked in doors,  
18 one in particular there were four ballots going to  
19 that house and none of those individuals lived  
20 there anymore. So this came up after the 2015  
21 campaign when several candidates requested that  
22 the City use neighborhood services to do a

1 strategic neighborhood by neighborhood sweep of  
2 the City to say, you know, who lives here now, not  
3 for any reason other than trying to get a better  
4 handle on who was living where. The census will  
5 help us and I hope we will use the census  
6 information to help that list, but as has been  
7 mentioned before, people move and not everyone  
8 knows that they need to let their previous  
9 jurisdiction know. Sometimes when you register to  
10 vote in a new jurisdiction you come off of a  
11 previous list, but not always. And in the case of  
12 someone passing away, that can take years for that  
13 to catch up.

14           And so I -- I just think we as a City  
15 need to do a better job of trying to help our  
16 community know the reason for letting the BOSE  
17 know. And then if they let the Rockville BOSE  
18 know, how long does it take for the county and the  
19 state to know?

20           Secondly -- or third, I would support a  
21 discussion on the involvement of staff in the  
22 three appointed offices being involved in

1 campaigns. It is everyone's right to support  
2 whatever candidate they choose, however, when you  
3 are working on an election from a City standpoint,  
4 trying to help it be as fair and impartial as  
5 possible, it does raise the perception perhaps of  
6 questions. And I wouldn't want anyone to be in  
7 that position, so I think the fact that this City  
8 announced a change in what had previously been a  
9 City policy after the campaign started, it made  
10 for some very uncomfortable situations.

11 And, finally, I think -- and it's been  
12 evidenced in several of the BOSE meetings -- I  
13 think it would be instructive for a discussion  
14 about the BOSE. You are the liaison to the  
15 candidates actually. Also, you are our source of  
16 information. And tonight is the first time I  
17 heard, when Mike asked the question, how did you  
18 know what precinct. Some of that information is  
19 just helpful to everyone to know how -- you know,  
20 there was a great deal of concern about signing  
21 your name and then the tear off flap. But if  
22 people knew the way we're going to know that

1 precinct 10 voted is because we've got it  
2 calibrated that way, it -- it helps. Information  
3 -- you know, knowledge is power. And when there  
4 is a new thing happening, everybody tends to jump  
5 to conclusions. And the more information that we  
6 get out there in the beginning the better, or  
7 along the way, the better. And I found personally  
8 in this campaign session, both as a sitting  
9 elected person and then as a candidate, that the  
10 door to the BOSE was rigidly closed and not a way  
11 of actually communicating, not just to the elected  
12 and the candidates, but to the community.

13 So I would hope that going forward we  
14 would have a much more robust and informative two  
15 way street.

16 DR. NEUMAN: The only thing I can  
17 comment on -- not the only thing, but what I will  
18 comment on is the Board of Supervisors of  
19 Elections was out and about in the community. At  
20 whatever events that the City had we were there at  
21 a booth, we were interacting with as many people  
22 as we could and as many sessions as we could and

1 as many places as we could. We did outreach in  
2 homeowners' associations and other organizations  
3 to talk about vote by mail and answer any  
4 questions for people.

5 MAYOR NEWTON: Actually, (inaudible).

6 DR. NEUMAN: Okay. And the one thing  
7 about the flaps, we know the flaps were new this  
8 time around for everybody, and so that was new for  
9 us as well. And so we have learned from that --  
10 everything that happened, for the next time  
11 around. And that's the name -- that's what  
12 happens, you do something the first time, you  
13 learn and you adjust for the next time. So we  
14 thank you for your input into helping us do that.

15 Anybody else? Please. And if anybody  
16 -- if people --

17 SPEAKER: If anybody hasn't spoken --

18 DR. NEUMAN: No, I was thinking of  
19 people from the League of Women Votes, if anybody  
20 is here and does want to say anything, they -- I'm  
21 not -- I'm just --

22 MS. COHN: I have just a few more things

1 I want to share.

2 DR. NEUMAN: Absolutely.

3 MS. COHN: Thank you. My name is Linda  
4 Cohn with the League of Women Voters, as Brigitta  
5 mentioned. And I'm chairing a committee that is  
6 looking at all mail in voting and the experience  
7 with that. So we're looking at some other states,  
8 because it's used across the board in Oregon,  
9 Washington, and Colorado, and I think Hawaii is  
10 just starting as well. And we're looking at --  
11 we're trying to look at both the pros and cons.  
12 So what are the advantages, what are the  
13 disadvantages of that. It has a reputation for  
14 increasing voter participation, which is good.  
15 There's also questions about maintaining security  
16 and the integrity of the vote. This way we'll  
17 understand both sides of that.

18 We're pretty new in the process,  
19 probably going to go for -- through 2020 probably  
20 is my guess. And the League always prepares --  
21 any part that we prepare we may or may not have  
22 recommendations or establish a position. We can;

1 we don't know yet if we will on this. But when we  
2 do write a report, it does get posted on line, so  
3 it's accessible. We're also happy to hear from  
4 people, the experiences on that. We hope we can  
5 have some continued conversations with -- with  
6 City of Rockville and we'll also be talking with  
7 the County. And we're just in the information  
8 gathering state and trying to understand both what  
9 works and what doesn't work, because there's  
10 always two sides to every issue.

11 Thank you.

12 DR. NEUMAN: Very good. Thank you.

13 MS. MULLICAN: Thank you. One of the  
14 things that I've found going door to door --  
15 because you know, I delivered like 13,000 of my  
16 campaign literature, and that is we have a lot of  
17 new renters in Rockville and they don't know  
18 anything about Rockville elections. And so, of  
19 course, as Dr. Neuman said, that we did a great  
20 job in reaching out to these people. And what I  
21 found is that they love the voter guide that the  
22 City sent, which was in the newsletter. And a lot

1 of times I would alert them to it because they  
2 were new. I said, hey, all the information is in  
3 there. They didn't even know there was an  
4 election, okay. So, as you said, we reached out  
5 to a lot of people if they were home.

6 My -- my concern is still that database.  
7 If you go door to door -- all the candidates can  
8 vouch for this -- that -- the bad addresses. And  
9 I actually had one -- two deaths that were still  
10 on the list and the spouse would tell me, oh, my  
11 husband died 12 years ago and one was 7 years ago.  
12 In fact, the one gentleman said he didn't care if  
13 -- if that was still on the list. And I said  
14 well, I care. So I actually wrote a letter and  
15 had them sign it. And the Board of Elections --  
16 they're very, very helpful -- they took these two  
17 people off.

18 One experience I found was someone put a  
19 ballot on the mailbox with a paper clip and wrote  
20 no longer live here. So I thought to myself, why  
21 is it they got a ballot if they had three  
22 mailings. And that brings me to the conclusion --

1 what I heard from a lot of people, and I even  
2 agree with, the three mailings that the voter  
3 received looked like advertising and people threw  
4 it away. And that's sad. But I know you couldn't  
5 do a first class mailing like I did to, you know,  
6 a small amount, but I did find a lot of returned  
7 addresses. So something to consider is those  
8 three mailings were ignored by a lot of people.  
9 My concern is we candidates would get lists where  
10 there are so many names that should have been  
11 purged. And you have no way of knowing of all  
12 those mailings that you did, how many of them got  
13 off.

14 I was curious to hear the Mayor say that  
15 the list went from 44,000 to 38,000. I don't  
16 recall seeing my list purged like that, but it's  
17 -- it's an issue as a candidate trying to decide  
18 how many voters you mail to, because obviously you  
19 can't mail to everyone. So that's an issue that I  
20 don't think you all can control. I think it's the  
21 Board of Elections, but I just think the City  
22 should be a little bit more involved and get some

1 feedback of those three mailings. How many did  
2 you all -- you know, even a list, these are the  
3 voters that were purged. And I don't think you  
4 get that and I personally, as a candidate, would  
5 have wanted to see that. But it might not ever  
6 happen, but it's just something that I would like  
7 to bring to the attention. It's very frustrating  
8 for candidates not to have good lists. And I can  
9 -- I'm sure they can all tell you they went to a  
10 lot of houses and these lists that we had were  
11 very, very bad. And it's just not something that  
12 I can blame you all on.

13 DR. NEUMAN: Well, we tried -- we tried  
14 very hard and made a major effort to work with the  
15 county and the county indeed worked with us that  
16 every time we did a mailing and those -- those  
17 mailers came back, we bundled them and took them  
18 back to the county so that they could then update  
19 the list. And we used very mailing in that  
20 fashion. And so then they purged the database  
21 based on each mailing. So the next one that we  
22 had should have not gone to some of those names

1 that came back the first one or the second one.  
2 So the intent was that by the last mailing we  
3 should have the best database that we could  
4 possibly have.

5 MS. MULLICAN: Like I said, they threw  
6 those mailings in the trash because they thought  
7 it was advertising.

8 DR. NEUMAN: Yes.

9 MS. MULLICAN: Not everyone.

10 DR. NEUMAN: Yes.

11 MS. MULLICAN: But a lot of them. It's  
12 just reality.

13 DR. NEUMAN: Well, that -- but -- but it  
14 meant the address was still a good address, the  
15 person still lived at that address.

16 MS. MULLICAN: No.

17 DR. NEUMAN: No?

18 MS. MULLICAN: The new people who lived  
19 there just ignored those.

20 DR. NEUMAN: So the new -- so there was

21 --

22 MS. MULLICAN: And the might not even

1 have been registered.

2 DR. NEUMAN: So there was an -- there  
3 was a mailing that came to a name at an address,  
4 there was now a different name at that address and  
5 the new person did not bring the old -- the old  
6 name to the attention of anybody. Mm-hmm.  
7 Problem. Because if we don't get it back, how do  
8 we know that somebody else is living there?

9 MS. MULLICAN: Yeah, I'm only sharing  
10 this because I talked to a lot of people and I  
11 would say didn't you get your mailing, because  
12 we're having vote by mail. It's the first thing  
13 that everybody -- first time everybody knew. And  
14 they said no and I said here, did you get one of  
15 these. Oh, I threw that in the trash. I didn't  
16 realize that's -- you know, it was important.

17 I'm just saying that it looked like --

18 DR. NEUMAN: We've got two different  
19 thoughts here. One is did the mailing go to the  
20 right person at that address and they didn't pay  
21 attention to it, or did the mailing go to a person  
22 that no longer lived at that address and the

1 current resident just threw it away.

2 MS. MULLICAN: Yeah.

3 DR. NEUMAN: And if that second thing is  
4 the case, that's a problem for trying to identify  
5 that, because if people do not give it back to us,  
6 we don't know -- well, it's two things. We don't  
7 know that the person is no longer at that address,  
8 but, secondly, it's the responsibility of the  
9 mover -- the person who no longer lives there  
10 needs to let the Board of Elections know that  
11 they've moved, because their name needs to be  
12 change don the state register so that they can  
13 vote in the other elections in the state. Now, if  
14 they've moved out of the state, then hopefully it  
15 will be caught by the overall system that compares  
16 states and says you've got somebody registered in  
17 two states, let's the sending state know, and they  
18 will take them off the data -- the database.

19 MS. MULLICAN: I have one more small --  
20 small story to tell. I know it's not a lot, but a  
21 friend of mine who voted went to -- was at a rehab  
22 and asked me to pick up her mail. And I picked up

1 her mail, brought it to her at the rehab, and I'm  
2 sitting there with her and she's like tearing up  
3 all the campaign literature. I'm not even reading  
4 it, just throwing it away. She said I already  
5 voted. And she said, oh, I got another ballot,  
6 oh, I got another ballot. She had four ballots in  
7 her pack before we realized it wasn't her mail. I  
8 said, oh, my god. So I took it to the Post  
9 Office. It was a mistake. I didn't even think to  
10 look. I just said I'm picking up -- because I had  
11 a, you know, written letter, approval to pick up  
12 her mail and take it to her at the rehab. And I  
13 thought, oh, my god, you know, if somebody wasn't  
14 honest like me they could have just thrown it away  
15 or whatever.

16           Anyway, I mean it was a mistake, but  
17 it's like how -- how can you be assured that  
18 everybody gets their ballot? There are things  
19 that happen with vote by mail. I'm just bringing  
20 that out. It's just a minor thing, but it was  
21 upsetting to me as a candidate. And I took it  
22 back to the clerk and -- and I said, you -- you've

1 got to remember I want these votes, so please get  
2 these to the right address.

3 So it happens.

4 DR. NEUMAN: Well, we're also dependent  
5 upon the receiver of the mail and the voter  
6 themselves to make sure that we have the accurate  
7 information about them. We don't want to purge --  
8 as you know, we don't purge the database  
9 excessively unless we have evidence that someone  
10 is not -- does not live there, because then we're  
11 accused of removing voters -- anybody that's doing  
12 this would be accused of removing voters  
13 arbitrarily. And we don't ever want that to  
14 happen.

15 So we err on the side of caution and a  
16 name stays on the database. And if the address is  
17 wrong, the address is wrong, but we have no way of  
18 knowing it unless somebody lets us know, which  
19 would be the person who's currently at the  
20 address, right, who's getting mail for the wrong  
21 person, or the person themselves should take it on  
22 and say I've changed my address.

1           Now, when we've talked to people that  
2    come into the -- into the polling place and they  
3    will say I changed my address in this place, oh,  
4    by I forgot to change it for voting. And it's a  
5    very common event. People know certain places and  
6    they will change their address there but forget to  
7    do it with voting. So it's not uncommon, but if  
8    we can, again, educate the voters to make sure if  
9    they move to let us know.

10           You had a comment?

11           MS. ORLOSKY: I had a clarification  
12    question on the first item you talked about, the  
13    database purge. Do I understand it correctly that  
14    you as a candidate, or as the representative of a  
15    candidate, for those others here, would find it  
16    more convenient if the City notified registered  
17    candidates each time the City has submitted a list  
18    of invalid addresses to the state for the cleaning  
19    -- or to the county for the cleaning of the  
20    database? Do I understand it correctly or am I  
21    misinterpreting it?

22           MS. MULLICAN: Well, as a candidate we

1 were given two databases, one in May, which was  
2 very, very bad, which is what I used for my first  
3 --

4 MS. ORLOSKY: That's before the  
5 mailings, yes.

6 MS. MULLICAN: And then I just went to  
7 the county and purchased one, which was dated  
8 July, which was better. But then I was trying to  
9 compare it to the one that the City was giving us,  
10 it's very detailed information, it's very  
11 difficult. People move -- I mean it's -- it's a  
12 database that changes daily and it's -- I don't --  
13 there no real easy solution. But if you're  
14 talking about 43,000 to 38,000, I would love to  
15 have known -- I would have loved to have had --  
16 been able to compare to see what those others  
17 were. Were the ones that you all were purged?  
18 And then there's the active and inactive. It's --  
19 it's a very complicated database. But it's  
20 frustrating when you don't know what you're  
21 getting and how up to date it is.

22 And I would love know how many ballots

1 were received that weren't counted, as -- as was  
2 mentioned by other people in the room. That I  
3 think is information the City should know. I  
4 really do, you know. But that's just the personal  
5 opinion I agree with.

6 Thank you.

7 DR. NEUMAN: Again, we work closely --  
8 one more time, the database belongs to the state  
9 and the state is very protective as to who has  
10 access to that database, again, because of the all  
11 the legalities of removing a name incorrectly.

12 The county then has access to that  
13 database. We then work with the county to have  
14 access to it, but we do not have direct access to  
15 the database, so we don't make changes. We try to  
16 submit -- we did work very hard through four  
17 mailings to update the data -- to give it to the  
18 county to update the database and they did because  
19 each mailing we would get fewer back.

20 So we know they did what they did, but  
21 we don't know if it was perfect. And, apparently,  
22 from what you're telling us it wasn't. And we can

1 certainly share it with the county, but it is --  
2 was our belief that we had one of the cleanest  
3 databases we've ever had.

4 SPEAKER: True.

5 DR. NEUMAN: Not perfect yet, we're  
6 working on it. But we are better than we were. I  
7 assure you we are better -- you -- I remember when  
8 several of us counted the number of ballots that  
9 -- the number of sample ballots that came back,  
10 and it was in the thousands. And it was not  
11 anywhere near that this time. But we still had  
12 some come back and the goal is always to decrease  
13 that number.

14 Any other questions, comments? Yes.

15 MS. ASHTON: Monique Ashton again. I'm  
16 just thinking out loud, and I think this goes  
17 beyond the City of Rockville, but there are a  
18 number of partnerships between jurisdictions that  
19 help. So if you think about MCPS, partners -- and  
20 does help with the voting, getting folks  
21 registered to vote -- and the DMV also has a way  
22 for either organ donation and voting.

1 I'm just wondering, since a lot of us  
2 understand that when people they move they think  
3 about changing their bank information, they think  
4 about, you know, the core things essential to  
5 their daily lives, and they may not think about  
6 updating their voter registration information. Is  
7 there a partnership that could be had, because a  
8 lot of people will do a change of address with the  
9 U.S. Postal Service and people can check off to  
10 say would you also like to update your, you know,  
11 voter registration information. I'm just -- I  
12 know that goes beyond the City of Rockville, but  
13 it seems like that could be tremendously helpful  
14 because it's using a natural tool that people are  
15 commonly using.

16 DR. NEUMAN: Absolutely. Yes,  
17 absolutely. And it works with -- with the  
18 Department of Motor Vehicles as well, and the  
19 county and the state have worked hard to put all  
20 that together. So we are just benefitting by the  
21 work that they've done because we're using the  
22 same database.

1 MS. ASHTON: Great suggestion. One  
2 other quick -- may I --

3 SPEAKER: Go ahead.

4 DR. NEUMAN: What's wrong?

5 MR. NICHOLS: Again, Don Nichols from  
6 the Postal Service. And I appreciate the -- the  
7 thought. One of the issues for us with -- we --  
8 we walk a very fine line as it relates to voter  
9 registration and voter turnout. For us that's  
10 considered in many states a partisan issue and we  
11 generally don't dive into anything that could be  
12 seen as -- as partisan.

13 MS. ASHTON: Well, would the DMV help  
14 with voter registration? So I was just thinking  
15 that there are other state and other agencies that  
16 do help with helping to register folks and keep  
17 information valid. Maybe the DMV would do it.

18 (Laughter)

19 MAYOR NEWTON: So I just wanted to add,  
20 you know, to the point that I think is underlying  
21 candidates' concerns about lists is the expense.  
22 When you're using shoe leather, it's not -- it's

1 -- it's expensive and it's time consuming, but  
2 it's not as expensive as when you're mailing. And  
3 I -- I think it is well worth noting that this was  
4 a much more expensive campaign for candidates this  
5 year. And I'm not putting a dollar value on it.  
6 Once again, I'm not trying to say that, but I just  
7 think we want to be encouraging not just of  
8 everyone participating from the voting side, but  
9 of everyone being able to participate from the  
10 candidate's side. And we need to keep that in  
11 mind in terms of the efficacy of the -- of the  
12 list.

13           And the other thing I just wanted to  
14 point out, I don't know how many people told me --  
15 and I think Election Day itself showed us this --  
16 how many people actually enjoy the process of  
17 coming to vote and seeing people. There were a  
18 lot of people who spoke and said, you know, I  
19 really missed going to my polling place, seeing my  
20 neighbors, chatting it up. We -- we're so -- you  
21 know, moving these days in different directions  
22 and not really communicating and -- and having

1 time together. So I think that's something else  
2 that we should note.

3 And, Vincent, I'm sorry, I called you  
4 Mike. Sorry. Just wasn't thinking.

5 DR. NEUMAN: And we would like to hear  
6 from those people as well.

7 Any other comments? Yes?

8 MR. PIERZCHALA: Thank you. Mark  
9 Pierzchala again. One of the most valuable things  
10 you all did was to post the voter IDs of those  
11 people who had submitted ballots. And -- and we  
12 used that to -- you know, we had a -- a program  
13 that would eliminate them from the next mailing,  
14 right, and that was helpful to reduce cost, but  
15 also to reduce aggravation on somebody who voted  
16 two weeks ago. I -- I just think it could have  
17 been clearer about when those lists would have  
18 been posted, you know, because we just had to keep  
19 watching to see when they were posted and if --  
20 you know, if there could be a regular schedule or  
21 -- or just some sort of information about, you  
22 know, 5:00 p.m. on such and such days you are

1 getting your list. That kind of thing would have  
2 been helpful.

3 DR. NEUMAN: Yes.

4 MR. PIERZCHALA: We were watching it,  
5 but it would have been helpful if --

6 DR. NEUMAN: Yes.

7 MR. PIERZCHALA: Okay. Anyway, that's a  
8 good thing to reduce costs.

9 DR. NEUMAN: There were -- there were  
10 some things we had control over, there were some  
11 things we could mediate on, and there were some  
12 things we had no control over. So we worked with  
13 the best we could to get -- do the best -- very  
14 best we could for the City of Rockville.

15 Any other? Yes.

16 MR. RUSSO: Just following on what Mark  
17 said about the posting of the posting of the  
18 voters that have voted, not only was it helpful  
19 for the candidates to know, I think it was also  
20 very helpful for the voters to know that the City  
21 got their vote and it was sort of a receipt,  
22 because this as a big leap of faith that you're

1 going to drop your ballot in the mail.

2 DR. NEUMAN: Sure.

3 MR. RUSSO: I think it was very  
4 reassuring for many people to -- to check that  
5 list and see that their name appeared. So not  
6 only from the perspective of the candidates, but I  
7 think the voters also appreciated that.

8 DR. NEUMAN: So it's a good process, we  
9 just have to tighten it up some?

10 MR. RUSSO: Well, I mean --

11 DR. NEUMAN: Right? Get it out sooner  
12 or -- yes?

13 MR. RUSSO: You know, I imagine you're  
14 at the mercy of the county there too to -- how  
15 often it's counted and when.

16 DR. NEUMAN: Right, right. Right.  
17 Thank you. It's okay.

18 MR. PIERZCHALA: Can't let this one go  
19 so easily. I will say I do know of people who  
20 actually looked at those lists to see if their  
21 ballot had been received. So, you know, some  
22 people monitor their own ballot that way.

1 DR. NEUMAN: Good.

2 MS. MULLICAN: That brings the question  
3 about the history data. When will the database be  
4 available that shows all the people that voted in  
5 Rockville? Because I'm still trying to compare  
6 voters who I mailed to to how many actually voted.  
7 And I know in the past elections it's been an  
8 issue with the Board of Elections saying, well, it  
9 depends on the state and it's usually like three  
10 months after the election that you can get that  
11 information. And when I asked the Board of  
12 Elections -- Montgomery County Board of Elections,  
13 I was told that the -- that is a control of the  
14 City -- the history data. In other words, I tried  
15 to get the history data.

16 DR. NEUMAN: I hear you and -- and --

17 MS. MULLICAN: And I think you all might  
18 change that if I heard -- I mean the Board of  
19 Elections would not give us a list of who voted in  
20 the previous three elections. We had to get that  
21 from the City and we only got two -- two databases  
22 from you all, one in May and one in the end of

1 September, I believe. So I wanted to see the data  
2 for the last three elections, getting it from the  
3 --

4 DR. NEUMAN: I understand your question,  
5 but I truly don't have an answer.

6 MS. MULLICAN: Okay.

7 DR. NEUMAN: But we'll pursue and we'll  
8 see what we --

9 MS. MULLICAN: Okay, thank you.

10 MS. FEINBERG: Thank you. Beryl

11 Feinberg. I wanted to speak about the campaign  
12 finance report.

13 I want to echo and ditto what everyone  
14 has said, what an improvement it was, but I also  
15 want to give a thanks both to the City staff, as  
16 well as specifically the IT staff, because if you  
17 did, as the example was before, if you had  
18 information you need to do before -- I think May  
19 11 was the early or cutoff date -- there was a way  
20 to do it, you just had to work with staff, but  
21 they were very helpful and you could be figured  
22 out. And as well as if you had campaign funds

1 from a prior election, not this cycle, it did  
2 accommodate all those kind of nuances and it  
3 worked out great.

4 And thank you to the staff for that.

5 DR. NEUMAN: Absolutely. And thank you  
6 for commenting, because a tremendous amount of  
7 work went into that, especially by Graham sitting  
8 over here on my left, who worked very closely with  
9 the staff. And we did three workshops, as you  
10 know, so that candidates and their treasurers  
11 could come in repeatedly to be exposed and have  
12 practice with using the revision. So it's always  
13 good to know that when you do something like that  
14 -- when it works.

15 Any more comments? Yes.

16 MS. ONLEY: I just want to congratulate  
17 each and every one of you and the City staff  
18 because, you know, all eyes were on Rockville, and  
19 the election was very successful. I think it was  
20 very well run. There were some lessons learned,  
21 but I think the next election will run much  
22 smoother and I think that we proved to a lot of

1 people, especially the State of Maryland, that  
2 vote by mail is the way to go. And I just want to  
3 congratulate you on that.

4 Oh, I'm Virginia Onley. (Laughter)  
5 That would help.

6 DR. NEUMAN: Thank you. Thank you.  
7 And, of course, we're setting our sights higher  
8 for the next time around. We want to keep all  
9 those people that currently voted and then add  
10 more, so we hope that will happen in the next  
11 election.

12 Any other comments, questions, concerns,  
13 suggestions?

14 Well, you know where to find us. And we  
15 have a comment box in the box. We've given you a  
16 survey form and we welcome, absolutely welcome  
17 your input because you are the recipients of all  
18 the work that we do. And so if it's not working  
19 in some way we need to know it. And if you have  
20 suggestions for things perhaps we didn't think of,  
21 we want to hear from everybody.

22 So, yes, and so the survey -- please,

1 you have a survey. It looks like this; you picked  
2 it up when you came in. If you would let us know  
3 your thoughts about what you see for the future,  
4 suggestions that you want to give us, there's  
5 another way to do it. And there's a box in the  
6 back that you can leave it in when you if you  
7 choose to turn it in that way.

8 Well, hearing no other comments, you can  
9 certainly, if you think of anything, or if you  
10 have more that you want to tell us, or anything  
11 that you've said tonight, if you want to send it  
12 in to us, we will do our best to get back to you,  
13 as we always do by -- yes, we need everything by  
14 February the 29th.

15 MR. JOHNSON: There will be the further  
16 opportunity on a weekend.

17 DR. NEUMAN: Yes, so -- so the next --  
18 you can come in on the -- for the next forum,  
19 which is February the --

20 MR. JOHNSON: The 8th.

21 DR. NEUMAN: February the 8th. And if  
22 you get us information by February the 29th that's

1 about when we'll be pulling everything together.  
2 But if you think of anything after having heard  
3 other people, when you kind of go oh, yeah, I  
4 forgot to say that, please send it to us. We're  
5 pretty good about reading everything and getting  
6 responses back to you. We may not be able to do  
7 anything about it, but we do want to hear your  
8 suggestions and try.

9 So we thank you all very much for coming  
10 and for all the comments that you made and all the  
11 suggestions you had and any concerns. And if you  
12 wish to come Saturday, we'll see you then,  
13 otherwise have a good year.

14 (Whereupon, the HEARING was  
15 adjourned.)

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