



# Election Judge News

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“Life is ten percent what happens to you, and ninety percent how you respond to it.” - Lou Holtz

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## Following Legislation

The Maryland General Assembly is now back in session and already we are watching quite a few House and Senate bill proposals.

SB0018 - would require early voting centers to be open just through the second Monday, rather than the Thursday, before the election. This would change early voting from Thursday through Thursday before election day to just Thursday through Monday before election day. Just five (5) days of early voting instead of eight (8) would make quite a change for early voting! We are watching this one closely and will keep you updated.

HB0052 - allows a county to lower the age of voting to sixteen (16) for the Board of Education contest only. Allowing 16 year olds to vote for the Board of Education seats would certainly make for an interesting election.

HB0215 - would authorize the State Board of Elections to begin using ranked-choice voting for the primary election for the presidential race. This one could get a little confusing so we'll certainly be keeping an eye on what happens here.

HB0317 - would establish a pilot program for curbside voting. If passed, this program would not have to be implemented until 2029. There will be a lot of logistics to work out for this to be accomplished if it does pass.

We'll be watching each of these bills and updating you if we have any new election laws in the coming months.

## Save the Date

Everyone had such a good time attending the **Flying Boxcars game** last June that we would like to be able to get together for another night out at the ballpark this year as a group! This year we have blocked off seats for the **Friday, June 6, 2025** home game and hope to see you all there!

For anyone who may have found parking a challenge last summer, keep in mind that this year the new parking garage between Summit Avenue and Antietam Street is open. The new parking lot is in view of the ballpark and just one street away! Keep watching your email for more information on how to purchase the discounted tickets. Don't forget to invite family members and friends who may be interested in learning more about joining our election judge team!

## Manual Audit

After each general election, State law requires that a manual audit be performed to verify the accuracy of the scanning units used during the election cycle. A certain number of ballots cast during early voting, election day, mail-in, and provisional were counted manually to ensure accuracy has been attained. Our manual audit of the 2024 General Election was this morning and the results proved the scanning units to be 100% accurate!

## Drop Box

For the next election cycle we will be looking for a number of election judges who can commit solely to the drop box pickup

schedule. We always appreciate our dedicated pool of election judges who are willing to help out in any capacity, but we have found that a certain number of election judges responsible for only drop box pick up would help tremendously! This way the drop box pick up can be scheduled without pulling anyone away from another election related obligation. If you or anyone you know may be interested in helping with only the drop box pickup schedule, please contact Cory Green at 240-313-2055 or corya.green@maryland.gov

## Training Center

Excerpts from Chapter 3– Voters with Disabilities and Cross- Cultural Communication

### 3.1 General Guidelines: Voters with Disabilities

Voters with disabilities have the same rights as all other voters.

- Be polite and respectful.
- Any voter may use the Ballot Marking Device, it is not only for voters with disabilities. Read *Instructions for Voters Using the Ballot Marking Device* to all voters using the ballot marking device.
- Never ask a voter to provide proof of a disability or about the nature of their disability. A voter's disability may not always be apparent.
- Do not underestimate people with disabilities.
- Do not put a time limit on voting.
- Always speak directly to the voter, not to the voter's helper, companion, or sign



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## Election Judge News

### Training Center Cont'd. Super Bowl LIX

language interpreter.

- Ask the voter if you may assist them. If they indicate they need assistance, ask how you may assist them. Never assume you know what assistance they might need or want.
- Never insist on helping when a voter has not asked for help.
- Make sure there are signs to show the most accessible path to the polling place.
- Be aware of obstacles and hazards that could cause injury.
  - \* Tape down floor mats, rugs, and power cords securely or move them out of the way.
  - \* Keep floors dry.
- Make sure the ramps and doors that are accessible to wheelchairs are unlocked. Keep the paths clear.
- If necessary, be creative in how you help voters with disabilities. For example, if a voter is unable to stand in line, ask another voter in line to hold his or her place. Give a placeholder card to the voter and the other voter who is holding his or her place in line. The voter standing in line will alert the judges and show them the card when it is the voter's turn to vote. The cards are numbered in pairs to identify the voter who is waiting to vote. Let the voter who needs help sit down until the placeholder reaches the check-in judge.
- Be prepared to provide instructions on how to set up and use the ballot marking device.
- Voters who encounter a ballot marking device that does not work should be allowed to leave the polling place and return at a later time without being required to wait in any line.

You may be a fan of one of the teams headed to this year's Super Bowl. You may be planning to attend or host a Super Bowl party. You may be planning the perfect game day menu. You may even be decorating your house and yard in support of a favorite team. For you, I am genuinely happy and wish you and your team the best. Those of us without a team in the game are hoping that the Super Bowl commercials have an epic year!

Super Bowl commercials have been widely regarded as some of the most highly anticipated television viewing of the year! This year a Super Bowl ad with a run time of just 30 seconds, will cost over \$7,000,000.00!! That's a lot of zeroes! For seven million dollars, the stakes are high to produce an ad that is interesting, moving, or hilarious enough to want to skip that bathroom break or trip to the kitchen and stay in front of the tv.

Which of these greatest Super Bowl commercials of all time are in your favorites list?

- (2000) EDS, an HP company attempted to herd cats in an ad touting their company can "bring together information, ideas, and technologies." The ad opens with the statement that "anybody can herd cattle. Holding together 10,000 half-wild shorthairs? Well, that's another thing altogether." We agree! It's quite a hilarious sight to be herding cats across the range!
- (1984) Wendy's "Where's the Beef?" Three older women insist on speaking to a fast food company's manager and owner insisting that the sandwich they received did not have enough beef! The women repeatedly proclaim "where's the beef?" quickly creating an iconic moment in Super Bowl advertising.
- (2022) Uber eats put together

an ad in which actress Jennifer Coolidge asks, "if it was delivered with Uber Eats, does that mean I can eat it?" Hilarity ensues and the rest of the commercial is filled with people quite literally taking a bite out of many not normally edible household products.

- (2007) In one shocking and unforgettable moment, Budweiser aired a commercial with a "streaker!" A sheep, as an apparent streaker, interrupts a Budweiser Clydesdales' football game! If you've seen this one, you certainly wouldn't forget it and couldn't help but laugh.
- (2003) Reebok aired an ad in which an "office linebacker" suddenly and unexpectedly tackles employees at work in the office throughout the day. The timing of each surprise office place takedown makes this commercial comedic gold!
- (2010) While playing a rough game of tackle football with men in the neighborhood, Betty White delivers some of the funniest, although few, lines for Snickers. Her comedic timing has made this commercial one of the Super Bowl favorites since it aired!

**Trivia Question:** In 1984, another Super Bowl commercial aired and changed the trajectory of a now iconic American company. Although the ad was only aired once, it received so much attention from the media and the American public at the time that it quickly became one of the most successful ads of all time. This fledgling company would eventually become the first corporation to reach a value of one trillion dollars! Do you know this company? Which company aired one of the most successful Super Bowl commercials of all time in 1984, eventually taking the company from struggling to being the first to reach \$1,000,000,000,000.00 in value?

**Answer below:**

