

**City of Takoma Park, Maryland**  
**Takoma Park Board of Elections**  
**Official Meeting Minutes**

Monday, May 9, 2016  
7:30pm - Third Floor Council Conference Room  
Takoma Park Community Center - Sam Abbott Citizens' Center

**Present:** Greg Lebel, Arthur David Olson, Beatriz York, Brian Ernst, Marilyn Abbot, Jessie Carpenter, Ken Sigman, Councilmember Tim Male

**Minutes Taker:** Brian Ernst

1. **Call to order:** 7:34pm
2. **Board Business:** The board selected Brian Ernst as minutes taker.
3. **Review and Approval of Agenda:** The board added Celebrate Takoma to the agenda.
4. **Approval of Minutes:** Minutes from April, 2016 approved as amended. Arthur David Olson agreed to distribute the decision tree from the previous meeting.
5. **Synchronization of City election with State Elections**
  - a. *Update from City Clerk, Board Chair, Assistant City Attorney.* Assistant City Attorney Ken Sigman had circulated draft changes to the city charter for the board's review. Ken reviewed the possible changes to the charter, primarily in Sections 301 and 606. Jessie informed the board that she and the city attorney will have a call with Election Systems and Software (ES&S), the state's provider of ballot systems, and the state board of elections. Jessie will circulate notes from the meeting to the board.
  - b. *Comments from Councilmember Tim Male.* Councilmember Male attended the board of elections meeting to discuss the synchronization process. Councilmember Male noted that Long Beach, California used to have a two ballot system in which voters took two separate ballots into the voting booth; he also recommended the Board look into Santa Clarita in California, which also synchronized its elections. Councilmember Male requested information on the number of Takoma Park voters who voted early in places other than Silver Spring (the closest early voting site to Takoma Park). He also agreed to contact the Ocean City mayor for more information on the city's electoral process.
  - c. *General Discussion on synchronization.* The board held a lengthy discussion on the options for synchronization, recognizing that information from the upcoming conference call will better inform the discussion. Board members noted that regardless of the outcome, the 2018 elections will require a broad voter information campaign to inform voters of the new locations and process. In case Takoma Park only voters could not be integrated into the state ballot system, the board discussed the option of a fifth precinct at the community center that would cover Takoma Park only voters. Councilmember Male

suggested the board focus on options that make the voter experience as simple as possible as a baseline, and then use that to discuss next steps.

6. **Other Business:** The board will set up a table at Celebrate Takoma on May 14th. The event runs from 4:00pm to 7:00pm.
7. **Next Meeting:** The board will meet on June 9, 2016 or earlier, pending the results of the conference call with the state board of elections and ES&S.
8. **Adjournment:** 8:51pm.