

SUMMARY OF COMMITTEE FINDINGS

Finding 1

Failures in the Baltimore City 2016 Primary Election were widespread and grievous. The pervasiveness of "irregularities" and errors throughout the city significantly undermined the confidence of Baltimore City citizens in the electoral process as cited in the Case of VOTER'S ORGANIZED FOR THE INTEGRITY OF CITY ELECTIONS (Plaintiff) v. Baltimore City Elections Board, Armstead B. C. Jones, SR., Maryland Board of Elections, Linda H. Lamone (Defendants) - (Filed June 01, 2016/Amended June 07, 2016 in The United States District Court for the Northern District of Maryland. Case # JKB-16-1788).

Finding 2

Baltimore City's 2016 Primary Election results were re-certified although a significant portion of precincts could not resolve inconsistencies in vote tallies during a precinct-level review. The re-certification of inaccurate vote tallies was in conflict with Maryland Election Law Article §11-308.

Finding 3

The Baltimore City Board of Election failed to properly staff precincts with the adequate number of election judges in violation of Maryland Election Law §10-201.

Finding 4

During the Baltimore City 2016 Primary Election, at least 1,188 provisional ballots were incorrectly handled. Election judges in Baltimore City allowed provisional ballots to be inserted into the optical scanners instead of keeping them separated in order to be properly canvassed. Due to the identical appearance of provisional ballots to regular ballots, the incorrectly handled provisional ballots were unable to be separated from the vote count thereby corrupting the final vote tally to an unknown extent.

Finding 5

The State and Baltimore City Board of Election Directors did not significantly change 2016 General Election processes to address known issues, which arose in the 2016 Primary Election.

Finding 6

The State Board of Election, as well as the Office of the Attorney General, and the Judiciary failed to protect the sacrosanctity of the electoral process in the aftermath of the Baltimore City 2016 Primary Election debacle by failing to comply with established laws during the process of responding to legal complaints. Their refusal to follow the rule of law and established procedural deadlines further exasperated the lack of confidence of Maryland citizens in the integrity of future elections.

Finding 7

The Election Judge Manual for Baltimore City is error-ridden and contains instructions significantly different from other Election Judge Manuals in the State. The purpose of these inconsistencies between Baltimore City's Election Judge Manual and election judge manuals in other jurisdictions across the state is unknown. Passages found within the Baltimore City Election Judge Manual contain inaccurate and conflicting instructions.

Finding 8

Security controls and accountability mechanisms for sensitive items or equipment, to include ballots, does not exist in Baltimore City. Lack of accountability increases the risk for unlawful manipulation.