

MINUTES  
Fairfax County Electoral Board  
June 21, 2023

The Fairfax County Electoral Board (Board) met on Wednesday, June 21, 2023, in Conference Room 251 at the Fairfax County Government Center, 12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax, to receive the election materials necessary to canvass the returns and ascertain the results of the Democratic Party Primary Elections held on Tuesday, June 20, 2023. Chairman Katherine K. Hanley, Vice Chairman Jeffrey K. Shapiro, Secretary Amb. (ret.) Christopher P. Henzel, Election Manager Ravi Udeshi, and Clerk to the Board Beth Dixon Methfessel were present. In addition, rovers, and Office of Elections (Office) staff were present to conduct the Canvass.

Ms. Hanley called the Canvass to order at 10:04 a.m., introduced the Board, and welcomed the Canvass workers. She thanked everyone for a well-run, successful primary election, and reminded the rovers to submit any polling place concerns to the Clerk. Ms. Hanley asked Mr. Udeshi to give instructions on conducting the Canvass. Mr. Udeshi explained to the fifteen assembled teams that they will focus on canvassing the accurate completion of the election officer oath form and the statement of results (SOR) including verifying that all tapes are properly attached in the correct order and that they match the SOR and the ERM (Election Results Management-ElectionWare) reports. If any signatures or documents are missing, the Office will follow up. Corrections should be made in red. Additionally; the Office will review all remaining election materials to ensure completion and accuracy. Any issues or problems regarding the Canvass should be brought to the Board. The Chief's Notes will be set aside for Board review.

At 12:00 p.m. in Conference Room 232, the Electoral Board convened the provisional part of the canvass as required by Va. Code § 24.2-653(B) to allow voters casting provisional ballots in the June 20, 2023, Democratic Party Primary Elections, to present any information that might prove they are qualified, registered voters in the precinct where they cast their provisional ballot. There were no provisional voters. Ms. Hanley recessed the provisional ballot meeting subject to the call of the chair.

The Canvass teams recessed for lunch at 12:00 p.m. The doors were secured, and at 1:00 p.m. the conference room was re-opened, and the Canvass continued.

Staff reported that there will be approximately **800** provisional ballots to adjudicate. The provisional voter log was completed and distributed to Bryan Graham, Chairman of the Fairfax County Democratic Committee (FCDC) at 12:13 p.m.

Under New Business, Ms. Hanley informed the Board that the proposed 2023-2024 Fairfax County Public School (FCPS) school calendar was released. The day of the March 2024 dual-party presidential primary election will be a school day. Ms. Hanley called for a motion to write to the School Board and ask that the schedule be adjusted so that school is not in session on that day. She explained that 167 schools are used as polling places for 195 of the 265 precincts. Schools cannot be locked on any Election Day. Mr. Henzel moved that, given

the considerations of safety, flexibility, and access, the Board draft a letter to the School Board requesting that schools be closed on Tuesday, March 5, 2023.

At 3:30 p.m. the Canvass concluded for all 265 precincts. The Canvass recessed at 3:35 p.m. and will reconvene on Saturday, June 24, 2023.

Thursday, June 22, 2023

An updated notice was emailed to the Electoral Board Notice List indicating that the Central Absentee Precinct (CAP) canvass and the provisional ballot adjudication will begin at 12:00 p.m. on Saturday, June 24, 2023.

Friday, June 23, 2023

An updated provisional ballot log was emailed to the Chairman of the FCDC.

Saturday, June 24, 2023

Reconvened Canvass and Provisional Ballot Meeting

At approximately 12:00 p.m. the Electoral Board reconvened the Canvass in Conference Room 315/319 as required by Va. Code § 24.2-653 to allow voters casting provisional ballots in the November 8, 2022, General Election to present any information that might prove they are qualified, registered voters in the precinct where they cast their provisional ballot. There were no provisional voters. There were no authorized representatives.

Ms. Hanley reviewed the projected Timeline for Completion of Canvass as follows:

- 12:00 p.m. CAP Canvass
- 12:00 p.m. Adjudication of Provisional Ballots
- 2:00 p.m. Extraction of Qualified Provisional Ballots
- 3:00 p.m. Scanning of Qualified Provisional Ballots
- 4:00 p.m. Pack and Seal Counted Ballots
- 5:00 p.m. Prepare Provisional Statement of Results
- 6:00 p.m. Preparation and Signing of Abstracts

At 12:02 p.m. Ms. Hanley moved that the Board enter a Closed Session for the purpose of considering whether each person who submitted a provisional vote at the election was qualified to do so. Other than appropriate staff and legal counsel of the Electoral Board, attendance at this meeting shall be permitted for the persons whose provisional votes are being considered with their legal counsel, if present, as well as one authorized representative of each political party or independent candidate, as specified in §24.2-653(B). There were no authorized representatives. The motion passed by a vote of 3-0, and the Board moved into Closed Session at 12:05 p.m.

At 12:45 the Canvass of the fifteen satellite voter offices plus the Fairfax County Government Center was completed.

At 1:08 p.m. the Board concluded the Closed Session. Ms. Hanley moved that the Fairfax County Electoral Board certify that in the Closed Session just concluded, the only matters discussed were the qualifications of provisional voters, as permitted by Virginia Code § 24.2-653, and as identified in the motion to close the meeting pursuant to the Virginia Freedom of Information Act. The motion passed by a vote of 3-0.

Ms. Hanley moved that 757 out of the 804 Provisional Ballots cast and entered as qualified on the Master Provisional Ballot Log be **accepted and counted** for the reasons determined by a majority vote of the Electoral Board. The Provisional Ballot Log shall be retained and incorporated into the Minutes of the Canvass for the June 20, 2023, Democratic Party Primary Elections. The motion passed by a vote of 3-0.

Ms. Hanley moved that the remaining 47 out of the 804 Provisional Ballots entered as disqualified on the Master Provisional Ballot Log be **rejected** for the reasons determined by a majority vote of the Electoral Board. The Provisional Ballot Log shall be retained and incorporated into the Minutes of the Canvass for the June 20, 2023, Democratic Party Primary Elections. The motion passed by a vote of 3-0.

Of the 804 provisional ballots cast, 94% received a recommendation to be qualified and counted.

Mr. Udeshi reported that a total of 96 ID Confirmation Statements were submitted, 33 in the voter satellite offices, and 63 in the precincts on primary day.

The Board reviewed and signed the memorandum to the FCPS School Board requesting a revision of the 2023-2024 school calendar to close schools on March 5, 2024, for the dual-party presidential primary election (attached and made a part of this record).

The 757 qualified provisional ballots were extracted and scanned on the high-speed DS850. Once scanning was completed, the results were uploaded into ERM, and a report was generated for the statement of results.

Once the results from the provisional adjudication and the CAP Canvass were uploaded and verified in the ERM system, the Board completed the Statement of Results for the qualified provisional voters for the June 20, 2023, Democratic Party Primary Elections. The Board then certified the results of the election. Due to a change in process by ELECT, Enhanced Voting was used to generate the Abstracts, instead of VERIS. The new system requires additional reporting and cross-checking of data by precinct; therefore, the Abstracts will be printed until Monday, June 26, 2023. The Board will meet on Tuesday, June 27, 2023, to sign the Abstracts.

A second updated notice was emailed to the Electoral Board Notice List indicating that the Abstracts will be signed on Tuesday, June 27, 2023, at 2:00 p.m.

The Canvass recessed at 5:37 p.m. and will reconvene on Tuesday, June 27, 2023, at 2:00 p.m.

Tuesday, June 27, 2023  
Reconvened Canvass

At 2:00 p.m. Ms. Hanley reconvened the canvass. The Board certified the results of the election and signed the Abstracts. At 2:48 p.m. the Abstracts were sent electronically for review to the Department of Elections. All printer oaths have been received and filed with the Electoral Board minutes and supporting documents.

Mr. Shapiro moved that there being no further business, the Board conclude the June 20, 2023, Democratic Party Primary Elections. By a vote of 3-0, and without objection, the Board adjourned at 2:50 p.m.

Attachments

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Hon. Katherine K. Hanley, Chairman

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Jeffrey K. Shapiro, Vice Chairman

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Amb. (ret.) Christopher P. Henzel, Secretary