

MINUTES
Fairfax County Electoral Board
December 12, 2022

The Fairfax County Electoral Board (Board) met on Thursday, December 12, 2022, in Conference Room 315 at the Fairfax County Government Center located at 12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax. Chairman Amb. (ret.) Christopher P. Henzel; Vice Chairman Bettina M. Lawton; Secretary Katherine K. Hanley; General Registrar Eric L. Spicer; Deputy Registrar Cheryl Jones; and Clerk to the Electoral Board Beth Dixon Methfessel were present.

IT Manager Cord Whitehouse; Election Operations Manager Ravi Udeshi; Assistant Registrar for Voter Satellite Offices Helen Chaikovsky; Election Equipment and Logistics Manager Tyrone Allen; Voter Registration Supervisor Bushra Ardan; Assistant to the General Registrar Pat Ferguson; Absentee Voting Manager Sean Stewart; Supply Manager Kay Garrison; Public Information Officer Brian Worthy; Jean Thoensen (Office of Elections staff); Jeffrey Shapiro (Fairfax County Republican Committee (FCRC) Liaison to the Electoral Board); Christine Brim (Chairman, Fairfax County Election Integrity Task Force); Gregory Brandon (Fairfax County Democratic Committee Central Communications); Margaret (Peggy) Morrison (FCDC Voter Registration and Education); Maggi Luca (Fairfax, League of Women Voters – (Fairfax LWV)); and Geoffrey Akey, Margaret Farrish, and Barbara Palmer-Tengs (members FCRC); Michael Martin (UpVote Virginia); and Jill Mobley (Fairfax County election officer and/or resident of Fairfax County) also attended the meeting in person.

The following individuals participated using the Zoom videoconferencing platform: IT Business Analysts Khamthakone Betts and George Panagakos; Office of Elections (Office) staff and/or rovers Steve Barch, Antemira Elliott, Lisa Hogle, B. Gissell Jimenez, Gary Klinger, Bill Lewers, Kathryn Martin, Abigale Peters, Todd Strelow, Jerald Taylor, Bill Warnock, and Leonard Wolfenstein; Andrea Bayer (members FCRC); Carol Allen (FCDC Election Law and Voter Protection); Maria Vorel (FCDC Precinct Operations); Stephen Spitz (member FCDC); Arina van Breda (Fairfax LWV); William Denk, Phyllisa Goldenberg, Betty Hartmann, Robert Maggi, Debbie van Opstal, and Ginny Reed (Fairfax County election officers and/or residents of Fairfax County or neighboring jurisdictions).

Mr. Henzel called the meeting to order at 3:36 p.m. and welcomed those attending in person and online. Once the agenda allows for Public Comments, Mr. Henzel requested that those who wish to offer a public comment address them to the Board.

Ms. Hanley moved approval of the agenda. By a vote of 3-0, and with no objection, the December 12, 2022, meeting agenda was adopted.

Ms. Hanley moved approval of the Draft Minutes of the Board meetings held on October 27, 2022, and November 9, 2022. By a vote of 3-0, the Minutes of the Board meetings held on October 27, 2022, and November 9, 2022, were adopted.

There were no election officer appointments.

Under the General Registrar's (GR) report dated December 12, 2022, (attached and made a part of this record), Mr. Spicer updated the voter registration numbers since the last Electoral Board meeting:

Registered Voters	As of November 30, 2022	Change from 10/24
Active registered voters	744,157	+8,632
Inactive registered voters	43,756	-2,056
TOTAL	787,913	+6,580

Mr. Spicer clarified that the majority of the 255,527 registration transactions to date are not “new” registrations but include change of address, change of name, etc.

Mr. Spicer acknowledged the success of the November 2022 election and praised the staff for their hard work as well as the Election Day teamwork led by the 264 new Chief Election Officers (EO). Ms. Jones reviewed the post-November 2022 election statistics (attached and made a part of this record) that included numbers for early voting, Election Day, provisional and same-day registrations (SDR), and absentee by mail and curing rates. Mr. Spicer added that 342 ID confirmation statements were received with fifteen (15) of those submitted with a same-day registration application. Of the 6,560 provisional ballots submitted, 6,041 (92%) were accepted and counted. Sixty percent (60%) of the provisional ballots (3,913) were SDR provisional ballots. The cure rate for absentee ballot envelopes was 56%. Mr. Henzel pointed out that the almost 4,000 SDR provisional ballots more than doubled the number of provisional ballots cast on Election Day. He expressed concern that as SDR becomes more common, the workload will continue to increase as will the pressure to certify the election by the following Tuesday. Ms. Hanley added that in her December 6, 2022, presentation to the Board of Supervisors, she encouraged them to support legislation that will extend the deadline for certification from the Tuesday after Election Day to the second Friday after Election Day.

Mr. Spicer reviewed future initiatives and innovations to include a communications division, expanded ballot-on-demand system, SDR/Provisional specialist for the precincts and satellites, improved chain of custody including seals on ballot box doors at the satellites, more efficient management of the SDR provisional ballot process, and timing for CAP canvass and Poll Pad updates.

The office successfully transitioned from the PollChief election officer management system to a new Airtable-based solution for election officer management. Mr. Udeshi and his staff report that the new software is more beneficial and are building out new features, such as an enhanced election officer portal that will improve communication and assignment of election officers.

As of December 7, 2022, 5,392 absentee ballot applications were received for the January 10, 2023, 35th House of Delegates, Special Election. This includes 5,164 permanent applications, 163 overseas applications, and 65 one-time applications for the Special Election only.

In-person absentee early voting for the January 10, 2023, Special Election began November 23 at the Fairfax County Government Center in the front of Suite 323. As of December 7, there were forty (40) voters, five (5) ballots returned by drop box, two (2) surrendered absentee ballots, and no curbside voters. A second in-person absentee early voting

location will be open for two Saturdays (December 31 and January 7) at the Providence Community Center from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. The Government Center early voting location will also be open on those Saturdays.

Logic and Accuracy Testing for the Poll Pads and voting equipment for the satellite voting locations, including the Ballot on Demand System, will occur on November 21 in Suite 251 at Government Center. Logic and Accuracy for the precincts is scheduled for December 15 and December 16, beginning at 9:00 a.m., at the Morrissette Operations Center. Logic and Accuracy Testing for the DS850 absentee mail ballot scanner will be conducted at 9:00 a.m. on December 20 at Government Center.

Poll Pads for the twenty (20) precincts for the Special Election will be updated with final absentee information and then tested in Suite 251 at Government Center on Sunday, January 8. Chief Officers will pick up their Poll Pads on Monday, January 9 or the Poll Pads will be delivered to their precinct and secured in the voting equipment carts.

The following are the proposed key dates for the January 10, 2023, Special Election:

Thursday, December 15	Logic and Accuracy testing for precincts
Tuesday, December 20	Logic and Accuracy testing for absentee mail DS850
Friday, December 23	Half Day Holiday: Office closes at 12:00 (Noon)
Monday, December 26	Holiday: Office Closed
Saturday, December 31	Absentee Voting: Govt. Center and Providence Community Center
Monday, January 2	Holiday: Office Closed
Tuesday, January 3	Begin pre-processing absentee mail ballots
Saturday, January 7	Absentee Voting: Govt. Center and Providence Community Center
Sunday, January 8	Poll Pad update and testing
Monday, January 9	Setup of polling places; pickup/distribution of Poll Pads
Tuesday, January 10	Special Election in the 35 th House of Delegates District
Wednesday, January 11	Canvass for precincts and satellites
Saturday, January 14	Provisional ballot adjudication; CAP Canvass
Monday, January 16	Holiday: Office Closed
Tuesday, January 17	Certification of election results

Antemira Elliot was chosen as Administrative Assistant V for financial functions and will begin working on November 7. The hiring process is underway for a Financial Specialist and an HR Generalist. Alina Selnick-Escobar was promoted to the position of Election Training and Operations Coordinator and will lead training efforts for all election officers, early voting staff, and voting equipment technicians.

Under the Secretary's report, Ms. Hanley explained that a recent press release covering Commissioner Beals' comments before the Senate Privileges and Elections (P&E) Committee included the following initiatives: two address confirmation mailings in 2023; development of a mechanism to remove felons from the voter rolls who had their voting rights restored but committed another felony; and a review of the Department of Health's death records for the last sixty-two (62) years to ensure that all deceased voters have been removed from the voter rolls.

Under the Vice Chairman's report, Ms. Lawton explained that her term on the Electoral Board will end on December 31, 2022, and she bid the Board and staff a fond farewell. Ms. Hanley presented her a plaque in appreciation for her service on the Electoral Board. Ms. Hanley commented that since Ms. Lawton's appointment in 2018, her experience and knowledge of Fairfax County as well as her ability to clarify election laws has been a tremendous asset to the Electoral Board and the voters of Fairfax County. Mr. Henzel added that Ms. Lawton has been a great colleague, and that it was a pleasure working with her. Ms. Lawton thanked everyone for the plaque.

Under the Chairman's report, Mr. Henzel reiterated his concern that in a close election, the subjective nature of staff analyzing and researching large numbers of SDR provisional ballots complicated by the process of Board adjudication may become controversial. He hopes that this concern will be considered regarding proposals that further complicate the system by adding even more subjective decision-making measures.

Under New Business, the Board accepted the Resource Allocation for the January 10, 2023, Special Election. Ms. Lawton remarked that addressing voter confusion in November with all the House of Delegates on the ballot will be an important job for the new Communications Division.

Under Public Comments, Ms. Farrish asked where repeat felons would have voted. Mr. Spicer responded that there is no evidence that repeat felons voted in Fairfax County.

Mr. Brandon remarked that an SDR specialist is an excellent upgrade and will provide relief for the workflow of the Chief EO.

Michael Martin from UpVote Virginia gave a brief presentation on ranked-choice voting (attached and made a part of this record).

There being no further business, Ms. Lawton moved to adjourn. The motion carried, and without objection, the meeting was adjourned at 4:23 p.m.

Attachments

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

Bettina M. Lawton, Vice Chairman

Katherine K. Hanley, Secretary