

# Vote Notes

Spring 2014

Fairfax County  
Office of Elections



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## Election Calendar

### June 10: Democratic Primary 8th Congressional District

- Last day to **register** to vote: May 19.
- Last day to apply for an **absentee ballot**:  
By mail — June 3.  
In person — June 7.

### Nov. 4: General Election

- Last day to **register** to vote: Oct. 14.
- Last day to apply for an **absentee ballot**:  
By mail — Oct. 28.  
In person — Nov. 1.

## Letter from the Electoral Board

### Dear Election Officials,

It's hard to believe that we're coming up on election season again, isn't it? Between the **historically close general election** in November 2013, the **recount** in the attorney general and 86<sup>th</sup> House District races, and the **special election** in the 33<sup>rd</sup> Senate District, we've hardly had time to take a break. Yet despite the stress and constant stream of elections and special elections, you continued to persevere.

Your hard work and dedication made it possible for your neighbors to exercise their right to vote and on behalf of the Electoral Board, I want to **thank all of you for your dedication** to Fairfax County and the Commonwealth of Virginia.

As you know, the Electoral Board and the Office of Elections have been working since 2012 to **address the concerns raised by the public during the presidential election**. A number of changes have already been made, including raising your pay and working to provide you more opportunities for training. The largest, most visible effort is the procurement process to acquire all new voting equipment.

Our plan is to phase in an **entirely new, integrated and comprehensive voting system**, beginning at the November general election, and I am pleased to report that we are on schedule to meet that goal. The new system will include **optical scan machines** as well as **ADA-compliant ballot-marking devices** for our voters with disabilities. No longer will you be faced with the challenges of a hodge-podge of old equipment. You and the voters will have two full election cycles before the presidential election in 2016 to become familiar with the new equipment.

If you have **any questions, concerns, suggestions or ideas, don't hesitate to drop me a line at [brian.schoeneman@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:brian.schoeneman@fairfaxcounty.gov)**. As an election official, you play a critical role in the life of Virginia and of our country.

**Thank you again for your willingness to serve. I am proud to work with all of you.**

Brian Schoeneman  
Secretary  
Fairfax County Electoral Board



## Online Resources

### [Vote.virginia.gov](http://Vote.virginia.gov)

- Register to vote.
- Check voter status.
- Update address or name.
- Apply for an absentee ballot.
- Find polling location.
- See election results.

### [Fairfaxcounty.gov/elections](http://Fairfaxcounty.gov/elections)

- Election officer application and training schedule.
- Absentee voting info.
- Candidates and elected officials.
- ID requirements.
- [Online EO training](#).
- Much more!

### "Vote" App

- Registration status.
- Polling place locations.
- Upcoming elections.
- Absentee info.
- Voting FAQs.
- Links to forms.
- [fairfaxcounty.gov/news/mobile/](http://fairfaxcounty.gov/news/mobile/).



## Election Officers

### Recruit!

Ask your friends and family to serve as election officers! **You are our best recruiters!** As current election officers, you know what is involved and the value of serving. We especially need EOs who **can serve a full day.**

We also particularly need **bilingual EOs (especially Spanish, Korean, and Vietnamese speakers).** They should be willing to work in any precinct as needed.

Ask anyone interested to call **703-324-4735** or email [elect@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:elect@fairfaxcounty.gov).

### June Primary

The Democratic primary on June 10 will occur **only in the 8<sup>th</sup> Congressional District.** Assignment preference will be given to election officers who reside in the 8<sup>th</sup> District and have chosen to represent the Democratic Party.

### New Oaths Needed

EOs must submit an updated, notarized oath to the Office of Elections. Use our [online oath form](#), print, have your signature notarized, then mail the form to us.

### Spring Training

- Optional **electronic poll-book review (EPB)** for EOs who attended training in 2012 or 2013.
- **First time chiefs and assistant chiefs** who have already received their election assignment.
- Required **pre-election training for chiefs and ACs** serving in June. Be sworn in and pick up supplies.
- **[Click here](#) for training schedules and to sign up.**

### Fall 2014 Training

**Every election officer**, whether new or experienced, **must attend training** related to the new voting equipment **prior to serving in November.**

Fall training starts in August. Beginning in July, election officers will be able to **register online** for training and to view training dates, times and locations.

EOs will be notified once fall training is available. Watch your inbox, then **quickly reserve your place** in a class to ensure a date and time that are convenient for you.

There will be no changes to Virginia's existing voter ID requirements until **July 1, 2014.**

## Seasonal and EO Trainer Positions

This year, every one of our 3500+ election officers must attend training for new voting machines.

To accomplish this, the Office of Elections is **hiring temporary trainers** to conduct election officer classes for the November general election.

Positions are limited and election officer experience is required. Chief and assistant chief experience preferred.

This position will be active from **August 2014 until November 2014.** Applicants must be regularly available during this time frame.

**[Click here](#)** for the full **job description** and **application instructions.**

We're also **hiring part-time seasonal employees** for voter registration administrative tasks. If you're interested, **send a resume to [voting@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:voting@fairfaxcounty.gov).**

## D and R Chiefs/ACs: Switch Time

At its January meeting, the Electoral Board voted to reconfirm its long standing tradition that, to the greatest extent practicable, **chief election officers will represent the political party of the sitting governor**, and chiefs and assistant chiefs will represent different parties.

Therefore, at least through the next gubernatorial election, we will be making every effort to **assign chiefs representing the Democratic Party with assistant chiefs who represent the Republican Party**. The minimum experience required to serve as a chief or assistant chief is two elections, including a November general election.

Our staff strives to create a partisan balance when assigning EOs to precincts, but preference must be given to those election officers **who have been approved by the local political party committees.** (The Office of Elections submits the EO roster to the parties for review.)

## Fairfax County Votes

### Voter Database

Registered voters (end of year)	705,722
Registrations processed	125,982
Online registrations	4,542
New citizen ceremony registrations	3,820
High school registrations	3,800

### 2013 General Election

Active registered voters	665,311	
Total voter participation	311,429	46.80%
Absentee voters	29,406	9.44%
Election Day calls	3,788	
Provisional ballots cast	489	
Provisional ballots accepted	217	

### Why Register Online?

- Accessible 24/7
- Accurate
- Efficient
- Easy

[Vote.virginia.gov](http://Vote.virginia.gov)

Spread the word!

## What's Up with the June Primary?

**U.S. Senate:** No primary election.

**8<sup>th</sup> Congressional District:** Democratic (only) primary on June 10.

**10<sup>th</sup> Congressional District:** No primary election.

**11<sup>th</sup> Congressional District:** No primary election.

- Mark Warner (D), **U.S. senator**, will not face a **Democratic** challenger. The **Republicans** will hold a convention on June 7 in Roanoke to nominate their candidate.
- Jim Moran (D), representative in the **8<sup>th</sup> Congressional District (CD)**, is retiring this year. The **Democratic Party** will hold a **primary on Tuesday, June 10** to select a candidate. In late March, the Office of Elections sent availability letters only to Democratic election officers in the 8<sup>th</sup> Congressional District. Additional "D" election officers from the 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> CDs will be asked to serve as needed. The **Republican Party** selected their candidate, Micah Edmond, at their April 26 nominating convention in Arlington.
- Frank Wolf (R), representative in the **10<sup>th</sup> Congressional District**, is also retiring this year. Dranesville Supervisor John Foust will be the **Democratic candidate**. The **Republican Party** selected Barbara Comstock as their candidate at a "**Firehouse Primary**" on April 26.
- Gerry Connolly (D), representative in the **11<sup>th</sup> Congressional District**, will not face a **Democratic** challenger. The **Republicans** are nominating their candidate at a May 10 convention in Springfield, Va.

## Recount 2013

With only 165 votes (0.007 percent), out of 2.2 million cast statewide separating the two candidates for attorney general (AG), a recount was conducted on Dec. 16 and 17 (as well as a recount for the 86<sup>th</sup> District House of Delegates race).

By the order of the Recount Court, and under intense scrutiny from both the media and political parties, Office of Elections staff worked with **40 teams of election officers** stationed at three locations within the courthouse to ensure an orderly and efficient process.

EO teams rescanned over **300,000 ballots, precinct by precinct**, and counted several hundred by hand (not including CAP) because the optical scanner was unable to detect a vote for AG.

**Thanks again** to the recount EOs, who did an outstanding job.



Team 12 at work rescanning ballots



## New Voting Machines

As many of you have heard, the county is purchasing new voting equipment to replace our aging machines. We anticipate **implementing the equipment this November**, with full integration planned for June 2015. Look for more information in the next issue of "Vote Notes."

Although multi-featured ADA-compliant machines will be set up in each precinct for voters with disabilities or language difficulties, elections primarily will be conducted **using electronically scanned ballots**, as specified by state law.

In February, we invited the public and EOs to participate in **mock elections** to use and evaluate the equipment we were considering buying. We set up voting stations at five locations over two days: Tysons Corner Center, Reston Community Center, Greenspring, Mount Vernon Visitors Center and George Mason Regional Library. These events were a great success, and attended by many of our election officers. **Thank you** for your interest and the great feedback you provided.

Perhaps the highlight of the two days was watching **George Washington** cast his ballot (voting for himself, no doubt) using 21st century technology!

## Online Training

Additional online training is now available!

To sign up, click [here](#). Step-by-step directions on how to register are available [here](#).

Online training was developed by the Virginia State Board of Elections to supplement the county's in-person training and to offer a convenient way for election officers to review processes prior to Election Day.

Note: Online training does not replace the in-person training requirement.

Some material may differ from what is presented at in-person training. **In this case, on Election Day follow the instructions you received from the Fairfax County Office of Elections.**

## Movin' On Up!

Governor McAuliffe appointed **former Fairfax County General Registrar Edgardo Cortés** as **deputy secretary at the State Board of Elections (SBE)**.

Edgardo began working on voting issues as director of a national non-partisan voter registration program focused on Puerto Rican and Latino voters. After his Fairfax County service, Edgardo served on the staff of the SBE, where he updated the state's Help America Vote Act state plan and voting system certification program.

Additionally, Edgardo served as the grants director and then deputy director for policy for the U.S. Election Assistance Commission (EAC).



## Cameron Testifies

On March 12, 2014, General Registrar **Cameron Quinn** testified before the U.S. **Senate Rules and Administration Committee** at a [hearing](#), "**Election Administration: Innovation, Administrative Improvements and Cost Savings.**" Watch the video [here](#) and [read her full testimony](#).

"There is no macro fix, no magic bullet that will single-handedly make the lines go away. Instead, issues need to be addressed at a micro level by county election officials, with support by local and state governments.

Not every choice for trying to make our election process better needs to be a stark choice between improving access and improving integrity. There are choices we can make that improve both."

### Quick links

- [Acceptable voter IDs.](#)
- [Absentee ballot application.](#)
- [Voter registration.](#)
- [Información en español.](#)
- [Election services for persons with disabilities.](#)
- [Working at the polls.](#)
- [High school page program.](#)

### Languages

The Office of Elections expanded its range of **Spanish** language services and material over the last year, and in the fall began offering voting information in **Korean**.

We expect to increase the material offered in Korean this year and may begin to offer information in other languages as well.

Although **Spanish translation is required by federal law**, we feel that communicating effectively with voters who are not fluent in English is important for the democratic process.

Did you know that a **translation service** for many languages is **available by phone** for voters and election officers on Election Day, **and on our website as well?**

### Fairfax County Office of Elections

[www.fairfaxcounty.gov/elections](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/elections)

Information by phone 24/7

703-222-0776

State Board of Elections

[www.sbe.virginia.gov](http://www.sbe.virginia.gov)

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To request reasonable ADA and language accommodations, contact the Office of Elections:

703-324-4735

TTY: 711 (Virginia relay)