MINUTES
Fairfax County Electoral Board
April 9, 2026

The Fairfax County Electoral Board (Board) met on Thursday, April 9, 2026, in Conference Room 315 at the Fairfax County Government Center located at 12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax. Chairman Hon. Katherine K. Hanley; Vice Chairman Megan M. Challender, Secretary Kevin R. Pinkney; General Registrar Eric L. Spicer; Deputy Directors Cheryl Jones and Cord Whitehouse; and Clerk to the Electoral Board Beth Dixon Methfessel were present.

Deputy Registrar for Voter Services Bushra Ardalan; Deputy Registrar for Voter Satellite Offices Florence Brown; Deputy Communications and Compliance Specialist Sean Stewart; IT Staff George Panagakos; Deputy Registrar for Absentee Voting Reuben Howard; Election Administration Managers Sean Rogers and Elena Langworthy; Voting Equipment and Logistics Manager Tyrone Allen; Finance Manager Mani Merin; Election Officer Manager Arash Setayeshi; Supply Manager Justin Knoernschild; FOIA/Records/Outreach Manager Ann Hines; Candidate Services Manager Lisa Hogle; John Barker, Sharon Barrett; Susan Burnell; Judy Clardy, Larry Danforth, Sherry Kirk, Abigale Peters, Maria del Carmen Sanchez Gavito Leon, Jean Thoensen, and Bill Turley (Office of Elections (Office) staff and/or Voting Equipment Team); Doug Friedly (Fairfax County Republican Committee (FCRC)); Gregory Brandon (Fairfax County Democratic Committee (FCDC) Central Communications); Maggi Luca (League of Women Voters – Fairfax); and Christopher Thompson (Election Officer) also attended the meeting in person.

The following individuals participated using the Zoom videoconferencing platform: Human Resources Manager Yoon Choi-Lee; Language Accessibility Coordinator Liliana Layton; IT Staff Todd Strelow; Office staff and/or Voting Equipment Team Steve Barch, Carrie Clark, Antemira Elliott, Gary Klinger, Jerald Taylor, and Fily Vilasanta; Arina van Breda (Director, Voter Registration and Voter Information LWV - Fairfax); Maria Vorel (member, FCDC); Andi Bayer and Christine Brim (FCRC Election Integrity); Assistant Registrar of Santa Clara County Ravi Udeshi; and Phyllisa Goldenberg, and Peggy Morrison (Fairfax County election officers and/or residents of Fairfax County or neighboring jurisdictions).

Ms. Hanley called the meeting to order at 4:04 p.m. and introduced the Board. Ms. Hanley explained that the meetings will now be videotaped. The link to the recording will be available on the Electoral Board Meeting Minutes webpage within three business days of the meeting. Anyone not wanting their image recorded should hide their video camera.

Ms. Challender moved to approve the agenda, and the motion passed by a vote of 3-0.

Ms. Challender moved to adopt the Draft Minutes of the Board meetings held on February 19, 2026, and March 4, 2026. The motion passed by a vote of 3-0.

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Mr. Pinkney made a motion to appoint 104 election officers (EO) (55 Democrats, 17 Republicans, and 32 Unaffiliated) for a term ending February 28, 2027. The motion passed by a vote of 3-0.

Under the General Registrar's (GR) report dated Apri l8, 2026 (found under Board Documents for the April 9, 2026, Electoral Board meeting Electoral Board Meetings| Elections), Mr. Spicer presented the GR's report and updated the voter registration numbers since the last Electoral Board meeting:

Voter Registration

Registered Voters	**As of 1/31**	**As of 4/6**	**Change from 1/31**
Active Registered Voters	759,797	744,036	-15,761
Inactive Registered Voters	51,817	68,756	+16,939
Total	**811,614**	**812,792**	**+1,178**

Active Voter Registration Subtractions (cancellations and transfers out)	**2/1 to 3/31**	**Year-to-Date 2026 (1/1 to 3/31)**
Deceased (multiple sources)[1]	912	1,602
Out-of-State (multiple sources)[2]	2,029	2,473
Declared Non-Citizen (from ELECT)	64	90
Declared Mentally Incapacitated (from Court)	8	12
Felony Conviction (from ELECT)	34	48
Voter Request (paper form from voter)	115	224
Transfer Out to Another Jurisdiction in VA	2,721	3,932
Other Subtractions (administrative error, other)	4	9
Total Cancellations and Transfers	**5,887**	**8,390**

Active Voter Registration Additions	**2/1 to 3/31**	**Year-to-Date 2026 (1/1 to 3/31)**
New Voter Registrations (multiple sources)	4,795	6,388
Transfer In from Another Jurisdiction in VA	2,210	3,243
Other Additions (reactivated, reinstated, other)	60	477
Total	**7,065**	**10,108**

Voter Registration Transactions[3] *(includes transactions that result in additions, subtractions, and no change)*	**2/1 to 3/31**	**Year-to-Date 2026 (1/1 to 3/31)**
Online DMV (from ELECT)	34,257	50,648
Online Citizen Portal (from ELECT)	4,012	4,815
Online Third-Party DMV Verified (from ELECT)	126	188
Va. Paper Form Third Party (delivered to the office)	1,339	1,350
Va. Paper Form In Person (office walk-ins, new citizen ceremonies, at polling locations)	154	170
Va. Paper Form by Mail (delivered to the office)	208	287
Federal Post Card Application (multiple sources)	223	276
National (EAC) Paper Form (delivered to the office)	105	130
Same Day Registration (office or voting locations)	8	23
Others (voter card, confirmation notice, update form)	1,039	1,244
Public Assistance, Disability Offices	0	0
Discretionary Agencies (BVS, NTIS, Social Security Administration)	1,162	1,998

[1] Deceased (multiple sources) includes: Bureau of Vital Statistics through ELECT, Report of Death information provided by relative, Death Certificate provided, and General Registrar Report of Death created based on an obituary.
[2] Out-of-State (multiple sources) includes: DMV, State mail, NCOA, and other voter registration update forms.
[3] All categories include: new voter registrations, change of address, change of name, voter cancellations (including out-of-state), and duplicates (no change of data).

On April 14, 2026, the Office will request that the Board of Supervisors schedule a public hearing on May 5, 2026, for the following precinct and polling place changes:

- In the Mason District, Culmore Community Library, the polling place for Holmes precinct, will close for renovation. The polling place for Holmes precinct will be relocated to Bailey's Elementary School where it will co-locate with Tripps precinct.
- Relocate the Franconia Governmental Center, which serves as a voter satellite office, to its new facility at 7130 Silver Lake Boulevard, Alexandria.

As of April 6, 2026, the Office of Elections has received the following responses to the confirmation mailing sent by ELECT:

Moved Out of State	1,607
Moved Within Fairfax	308
Moved Within VA	125

No Change	87
Undeliverable	3,244
Incomplete	39
Total	**5,410**

Early voting for the April 21, 2026, Proposed Constitutional Amendment Special Election, started on Friday, March 6 at three locations: Fairfax County Government Center, Mt. Vernon Governmental Center, and North County Governmental Center. As of April 6, **33,853** people have voted early in-person. An additional 13 early voting locations will open on Saturday, April 11. Weekday hours are 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Fairfax County Government Center and 1 p.m. to 7 p.m. at all other locations. On Saturday, April 11 and Saturday, April 18, all locations are open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Early voting ends on Saturday, April 18.

A delay in starting recruitment and collecting availability, as well as the timing and content of this Special Election, led to lower-than-expected availability for election officers. Even with coordination with the FCRC and FCDC to get new and existing election officers through the required training and confirmation process, there has been a need to assign unaffiliated officers as Assistant Chiefs in some precincts to be paired with their Democratic or Republican-affiliated Chief counterpart for this election. Mr. Pinkney asked for the breakdown between Democratic and Republican Chiefs, and Mr. Rogers responded that as of April 9, 191 Chiefs represent the Democratic Party and 72 represent the Republican Party.

Logic and accuracy testing activities for the April 21 Special Election were conducted on the dates below. Only the testing of Election Day electronic pollbooks remains to be completed on Sunday, April 19.

Early Voting Satellites – Ballot Scanners and Ballot Marking Devices
Location: Morrissette Operations Center, 8600-UA Morrissette Dr., Springfield, VA 22152
Date: Monday, March 2 at 8:00 a.m.

Election Day Polling Places – Ballot Scanners and Ballot Marking Devices
Location: Morrissette Operations Center,8600-UA Morrissette Dr., Springfield, VA 22152
Starts: Tuesday, March 24 at 8:00 a.m.

Absentee Mail – High-Speed Ballot Scanners
Location: Fairfax County Government Center, 12000 Government Center Pkwy, Fairfax, VA 22035
Date: Thursday, March 19 at 9:00 a.m.

Electronic Pollbooks and Ballot-on-Demand Equipment:
- Early Voting Satellite – Ballot-on-Demand for three 45-day locations:
  Monday, March 2, 9:00 a.m. (Morrissette Operations Center)
- Early Voting Satellite – Electronic Pollbooks:
  Monday, March 2, 1:00 p.m. (Fairfax County Government Center, Suite 251)
- Early Voting Satellite – Ballot-on-Demand for additional 13 locations:
  Tuesday, March 31 at 9:00 a.m. (Morrissette Operations Center)

- Election Day – Electronic Pollbooks:
  Sunday, April 19 at 9:00 a.m. (Fairfax County Government Center, Suite 251)

Cord Whitehouse, who has served as the Election IT Manager since 2022, was appointed as the Deputy General Registrar/Deputy Director for Election Administration, effective April 4. Sean Rogers, who successfully competed for the Election Administration Manager position effective January 29, 2026, recently resigned. His last working day will be May 1. Elena Langworthy, who participated in the original interview process, was hired as the Election Administration Manager, effective April 6.

The 2026 General Assembly Regular Session adjourned on March 14. Bills that completed cross over and were passed out of each chamber are awaiting Governor's action by April 13. Relevant legislation for the Governor's signature or recommended amendments will continue to be monitored.

The Census Bureau's Redistricting and Voting Rights Data Office informed the Office that the publication of the 2026 Section 203 Language determinations is planned for December 2026.

The Board recognized the following nine staff members who will be honored with Outstanding Performance Awards during the Spring award ceremony on Friday, May 1: Susan Burnell, Lisa Hogle, Sherry Kirk, Maria del Carmen Sanchez Gavito Leon, Sharon Barrett, Jose Mayuga, Merin Mani, Tyrone Allen, and Yoon Choi-Lee.

Mr. Spicer reported that he was served last night by the Republican National Committee (RNC) and the Restoring Integrity and Trust in Elections (RITE) Political Action Committee (PAC) against the State Board of Elections, the Department of Elections, and the General Registrar of Fairfax County, questioning whether children of U.S. citizens or military personnel who were born overseas and have not lived in the United States are eligible to vote.

Under the Chairman's report, Ms. Hanley followed up on the proposed letter the Board was to send to Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) asking that consideration be given to closing schools to safely conduct the April 21 Special Election. She reported that before the letter was drafted, FCPS announced that schools would close on April 21. On behalf of the Board, she thanked FCPS for this proactive decision.

Under the Vice Chairman's report, Ms. Challender, understanding the concerns raised about the ongoing construction at Mason Governmental Center, visited the site and reported that the progress with the trenching in the parking lot not as disruptive as anticipated. It does not appear to be unduly interfering with the availability of parking. She encouraged voters, if they can do so, to consider early voting at another voter satellite location.

Under the Secretary's report, Mr. Pinkney addressed campaigning outside of the Government Center. He learned that the county is in the process of reviewing and revising the policy for use of the Government Center. The Board has been solicited for their comments on the process. Mr. Pinkney moved that the Board participate by providing comments for the county's consideration to clarify how the outside of the Government Center will be used during early voting and on election days. The motion passed by a vote of 3-0.

Mr. Pinkney commented that given the delay in the American Community Services data, and since the new ballot marking devices can support up to 30 languages, he moved that the Language Coordinator for the Office be tasked to develop a plan that supports up to 10 of those languages most frequently spoken in the Fairfax County public schools. The motion passed by a vote of 3-0.

Under New Business, Mr. Pinkney remarked that the past practice of removing election officers from service appears to be following a different process now, and it would be helpful to understand the criteria used to evaluate election officers as well as the current means of removing them from the appointment list. Ms. Hanley responded that this issue is on the agenda for closed session.

Mr. Pinkney commented that the Virginia Code [§ 24.2-115. Appointment, qualifications, and terms of officers of election], contemplates that the representation of the two parties shall be equal at each precinct. He would like the county attorney to review and offer an interpretation of this section of the code.

Under Public Comments, Ms. Hanley asked those who want to make a comment, either online or in person, to raise their hand to be recognized, and to provide their name and the organization they represent, if any, before giving a statement. She reminded the public that comments are limited to three minutes. The Board may answer certain queries; however, if more research is required, the Board may defer an answer. The Board may also request written submission of the comment or inquiry. For those present in the room, comments will be made from the podium.

Mr. Brandon asked about the status of splitting Coates precinct to create Coppermine precinct. Ms. Hanley responded that this change will be readvertised for a public hearing on December 1, 2026. Ms. Methfessel added that there is a moratorium on changing precinct boundary lines because of the April 21, 2026, special election, and this proposed change was removed from the May 5, 2026, public hearing.

Mr. Friedly expressed his concerns (comments attached and made a part of this record) about election officers being removed from the election officer rolls with the Board's review. He provided a list of recommendations to improve the standard or basis by which an election officer is deactivated or by which an appointment is rescinded.

Ms. Van Breda asked the Board if Fairfax County is experiencing a high rate of incomplete or rejected absentee by mail ballots for the special election. Mr. Howard responded that there has been a larger number of empty envelopes being returned, however, the voters are being contacted and informed of their options to cure; the response rate to cure has been high. In response to Mr. Pinkney's query about the reasons provided by voters when they are contacted, Mr. Howard said there is not one, but several explanations being given. Although it doesn't appear to be the case, Mr. Howard will follow up on whether there is a geographic concentration of the origin of the empty envelopes.

Mr. Steward confirmed for Ms. Vorel that due to a policy change by United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS), only authorized election officials can register new citizens at naturalization ceremonies. He explained that the Office does not have the staff to

provide for the scope of this service, and despite repeated requests, no information from United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) has been provided.

Ms. Hanley moved that the Board enter a closed session to discuss personnel matters, specifically for the performance review of the General Registrar and election officers, as permitted by Va. Code § 2.2-3711(A)(1). The motion passed by a vote of 3-0, and the Board moved into Closed Session at 4:53 p.m.

At 7:57 p.m. the Board concluded the Closed Session. Chairman Hanley read the following statement:

> "In accordance with *Virginia Code* § 2.2-3712(D), I am asking the Secretary of the Electoral Board to conduct a roll call vote to certify that to the best of each member's knowledge that (i) only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements of the Virginia Freedom of Information Act were conducted in the closed meeting and (ii) only such public business as was identified in the motion for the closed meeting, by which the closed meeting was convened, was heard, discussed or considered in the closed meeting of the Electoral Board. That roll call vote shall be recorded and included in the minutes of the Electoral Board."

Secretary Pinkney called for the vote on the above statement:

Voting Yes:	Chairman Hanley
	Vice Chairman Challender
	Secretary Pinkney

Mr. Pinkney moved to adjourn. The motion carried, and the meeting was adjourned at 7:58 p.m.

Attachments

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Katherine K. Hanley, Chairman

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Megan M. Challender, Vice Chairman

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Kevin R. Pinkney, Secretary

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