MINUTES
Fairfax County Electoral Board
January 7, 2026

The Fairfax County Electoral Board (Board) met on Wednesday, January 7, 2026, in Conference Rooms 315 at the Fairfax County Government Center located at 12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax. Chairman Hon. Katherine K. Hanley; Vice Chairman Kevin R. Pinkney; Board Member Megan M. Challender, General Registrar Eric L. Spicer; Deputy Director Cheryl Jones; and Clerk to the Electoral Board Beth Dixon Methfessel were present.

IT Manager Cord Whitehouse; Deputy Registrar for Voter Services Bushra Ardalan; Deputy Registrar for Voter Satellite Offices Florence Brown; Deputy Communications and Compliance Specialist Sean Stewart; Deputy Registrar for Absentee Voting Reuben Howard; Training and Operations Manager Sean Rogers; Election Officer Manager Arash Setayeshi; FOIA/Records/Outreach Manager Ann Hines; John Barker, Larry Danforth, Jean Thoensen, Bill Turley, Keith Suslaw, and David Schultz (Office of Elections (Office) staff and/or Voting Equipment Team); Doug Friedly and Barbara Palmer-Tengs (Fairfax County Republican Committee (FCRC)); Stephen Spitz and Jernay Wallace (Fairfax County Democratic Committee (FCDC)); Maggi Luca (League of Women Voters – Fairfax) also attended the meeting in person.

The following individuals participated using the Zoom videoconferencing platform: Human Resources Manager Yoon Choi-Lee; IT Staff George Panagakos, Matt Meads, and Todd Strelow; Language Accessibility Coordinator Liliana Layton; Office staff and/or Voting Equipment Team Nazila Arefi, Antemira Elliott, Lisa Hogle, Gissell Jimenez, Alejandra Malanowski, Kathryn Martin, Abigale Peters, Jerald Taylor, and Fily Vilasanta; Maria Vorel (FCDC Precinct Operations); Christine Brim and Andi Bayer (FCRC Election Integrity); Former Fairfax County Deputy Director Ravi Udeshi; Despina Belle-Isle; Alissa Karton, Peggy Morrison, Phyllisa Goldenberg, Phyllis Sisolak, Mary Tycz, and Elizabeth Woodruff (Fairfax County election officers and/or residents of Fairfax County or neighboring jurisdictions).

Ms. Hanley called the meeting to order at 4:00 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.

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

Ms. Hanley called for the reorganization of the Board. Mr. Pinkney moved to elect Katherine Hanley as Chairman. The motion passed by a vote of 3-0. Mr. Pinkney moved to elect Megan Challender as Vice Chairman. The motion passed by a vote of 3-0. Ms. Challender moved to elect Mr. Pinkney as Secretary. The motion passed by a vote of 3-0.

Mr. Pinkney moved to adopt the Draft Minutes of the Board meeting held on December 10, 2025. The motion passed by a vote of 3-0.

Under the General Registrar's (GR) report dated January 6, 2026 (found under Board Documents for the January 7, 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 9/30	As of 12/31	Change from 9/30
Active Registered Voters	751,617	759,257	+7,640
Inactive Registered Voters	55,016	52,238	-2,778
Total	806,633	811,495	+4,862

Active Voter Registration Subtractions (cancellations and transfers out)	9/30 to 12/31	Year-to-Date 2025 (1/1 to 12/31)
Deceased (multiple sources)[1]	1,366	5,265
Out-of-State (multiple sources)[2]	2,487	7,711
Declared Non-Citizen (from ELECT)	107	538
Declared Mentally Incapacitated (from Court)	17	71
Felony Conviction (from ELECT)	35	141
Voter Request (paper form from voter)	273	649
Transfer Out to Another Jurisdiction in VA	7,466	22,384
Other Subtractions (administrative error, other)	3	26
Total Cancellations and Transfers	**11,754**	**36,785**

Active Voter Registration Additions	9/30 to 12/31	Year-to-Date 2025 (1/1 to 12/31)
New Voter Registrations (multiple sources)	11,163	32,669
Transfer In from Another Jurisdiction in VA	5,209	17,178
Other Additions (reactivated, reinstated, other)	3,022	7,462
Total	**19,394**	**57,309**

Voter Registration Transactions[3] *(includes transactions that result in additions, subtractions, and no change)*	**9/30 to 12/31**	**Year-to-Date 2025 (1/1 to 12/31)**
Online DMV (from ELECT)	52,266	236,139
Online Citizen Portal (from ELECT)	11,079	22,816
Online Third-Party DMV Verified (from ELECT)	695	2,067
Va. Paper Form Third Party (delivered to the office)	1,301	4,490
Va. Paper Form In Person (office walk-ins, new citizen ceremonies, at polling locations)	2,549	3,450
Va. Paper Form by Mail (delivered to the office)	675	2,577
Federal Post Card Application (multiple sources)	243	1,336
National (EAC) Paper Form (delivered to the office)	152	626
Same Day Registration (office or voting locations)	4,264	5,089
Others (voter card, confirmation notice, update form)	1,931	4,054
Public Assistance, Disability Offices	1	5
Discretionary Agencies (BVS, NTIS, Social Security Administration)	1,834	7,154

[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).

A Special Election has been called for January 13, 2026, to fill a vacancy in the House of Delegates 11th District due to the appointment of Delegate David L. Bulova Virginia's Secretary of Natural and Historic Resources.

A Special Election has been called for January 20, 2026, to fill a vacancy in the House of Delegates 17th District due to the appointment of Delegate Mark D. Sickles as Virginia's Secretary of Finance.

A Special Election has been called for March 3, 2026, to fill the Braddock District vacancy on the School Board that resulted when Rachna Sizemore Heizer won the election for the Braddock District seat on the Board of Supervisors.

Early Voting for the Special Election in the 11th House District started on Saturday, January 3 at the Fairfax County Government Center in Suite 323 and at the Jim Scott Community Center. On Saturday, January 10, two elections overlap with early voting for the Special Election in the 17th House District starting at Franconia Governmental Center and at

the Fairfax County Government Center Suite 323 and early voting ending for the Special Election in the 11th House District. The following week, early voting for the March 3, 2026, Special Election for the Braddock District School Board Member starts on Friday, January 16, and early voting ends on January 17 for the Special Election in the 17th House District.

Additional information regarding Absentee by Mail Requests, Early Voting, L&A Testing Schedules, Election Officer Training and Assignments for each special election can be found in the General Registrar's Report dated January 6, 2026, Electoral Board Meetings| Elections.

Deputy Director for Election Administration Ravi Udeshi's last day was December 30. Recruitment for Election Manager, Mr. Udeshi's previous position, will begin next week. Liliana Layton successfully competed for the Language Accessibility Coordinator position and started on November 17, 2025. The interview process to recruit for the Electoral Board/ADA/Polling Place Coordinator position is underway.

In preparation for the three upcoming special elections, staff drafted Special Election notices for voters in the 11th and 17th House of Delegates' districts and the Braddock district. The postcards include key election dates and remind voters to visit the Office website for the most current information. The postcards were printed locally and mailed before the first day of each early voting period.

Under Electoral Board reports, Ms. Hanley distributed a flyer providing a "Scan to Register" QR code. Ms. Hines explained that in advance of the November election, these flyers were distributed to the supervisors' offices, the governmental centers, libraries, and senior centers. The flyer continues to be provided at all outreach events. Plans are underway to provide them to the high school government teachers.

The ballot printing pilot conducted in nine precincts during the December Special Election was informative; the result ensuring that ballots for the precincts can be printed quickly and efficiently. Mr. Whitehouse reported for the last two special elections, the test deck ballots were successfully produced on the high-speed printer.

There was no Vice Chairman's or Secretary's report.

Under New Business, the Electoral Board reviewed the Resource Allocations for the next three 2026 Special Elections on January 14, January 20, and March 3. Turnout will be tracked three times a day during each election to ensure that adequate ballots will be available.

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.

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Stephen Spitz commented that the students at George Mason University require additional assistance in registering to vote. The steps he suggested to help include providing additional SDR specialists at University precinct at the beginning of election day; and to work more closely with the Mason Votes and other GMU registration groups to encourage the students to register and vote. He also urged the Board to redraw the lines of University precinct to include The Main.

Mr. Pinkney moved to adjourn. The motion carried, and the meeting was adjourned at 4:32 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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