MINUTES
Fairfax County Electoral Board
February 19, 2026

The Fairfax County Electoral Board (Board) met on Thursday, February 19, 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 Director Cheryl Jones; and Clerk to the Electoral Board Beth Dixon Methfessel were present.

IT Manager Cord Whitehouse; Voting Equipment and Logistics Manager Tyrone Allen; 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; Supply Manager Justin Knoernschild; FOIA/Records/Outreach Manager Ann Hines; John Barker, Susan Burnell; Judy Clardy, Alejandra Malanowski, and Jean Thoensen (Office of Elections (Office) staff and/or Voting Equipment Team); Doug Friedly (Fairfax County Republican Committee (FCRC)); Peggy Morrison (Fairfax County Democratic Committee (FCDC)); and Maggi Luca (League of Women Voters – Fairfax) also attended the meeting in person.

The following individuals participated using the Zoom videoconferencing platform: Office staff and/or Voting Equipment Team Nazila Arefi, Antemira Elliott, Jerald Taylor, Dan Per-lee, and Fily Vilasanta; Arina van Breda (Director, Voter Registration and Voter Information LWV - Fairfax); Maria Vorel (FCDC Precinct Operations); Despina Belle-Isle and Michael Passante (FCDC Election Law and Voter Protection); Former Fairfax County Deputy Director Ravi Udeshi; and Phyllisa Goldenberg and Mark Lenz (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.

Ms. Challender moved to approve the agenda, with the addition of the Resource Allocation for the April 21, 2026, Special Election added Under New Business, and the motion passed by a vote of 3-0.

Mr. Pinkney moved to adopt the Draft Minutes of the Board meetings held on January 7, 2026, January 14, 2026, January 21, 2026, and February 11, 2026. The motion passed by a vote of 3-0.

Under the General Registrar's (GR) report dated February 18, 2026 (found under Board Documents for the February 19, 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 1/1	As of 1/31	Change from 12/31
Active Registered Voters	759,257	759,797	+540
Inactive Registered Voters	52,238	51,817	-421
Total	**811,495**	**811,614**	**+119**

Active Voter Registration Subtractions (cancellations and transfers out)	1/1 to 1/31	Year-to-Date 2025 (1/1 to 1/31)
Deceased (multiple sources)[1]	690	690
Out-of-State (multiple sources)[2]	444	444
Declared Non-Citizen (from ELECT)	26	26
Declared Mentally Incapacitated (from Court)	4	4
Felony Conviction (from ELECT)	14	14
Voter Request (paper form from voter)	109	109
Transfer Out to Another Jurisdiction in VA	1,211	1,211
Other Subtractions (administrative error, other)	5	5
Total Cancellations and Transfers	**2,503**	**2,503**

Active Voter Registration Additions	1/1 to 1/31	Year-to-Date 2025 (1/1 to 1/31)
New Voter Registrations (multiple sources)	1,593	1,593
Transfer In from Another Jurisdiction in VA	1,033	1,033
Other Additions (reactivated, reinstated, other)	417	417
Total	**3,043**	**3,043**

Voter Registration Transactions[3] *(includes transactions that result in additions, subtractions, and no change)*	1/1 to 1/31	Year-to-Date 2025 (1/1 to 1/31)
Online DMV (from ELECT)	16,391	16,391
Online Citizen Portal (from ELECT)	803	803
Online Third-Party DMV Verified (from ELECT)	62	62
Va. Paper Form Third Party (delivered to the office)	11	11

Va. Paper Form In Person (office walk-ins, new citizen ceremonies, at polling locations)	16	16
Va. Paper Form by Mail (delivered to the office)	79	79
Federal Post Card Application (multiple sources)	53	53
National (EAC) Paper Form (delivered to the office)	25	25
Same Day Registration (office or voting locations)	15	15
Others (voter card, confirmation notice, update form)	205	205
Public Assistance, Disability Offices	0	0
Discretionary Agencies (BVS, NTIS, Social Security Administration)	836	836

[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 February 2, as part of a list maintenance process mandated by Virginia Code § 24.2-428 and the National Voter Registration Act (NVRA), the Department of Elections (ELECT) mailed 4,254 confirmations to individuals who moved within Fairfax County and 17,577 confirmations to individuals who moved out of Fairfax County. As of February 17, the Office of Elections has received the following responses to the confirmation mailing sent by the Virginia Department of Elections (ELECT):

Moved Out of State	2
Moved Within Fairfax	2
Moved Within VA	1
No Change	0
Undeliverable	295
Incomplete	0
Total	**300**

The redistricting special election will be held on April 21. Early voting and vote-by-mail will begin on March 6. Three early voting locations will open on Friday, March 6: Fairfax County Government Center, Mt. Vernon Governmental Center and North County Governmental Center. An additional 13 locations will open on Saturday, April 11. There will be two Saturdays of early voting (April 11 and April 18) with no Sunday voting. 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. All satellites will be open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday, April 11 and Saturday, April 18.

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Logic and accuracy testing activities for the March 3 Special Election were conducted on the dates below.

Early Voting Satellites – Ballot Scanners and Ballot Marking Devices
Location: Fairfax County Government Center, 12000 Government Center Pkwy, Suite 251, Fairfax, VA 22035
Date: Tuesday, January 13 at 9:00 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, February 3 at 8:00 a.m.

Absentee Mail – High-Speed Ballot Scanners
Location: Fairfax County Government Center, 12000 Government Center Pkwy, Suite 339, Fairfax, VA 22035
Date: Tuesday, February 17 at 9:00 a.m.

Electronic Pollbooks and Ballot-on-Demand Equipment:

- **Early Voting Satellites – Ballot-on-Demand for the Government Center and Burke Centre Library:**
  January 8 at 9:00 a.m. (Morrissette Operations Center)
- **Early Voting Satellites – Electronic Pollbooks:**
  January 8 at 1:00 p.m. (Fairfax County Government Center, Suite 251)
- **Election Day – Electronic Pollbooks:**
  March 1 at 9:00 a.m. (Fairfax County Government Center, Suite 251)

A postcard about the March 3 special election for the Braddock District School Board was sent to Braddock District voters before the start of early voting that included important election information and key dates.

Beth Dixon Methfessel, who has served as the Clerk to the Electoral Board since 2011, successfully competed for the Electoral Board/ADA/Polling Place Coordinator, effective January 24, 2026. Sean Rogers, who served as the Election Training & Operations Manager since January 29, 2024, successfully competed for the Election Administration Manager, effective February 21, 2026.

Mr. Stewart highlighted some of the pending legislation that will affect election administration, including mandated Sunday voting on the second and third Sundays preceding all election days; extension of the receipt of absentee ballots from noon to 5:00 p.m. on the Friday following the election; and extension for curing absentee and provisional ballots to noon on the Monday following the election.

Based on the Electoral Board policy enacted at the September 16, 2024, Electoral Board meeting, each month the General Registrar refers individuals identified by ELECT as potential non-citizens to the Commonwealth's Attorney and Attorney General.

A total of 107 individuals were removed from the voter rolls in Fairfax County between October 1, 2025, and December 31, 2025, after being identified by ELECT as potential non-citizens, in accordance with the procedures of Va. Code § 24.2-427. This referral included 6 individuals who reregistered and affirmed their citizenship after the cancellation and 3 individuals who affirmed their citizenship after their records had been cancelled. On January 16, 2026, the General Registrar referred the remaining 98 individuals to the Commonwealth's Attorney and Attorney General for possible unlawful elections conduct.

Under the Chairman's report, Ms. Hanley stated that Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) is considering closing for the April 21 Special Election. She asked, without objection, if a letter could be sent on behalf of the Board encouraging FCPS to close on April 21. A draft of the letter will be circulated to the Board members for review before submission.

Under the Vice Chairman's report, Ms. Challender expressed her admiration for the dedication and commitment of the Office. She commented that the excellence of the Office cannot be understated especially given the number of elections held since last September. She acknowledged that the unprecedented number required personal sacrifice given the long hours and weekends required to administer these elections. She publicly thanked the Office for their critical work in the "wheel of democracy."

There was no Secretary's report.

Under New Business, Ms. Challender moved to rescind the Electoral Board policy enacted at the September 16, 2024, Electoral Board meeting that requires the General Registrar to refer individuals identified by ELECT as potential non-citizens to the Commonwealth's Attorney and the Attorney General. She commented that since the policy has been in place, it has not resulted in any prosecutions; compliance with the policy requires a significant use of staff time for the Office, the Commonwealth's Attorney, and the Attorney General; and that no prosecutor would find that checking the non-citizen box meets the standard of beyond a reasonable doubt. She concluded that "it is an intrusion to refer individuals for prosecution." Mr. Pinkney commented that it is the Electoral Board's job to ensure that rules are followed, to ensure that there is unimpeachable clarity of voting, and to ensure confidence in elections. He remarked that it appears there is no significant burden to staff to prepare and send the monthly referral letter, and the Commonwealth's Attorney and the Attorney General have prosecutorial discretion and can choose whether to dedicate resources to following up on the referrals. He remarked that "to take no action whatsoever with prima facie evidence of a potential violation, is a striking and unfortunate position" for the Board to take. Ms. Hanley commented that non-citizens are not eligible to vote, and the current process does not determine very clearly who is a non-citizen before the referrals are made to the Commonwealth's Attorney and the Attorney General. The motion passed by a vote of 2-1 with Mr. Pinkney voting nay.

Ms. Hanley moved that in the same vein as the Code of Virginia that establishes a three-member local Electoral Board that shall consist of a majority of members representing the party of the governor, the policy in Fairfax County for assigning chiefs for each election shall be that more than 2/3 will represent the party of the governor. To serve as chief, the following requirements must be met: 1) have served previously as a chief or an assistant chief in Fairfax County; 2) have taken chief training in Fairfax County; and 3) have previously served as an election officer in Fairfax County. These criteria will address the issue of assigning chiefs who

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have not served in any election in Fairfax County, which was a result of attempting to achieve am exact number required under the current and previous policy. The effective date will begin in April 2026. Under discussion, Mr. Pinkney asked to table the motion to the next meeting to allow staff to develop a system to evaluate the competency of the chiefs. He offered a friendly amendment of a "50-50 split with any difference going to the party of the governor. Ms. Challender commented that the motion on the table provides flexibility because it does not set a specific number which proved to be challenging under the previous policy. She added that the proposed policy also contemplates that if a chief cancels or cannot serve, it would allow the assistant chief to more easily move into the chief's role. Mr. Pinkney changed his amendment to bookmarking a number between no fewer than half to no more 2/3 representing the party of the governor. He remarked that this will allow a greater range of flexibility and avoid the challenge of achieving an exact number. Ms. Hanley said that Mr. Pinkney's motion was not a friendly amendment to her motion and called for a vote on his amendment. The motion failed by a vote of 1-2 with Ms. Hanley and Ms. Challender voting nay. Calling for a vote on the original motion, it passed by a vote 2-1 with Mr. Pinkney voting nay.

The Electoral Board reviewed the Resource Allocation for the Special Election on April 21, 2026. Turnout will be tracked closely during early voting to ensure that adequate ballots will be available.

There were no Public Comments.

Ms. Hanley moved that the Board enter a closed session to consider risk assessments of specific local electoral procedures, where discussion of such matters in open meeting would compromise the security of any election, as permitted by Va. Code § 2.2-3711(A)(34). The motion passed by a vote of 3-0, and the Board moved into Closed Session at 4:47 p.m.

At 5:09 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

The Electoral Board reviewed and approved the submission of the LESS requirements.

The Electoral Board will set their monthly meetings for the second Thursday at 4:00 p.m.

Ms. Challender moved to adjourn. The motion carried, and the meeting was adjourned at 5:10 p.m.

Attachments

_____
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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