Fairfax County Electoral Board Public Comments

April 9, 2026

I am Doug Friedly, the Fairfax County Republican Committee Election Officer Liaison.

I am concerned that election officers currently appointed by yourselves, the electoral board, are being removed from the election officer rolls, or are being deactivated, without your review.

With regards to the Apr 21st special election, I know of two election officers that previously served in multiple elections, both as recently as 2025, but were not included on the election officer availability survey for this upcoming special election.

- Neither of these individuals were informed about their change of status. The Party that endorsed their affiliation, in these cases the Republican Party, was *not* notified.
- Upon realizing these EOs did not get availability surveys, both persons individually called the election office inquiring why they did not get the chance to serve in the April election? Each was informed of their removal from the EO list. Each asked for the rationale for the removal. Both were able to provide new information and mitigating circumstances that had not been previously considered.
- One of the EOs was reinstated and is scheduled to serve on the 21st. The other is pending an appeal that might be reviewed in May. The impact is she is essentially prevented from serving in the election later this month.

As the Party's liaison to the Elections Office, these two cases:

- Cause me to wonder how many other appointed officers have been denied the opportunity to serve in their appointed role for this election and for previous elections without any notice?
- Lead me to question what is the standard or basis by which an election officer is deactivated or by which an appointment is rescinded?

Recommendations:

- I recommend that an election officer be permitted to serve until the Electoral Board rescinds an officer's appointment.
- I recommend that if the Elections Office is permitted to remove an individual from the "serving list" before the Electoral Board is involved in the decision, that the Elections Office facilitate due process and gain input from the elections officer's perspective before they are prevented from serving.
- I recommend that the individual and the Party both be informed in a timely manner when an officer is deactivated and/or the Electoral Board rescinds an officer's appointment.
- I recommend the reason for the deactivation be shared with the election officer and the relevant party.
- I recommend the board approve or be informed of all EO deactivations on a monthly basis.