County of Fairfax, Virginia

GENERAL REGISTRAR'S REPORT

DATE: January 10, 2025

TO: Hon. Katherine K. Hanley, Chairman of the Fairfax County Electoral Board
Jeffrey K. Shapiro, Vice Chairman of the Fairfax County Electoral Board
Kevin R. Pinkney, Fairfax County Electoral Board

FROM: Eric L. Spicer, General Registrar and Director of the Office of Elections

CC: Beth Dixon Methfessel, Clerk to the Electoral Board
Office of Elections – All Staff

SUBJECT: General Registrar's Report for the January 13, 2025, Electoral Board Meeting

Voter Registration

Registered Voters	As of 10/1	As of 12/31	Change from 10/1
Active Registered Voters	736,718	760,200	+23,482
Inactive Registered Voters	76,610	67,387	-9,223
Total	**813,328**	**827,587**	**+14,259**

Active Voter Registration Subtractions (Cancellations and Transfers Out)	10/1 – 12/31	Year-to-Date 2024 (1/1 to 12/31)
Deceased (multiple sources)[1]	1,117	5,152
Out-of-State (multiple sources)[2]	3,782	8,559
Declared Non-Citizen (from ELECT)	107	571
Declared Mentally Incapacitated (from Court)	12	58
Felony Conviction (from ELECT)	39	175
Voter Request (paper form from voter)	277	682
Transfer Out to Another Jurisdiction in VA	10,662	28,442
Other Subtractions (administrative error, other)	45	109
Total Cancellations and Transfers	**16,041**	**43,748**

Active Voter Registration Additions	10/1 – 12/31	Year-to-Date 2024 (1/1 to 12/31)
New Voter Registrations (multiple sources)	21,296	57,626
Transfer In from Another Jurisdiction in VA	8,141	23,054
Other Additions (reactivated, reinstated, other)	10,086	18,163
Total	**39,523**	**98,843**

Voter Registration Transactions[3] (includes transactions that result in additions, subtractions, and no change)	10/1 – 12/31	Year-to-Date 2024 (1/1 to 12/31)
Online DMV (from ELECT)	53,588	397,034
Online Citizen Portal (from ELECT)	41,140	84,777
Online Third-Party DMV Verified (from ELECT)	1,674	4,949
Va. Paper Form Third Party (delivered to the office)	737	5,310
Va. Paper Form In-Person (office walk-ins, new citizen ceremonies, at polling locations)	4,194	6,338
Va. Paper Form by Mail (delivered to the office)	1,459	4,801
Federal Post Card Application (multiple sources)	1,382	7,032
National (EAC) Paper Form (delivered to the office)	206	865
Same Day Registration (office or voting locations)	14,246	15,547
Others (voter card, confirmation notice, update form)	2,775	5,428
Public Assistance, Disability Offices	2	12
Discretionary Agencies (BVS, NTIS, Social Security Administration)	1,665	6,913

[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)

Polling Place Changes

The Board of Supervisors is expected to approve the following precinct and polling place changes at the public hearing on January 14:

- Change the name of the Woodrow Wilson Library to the Culmore Community Library.
- Change the name of the Bailey's Community Center to the Minnie H. Peyton Community Center at Bailey's.
- With the completion of renovations at St. Peter's in the Woods Episcopal Church, the polling place for the Fairfax Station precinct will return to the church.
- Move the polling place for Woodyard precinct to the Burke Centre Library, which also serves as a satellite voting location. The library will provide a more accessible polling place for Woodyard voters.

On January 14, the Office of Elections will also request a resolution from the Board of Supervisors to apply to the State Board of Elections for a waiver to administer Pioneer, Garfield, Penderbrook and Burke No. 2 precincts as split precincts for all elections in 2025, as required by Virginia Code §24.2-307.

Sample Ballot Mailing

Of the voters who were mailed sample ballot brochures, 19,892 had submitted an address change notice (NCOA) with the post office and were mailed our office's address change confirmation form to complete and return. Of these, 4,121 forms were returned and processed. The registration records for voters who indicated they had moved out of state were cancelled, and those for voters who had moved within Fairfax County were updated. Forms with address changes within Virginia were mailed to other localities.

Voter registration update forms received as of January 8, 2025:

Type of Update	**Total**
Moved Within Fairfax County	769
Moved Within Virginia	393
Moved Out of State	2,318
No Change	531
Forms with Issues	110
Total	4,121

The brochures that the post office could not deliver for any reason have been returned to our office and are being processed in the same way as all other returned election mail.

2024 General and Special Elections – Absentee by Mail Requests

A total of 113,623 absentee ballot applications were approved for the November 2024 General and Special Elections. This includes 70,257 permanent applications, 10,345 applications from overseas and military voters, 32,992 one-time applications, and 29 emergency ballot applications.

Of these, 70,497 ballots were returned by mail before the November 8 deadline and 23,678 were returned using one of the specified ballot drop-off boxes at the Government Center, at an early voting location, or on Election Day at a precinct polling place. The 94,175 absentee ballots returned represents 16% of the ballots cast in the election.

To compare, for the 2020 General Election (during the pandemic), we issued 269,982 absentee ballots, of which 227,225 were returned by the deadline.

2024 General and Special Elections – Absentee Voting at Satellites

In-person absentee voting for the November 2024 General and Special Elections was a resounding success, with turnout easily eclipsing the numbers from 2020 and improvements that made the process much more efficient and effective. In all, 239,334 Fairfax County residents voted at 16 locations over the six-week period, which included voting on four Saturdays and one Sunday. In the 2020 Presidential Election, 193,596 in-person absentee ballots were cast. Two snapshots illustrate the high voter interest and turnout. On the first two days of early voting in September 2024, 8,613 people voted. Four years ago, 2,300 people voted during the same timeframe. When all 16 locations were open on October 17, we saw 10,364 in-person voters compared to 7,473 voters in 2020, which represents a 40% increase.

Several operational changes and innovations ensured a smooth early voting period. Three locations – Fairfax County Government Center, Mt. Vernon Governmental Center, and North County Governmental Center – were open for the full 45-day voting period. In 2020, only the Fairfax County Government Center was open for voting until 13 other locations opened on October 13, 2020. We also deployed additional voting equipment, electronic pollbooks, and admin tools to multiple early voting sites in anticipation of higher voter turnout.

All early voting locations utilized line optimization software to plan and manage the increased number of voters and minimize the lines. In addition, wait times for each early voting location were posted on the Office of Elections website, letting voters make an informed decision on which location to visit.

At the Fairfax County Government Center, our busiest early voting location, voting was moved to Room 251, which was a significantly larger space that could accommodate more voters. With eight check-in stations and 36 marking stations, the Government Center satellite officers processed 58,569 voters, not including provisional voters, including record-setting days on September 20 (2,704 voters) and September 21 (2,234 voters).

2024 General and Special Elections – Election Day Voting at Polling Places

On November 5, 2024, 243,776 voters cast their ballots at 264 polling places across the county, marking a 31% increase in Election Day turnout compared to the 2020 Presidential Election.

In preparation for Election Day, we implemented comprehensive security and contingency planning measures in close collaboration with our county partners in law enforcement and emergency operations. Key efforts included a pre-election security meeting with county stakeholders, de-escalation training for election officers, the development of emergency and evacuation guides, and the operation of a Tech & Emergency Support command center on Election Day. The Tech & Emergency Support command center successfully addressed over 400 issues throughout the day. Fortunately, none of our major contingency plans were required.

Page Program

With the High School Page Program, we trained 567 students from 35 public and private high schools (including homeschool) to serve in an early voting satellite location or a polling place on Election Day. This was the highest number of applications in the history of the program. All students who received an assignment were required to complete a 2-hour training and pass the quiz with a score of 100%.

Election Officers

We had 3,744 election officers serve in a precinct for the November 2024 General and Special Elections. Of these, 1,798 were affiliated with the Democratic Party, 1,176 were affiliated with the Republican Party, and 770 were Unaffiliated. This represents an increase of approximately 200 Republican-affiliated officers from the November 2020 Presidential Election, because of our extensive recruitment efforts to reach party parity in our precincts. In accordance with Electoral Board policy, all Chief election officers represented the Republican Party, and all Assistant Chief election officers represented the Democratic Party.

We hired over 1,000 new election officers for this election, and 944 of these officers served for the first time on Election Day. Officers served in the following roles:

- 264 Chiefs
- 264 Assistant Chiefs
- 528 Provisional Specialists
- 460 Collector Officers
- 115 Language Officers
- 2,113 election officers

We were pleased to be able to accommodate election officers with convenient precinct assignments: 70% of all officers were assigned within 3 miles of their home, and 85% of all officers were assigned within 5 miles of their home.

Election Officer Reappointment

In accordance with Virginia Code § 24.2-115, the Electoral Board appoints election officers for two-year terms. The next appointment term will begin on March 1, 2025, and will last until February 28, 2027. Virginia Code requires the Electoral Board to meet in the first week of February to reappoint election officers for the new term.

Upon reappointment, election officers will be eligible to serve in all elections in 2025 and 2026 once they complete a new oath form and training. Officers will begin completing their oaths in February, and they will begin training in April.

Election Officer Training

From the beginning of our training season on August 19, we offered numerous optional and mandatory training opportunities for election officers.

We conducted 99 in-person training classes, where we had 2,375 attendees across four different class types (New Election Officer Class, Chief Workshop, Provisional Specialist Workshop, and Closing Procedures Workshop). Each class received careful attention and updates for this election to ensure effective content and clear learning objectives. The Closing Procedures Workshop for Chiefs and Assistant Chiefs was a new class that provided best practices and hands-on exercises focused around managing the often-stressful precinct closing process. This was our highest-rated classroom offering, and we will continue to refine its content in future elections to ensure Chiefs and Assistant Chiefs feel fully prepared for this critical task. We also offered three Election Officer Open Houses and two Chief Open Houses, with approximately 650 attendees. Our open houses remain our highest-rated and most-appreciated training opportunity, and we valued the chance to scale up and provide several more open houses than we typically can in smaller elections. In total, over 3,000 election officers attended an in-person training opportunity at the Fairfax County Government Center, with a 95% average approval rating from attendees.

In October, we conducted four webinars for election officers (Chiefs Briefing, Provisional Briefing, Election Officer Briefing, and De-Escalation Techniques). The Election Officer Briefing and the De-Escalation Techniques webinar were new offerings for this election, and we were glad to be able to provide elective opportunities where we can provide consistent updates, information, and instruction to as many election officers as possible to help ensure they were fully prepared going into this Presidential Election. In total, over 2,500 election officers watched a webinar live, and many more subsequently watched a recording.

We also offered three online, self-paced, on-demand courses (Election Officer Essentials, Chief Basics, and Provisional Basics). Each course focuses on specific aspects for different election officer roles and precinct processes and incorporates interactive knowledge checks and a comprehensive quiz at the end. Approximately 1,250 officers fully completed a course, and each course remains available for any election officer to review specific sections or topics as needed. We look forward

to streamlining our online course offerings and adding additional modules to provide opportunities for election officers to review training content at their own pace.

We utilized interactive technology during our Page Training webinar to foster active engagement and student participation to reinforce important concepts and learning objectives. These features were well-received and resulted in a dynamic and unique training session, and we look forward to pursuing ways to incorporate similar engagement techniques in future training offerings.

Looking ahead, we plan to continue to develop our training offerings and build on our successful updates, initiatives, and innovations from 2024. Drawing from these 2024 successes, we are excited to continue refining, improving, and iterating on our overall training program as we begin a new election officer appointment term and deploy new voting equipment in 2025.

Provisional Ballots and SDRs

For the November 2024 General and Special Elections, we received 16,153 provisional ballots, a 294% increase over November 2023. This included 14,246 same-day registrations (SDR) issued during early voting and on Election Day. Nearly 75% of SDR provisional ballots were issued on Election Day.

Approximately 130 staff members were involved in reviewing and researching the provisional ballot submissions in the days following the election, and the same number participated in the envelope opening and ballot scanning operation following the Electoral Board's review.

Nov. Elections	Non-SDR Provisional	SDR Provisional	Total	Accepted by Electoral Board
2024	1,907	14,246	16,153	97%
2023	1,785	2,313	4,098	95%
2022	2,647	3,913	6,560	92%

VFOIA and NVRA

We have received 31 VFOIA requests and four NVRA requests since the October 21 Electoral Board meeting, bringing the total to 96 VFOIA and 20 NVRA requests in 2024.

Communications Division and Outreach Program

Staff worked closely with the county's Office of Public Affairs (OPA) to provide information and updates to a range of domestic and international press throughout early voting and on Election Day. In addition, we coordinated and worked with numerous international delegations who visited early voting and Election Day voting locations.

Information for voters on deadlines, early voting, absentee voting, and registration was posted regularly on the county's home page and social media accounts. We restructured our website to make it easier for voters to find information. Updates and revisions are ongoing.

Between September 1 and the week following the election, 304,000 users accessed the website, not only from the U.S. but from over 45 other countries. The web pages receiving the most views:

1. Early voting: 338,000 views
2. Sample ballots: 73,000 views
3. Election Day polling places: 53,000 views

The Office of Elections website received 635,539 total page views, with traffic spiking on November 5 to 36,228 users. Elections news releases recorded 23,606 views, and the office's 87 X/Twitter Tweets recorded 511,046 impressions.

Risk-Limiting Audit

The Department of Elections conducted a statewide risk-limiting audit for the U.S. Senate race on November 20 at the Fairfax County Courthouse. The purpose of the audit was to use a combination of statistical methods and human review of ballots to confirm that the outcome of the election was correct. We were provided a list of 249 ballots to systematically pull from specified boxes of ballots (counting down from the top ballot) that are stored at the courthouse, then record the votes cast in the Senate contest. More than 60 seasonal and full-time staff members were involved in conducting the audit.

A report on the audit will be presented at the State Board of Elections' meeting on January 15.

Herndon Town Council Recount

In December 2024, we conducted a recount for the Herndon Town Council contest. The recount was requested by the 7th-place candidate, Stevan Michael Porter, who received 0.09% fewer votes than the 6th-place candidate, Naila Alam. Following a court order, election staff conducted a recount of the contest at the Fairfax County Courthouse.

A total of 9,682 ballots were cast in the November 2024 election that included the Herndon Town Council contest. To conduct the recount, these Herndon ballots had to be identified and separated from all other ballots cast in the election. Unlike the 2017 recount in Fairfax County, where 86% of ballots were cast on Election Day and were already sorted by precinct, only 41% of ballots in the 2024 election were cast on Election Day and similarly pre-sorted. Early voting, absentee mail, and provisional ballots are not separated by precinct, requiring staff to manually review approximately 350,000 ballots to locate the Herndon ballots.

From December 2 to December 5, election staff worked at the Fairfax County Courthouse to review and process boxes of early voting and absentee mail ballots. Using six DS850 high-speed scanners, staff efficiently separated the Herndon ballots from non-Herndon ballots. Ultimately, the exact number of Herndon ballots expected were identified.

On December 6, an official hand recount of the 9,682 ballots was conducted in the presence of the candidates and their legal representatives. The recount confirmed the original election results, with Ms. Alam retaining the 6th-place seat on the Herndon Town Council. There was a net change of only two votes in favor of Mr. Porter, resulting in Ms. Alam finishing with 4,010 votes and Mr. Porter with 3,978 votes.

Office Personnel

Sharon Barrett, who was hired in October 2018 as a temporary employee in the Voter Services Division, successfully competed for the Administrative Assistant IV position under the Voter Services/SDR Division, effective November 2, 2024.

Sean Stewart, who was hired in March 2020 as an Election Worker and appointed as a Management Analyst I for the Absentee Mail Division in October 2022, successfully completed the interview process and was appointed to the Communications Specialist III position effective December 28, 2024.

Electronic Pollbook Replacement Project

As we have discussed previously, our three-year lease with KNOWiNK for electronic pollbooks ends on February 28, 2025, and we secured funding to purchase new electronic pollbooks when the lease expires. After extensive research, staff and the Electoral Board determined that KNOWiNK offered the best electronic pollbook solution and we reached an agreement to purchase new electronic pollbooks (iPads) from them. Given that a new iPad model is being released this spring, KNOWiNK has offered to extend our current lease through the June 2025 Primary Election to enable us to purchase the new iPad model that is being released for use in the November 2025 General Election and in future elections. This may give us the opportunity to purchase better equipment with a longer life expectancy with the same pricing and terms. We are in the process of reviewing this matter with the county's procurement and legal staff to ensure that we meet all legal and procurement requirements if we choose to delay the purchase of the new electronic pollbooks. We are prepared to answer any questions and will keep the Electoral Board closely informed of any developments relating to this matter.

Voting Equipment Replacement Project

As we have discussed previously, our voting equipment is approximately 10 years old and is at the end of its useful life. After extensive research, staff and the Electoral Board determined that Electronic Systems and Software (ES&S) offered the best voting equipment solution that will meet

our needs and meet new federal standards that will be required in the near future, including features such as two-factor authentication. Over the past three years, we secured funding and reached an agreement to purchase new voting equipment to replace our existing systems, ensuring continued efficiency and reliability in election operations.

Printelect is a vendor located in North Carolina that represents ES&S and we have a long-term relationship with this company. They also provide our Election Day ballots and ballot paper for the ballot on demand (BOD) systems that we use at satellite voting locations. As a side note, we purchased the BOD systems from KNOWiNK two years ago and their successful operation is one of many reasons why we chose to purchase new electronic pollbooks from this company.

ES&S and Printelect will deliver new DS300 ballot scanners and DS950 high-speed scanners to us in February and March 2025. The new scanners will be used for the first time during the June 2025 Primary Elections.

We are also purchasing accessible voting machines to replace our existing equipment. The ExpressVote marking device is pending certification by the Virginia Department of Elections (ELECT) which is expected in the first half of 2025. Once certified, we will receive the ExpressVote 3 devices in July, with their first use planned for the November 2025 General Election. In the interim, our existing ExpressVote machines will be upgraded at no cost. ES&S will also upgrade our voting equipment in the summer at no cost when we receive the new ExpressVote accessible machines. To ensure a smooth transition, all election officers will participate in comprehensive training on the new voting equipment, as mandated by the Code of Virginia.

Referrals to Commonwealth's Attorney and Attorney General

Based on the Electoral Board policy enacted at the September 16, 2024, Electoral Board meeting, the General Registrar referred 789 individuals identified by ELECT as potential non-citizens to the Commonwealth's Attorney and Attorney General on September 23, 2024. The General Registrar referred an additional 238 individuals on October 2, 2024.

ELECT cancelled the registration records for 107 individuals between October 1 and December 31, 2024, on the grounds that they were potential non-citizens. Of those 107, 19 individuals either confirmed their citizenship or re-registered after the cancellation and one was sent in error. On January 10, 2025, the General Registrar referred the remaining 87 individuals to the Commonwealth's Attorney and Attorney General.