

MINUTES
Fairfax County Electoral Board
November 6, 2024

The Fairfax County Electoral Board (Board) met on Wednesday, November 6, 2024, in Conference Room 251 at the Fairfax County Government Center, 12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax, to receive the election materials necessary to canvass the returns and ascertain the results of the November 5, 2024, General and Special Elections (General Election). Chairman Katherine K. Hanley, Vice Chairman Jeffrey K. Shapiro, Secretary Amb. (ret.) Christopher P. Henzel, Election Manager Ravi Udeshi, and Clerk to the Board Beth Dixon Methfessel were present. In addition, rovers, and Office of Elections (Office) staff were present to conduct the Canvass.

Ms. Hanley called the Canvass to order at 10:02 a.m., introduced the Board, and welcomed the Canvass workers. She thanked everyone for a well-run, successful election. She asked that any issues encountered on Election Day be brought to the attention of the Board.

Ms. Hanley asked Mr. Udeshi to give instructions on conducting the Canvass. Mr. Udeshi explained to the fifteen assembled teams that the canvass procedures include verification of signatures on the statement of results A and B, the machine tapes, the election officer oath, and the ballot receipt. The compensation sheet, the voter count worksheet, the closing numbers worksheet, and the Chief's Notes must be returned and completed. Even if no signatures are missing, a "missing signature" envelope should be completed for each precinct. The canvass teams must ensure the accurate completion of the statement of results (SOR) including verifying that all tapes are properly attached in the correct order and that they match the SOR and the ERM (Election Results Management-ElectionWare) reports. Corrections should be made in red. Once these steps are completed, the election documents will be divided by staff to allow for efficient follow-up. Any issues or problems regarding the Canvass should be brought to the Board and any polling place concerns should be reported to the Clerk. The Chief's Notes will be set aside for Board review.

At 12:00 p.m. in Conference Room 2/3, the Electoral Board convened the provisional part of the canvass as required by Va. Code § 24.2-653(B) to allow voters casting provisional ballots in the November 5, 2024, General Election, to present any information that might prove they are qualified, registered voters in the precinct where they cast their provisional ballot.

Ms. Hanley moved that the Board enter a Closed Session for the purpose of considering whether each person who submitted a provisional vote at the election was qualified to do so. Other than appropriate staff and legal counsel of the Electoral Board, attendance at this meeting shall be permitted for the persons whose provisional votes are being considered with their legal counsel, if present, as well as one authorized representative of each political party or independent candidate, as specified in §24.2-653.01(B)." The motion passed by a vote of 3-0, and the Board entered a Closed Session at 12:03 p.m. Seven provisional voters appeared before the Board. There were no authorized representatives from the political committees or the independent candidates.

The Canvass teams recessed for lunch at 12:00 p.m. The doors were secured, and at 1:00 p.m. the conference room was re-opened, and the Canvass continued.

At 1:24 p.m. the Board concluded the Closed Session. Ms. Hanley moved that the Fairfax County Electoral Board certify that in the Closed Session just concluded, the only matters discussed were the qualifications of provisional voters, as directed by Virginia Code §24.2-653, and as identified in the motion to close the meeting pursuant to the Virginia Freedom of Information Act.” The motion passed by a vote of 3-0.

The provisional voter log was completed and distributed to the chairman of the local political committees.

Staff reported that there will be approximately **16,000** provisional ballots to adjudicate.

At 3:44 p.m. the Electoral Board recessed the Canvass until Thursday, November 7, 2024, at 9:00 a.m.

An updated agenda was posted and emailed to the Electoral Board Notice List providing a tentative line for the completion of the canvass:

- Wednesday, November 6 - Precinct Canvass recessed at 3:44 p.m.
- Thursday, November 7 – 9:00 a.m., Conference Room 251, Completion of Precinct Canvass
- Wednesday, November 13 - Provisional Ballot Adjudication, Conference Room 319; CAP Canvass, Processing Qualified Provisionals, Conference Room 251
- Thursday, November 14 – Continue Processing Provisionals
- Friday, November 15 – Completion of Abstracts, Suite 323

Thursday, November 7, 2024
Reconvened Canvass and Provisional Ballot Meeting

At 9:02 a.m. the Electoral Board reconvened the canvass in Suite 251. The Canvass of the precinct and early voting satellite offices concluded at 11:47 a.m.

At 11:47 a.m. the Board recessed the canvass until Wednesday, November 13, time TBD.

Tuesday, November 12, 2024

An updated agenda was posted and emailed to the Electoral Board Notice List providing a start time of 9:00 a.m., Wednesday, November 13, 2024, for the reconvened canvass and provisional ballot meeting.

Wednesday, November 13, 2024
Reconvened Canvass and Provisional Ballot Meeting

At 9:12 a.m. the Electoral Board reconvened the Canvass in Conference Room 315/319 as required by Va. Code § 24.2-653 to allow voters casting provisional ballots in the November 5, 2024, General Election, to present any information that might prove they are qualified, registered voters in the precinct where they cast their provisional ballot. There were no provisional voters. Gregory Brandon represented the Fairfax County Democratic Committee (FCDC), and Christine Brim represented the Fairfax County Democratic Committee (FCDC). There were no authorized representatives from any independent candidates.

Ms. Hanley moved that the Board enter a Closed Session for the purpose of considering whether each person who submitted a provisional vote at the election was qualified to do so. Other than appropriate staff and legal counsel of the Electoral Board, attendance at this meeting shall be permitted for the persons whose provisional votes are being considered with their legal counsel, if present, as well as one authorized representative of each candidate, as specified in §24.2-653.01(B). The motion passed by a vote of 3-0, and the Board moved into Closed Session at 9:12 a.m.

At 10:22 a.m. the Board concluded the Closed Session. Ms. Hanley moved that the Fairfax County Electoral Board certify that in the Closed Session just concluded, the only matters discussed were the qualifications of provisional voters, as permitted by Virginia Code § 24.2-653(B), and as identified in the motion to close the meeting pursuant to the Virginia Freedom of Information Act. The motion passed by a vote of 3-0.

Ms. Hanley moved that the **15,643** Provisional Ballots entered as **qualified** on the Provisional Ballot Logs for the General Election held on November 5, 2024, be accepted and counted for the reasons determined by a majority vote of the Electoral Board. This record shall be retained and incorporated into the Minutes of the Canvass held beginning on November 6, 2024. The motion passed by a vote of 3-0.

Ms. Hanley moved that the **510** Provisional Ballots entered as **disqualified** on the Provisional Ballot Logs for the General Election held on November 5, 2024, be rejected for the reasons determined by a majority vote of the Electoral Board. This record shall be retained and incorporated into the Minutes of the Canvass held beginning on November 6, 2024. The motion passed by a vote of 3-0.

On behalf of the Board, Ms. Hanley commended staff for their exceptional job in researching, categorizing, and presenting the recommendations for the provisional ballots.

The Board moved to Suite 251 for the extraction and scanning of the qualified provisional ballots. CAP Canvass began at 10:45 a.m. and was completed at 11:22 a.m.

Of the 16,153 provisional ballots cast, **15,643** were qualified. Of this number, **13,789** were SDR provisionals. Of the 16,153 provisional ballots cast, 97% received a recommendation to be qualified and counted.

Ms. Ardalan reported that a total of 717 ID Confirmation Statements were submitted, 305 in early/absentee voting, and 412 in the precincts on primary day. During early voting, 1,164 Affirmation of Eligibility forms were signed; and 2,785 on Election Day.

The 15,643 qualified provisional ballots were extracted and scanned on the high-speed DS850. The scanning was completed at 6:15 p.m. The results were uploaded into ERM, and a report was generated for the Statement of Results.

At 7:25 p.m. the Board recessed the canvass until 10 a.m. on Thursday, November 13, 2024.

Thursday, November 14, 2024
Reconvened Canvass and Provisional Ballot Meeting

At 10:12 a.m. the Electoral Board reconvened the canvass in Conference Room 315.

The Board began the hand count process for the 344 ballots that could not be scanned by the DS850. This process was completed at 12:40 p.m.

Once the updated results from the provisional ballot adjudication were uploaded and verified in the ERM system, including the hand counts, the Board completed the Statement of Results for the qualified provisional voters for the November 5, 2024, General Election.

At 4:55 p.m. the Board certified the results of the election and signed the Abstracts. At 5:34 p.m. the Abstracts, the Election Results Certification Checklist, and a set of voided ballots were sent electronically for review to the Department of Elections. All printer oaths have been received and filed with the Electoral Board minutes and supporting documents.

Mr. Henzel moved that there being no further business, the November 5, 2024, General Election be concluded. By a vote of 3-0, and without objection, the Board adjourned at 4:58 p.m.

Attachments

Hon. Katherine K. Hanley, Chairman

Jeffrey K. Shapiro, Vice Chairman

Amb. (ret.) Christopher P. Henzel, Secretary