

MINUTES
Fairfax County Electoral Board
September 17, 2018

The Fairfax County Electoral Board met on Monday, September 17, 2018, in Conference Room 315/319 at the Fairfax County Government Center located at 12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax. Chairman Stephen M. Hunt, Vice Chairman Bettina M. Lawton, Secretary Katherine K. Hanley, General Registrar Gary Scott, Election Manager Eric L. Spicer, IT Manager Travis Potter, Election Officer Manager Ravi Udeshi, Assistant Registrar Cheryl Jones, Public Information Officer Lisa Connors, Assistant to the General Registrar Patty Reilly, and Clerk to the Board Beth Dixon Methfessel were present. Brian McConville representing the Fairfax County Democratic Committee (FCDC); Therese Martin and Maggi Luca, representing the Fairfax League of Women Voters (LWV); and Jean Thoensen, Fairfax County resident, also attended the Electoral Board meeting.

Mr. Hunt called the meeting to order at 12:04 p.m. and introduced himself, Vice Chairman Lawton and Secretary Hanley (Board). Mr. Hunt called for a motion to approve the September 17, 2018, meeting agenda. Ms. Hanley moved to approve the agenda, and by a vote of 3-0, the September 17, 2018, meeting agenda, was adopted.

Mr. Hunt asked for approval of the Draft Minutes of the Electoral Board meeting held on July 26, 2018. Ms. Lawton pointed out that an “s” needed to be added to the word “sign” on pg. 3, para. 1. Without further corrections, and by a vote of 3-0, the July 26, 2018, Minutes were adopted.

Mr. Hunt called for a motion to appoint 381 election officers (EOs) (247 Democrats, 60 Independents, and 74 Republicans) for a term ending February 29, 2020. Ms. Hanley moved to adopt, and the motion passed by a vote of 3:0.

Mr. Scott presented the General Registrar’s (GR) report (see attached September 14, 2018, GR Report).

Under Registration Information, after the NCOA (National Change of Address) mailings, there was a decrease in active voters due to the movement of approximately 10,000 voters from active to inactive status.

Under Election Management, the draft of the Resource Allocation for the November 6 election calls for 507,000 printed ballots for the precincts, representing 70% of the voters in the 8th and 11th Congressional Districts (CD) and 80% of the registered voters in the 10th CD. Approximately, 94,000 ballots were printed for absentee voting. Based on current availability, approximately 2,486 election officers will be assigned.

An electronic survey will be used this year by Fairfax County school staff to identify voting location, storage rooms for voting equipment, building entrance to be used by voters,

and school contacts. This information will be organized and provided to the chief election officers.

The preventive maintenance for 585 DS200s and 600 ExpressVote machines was completed in late August. The Logics and Accuracy testing for absentee voting in the Government Center began today, September 17, 2018. Testing for the machines used for satellite absentee and precinct voting will begin on September 25, 2018, and should be completed in 3 weeks.

Election management developed a 40-ft “No Campaigning” kit for use in the precincts on Election Day. The kit includes a 40-ft length of rope for measuring the prohibited area, as well as chalk and “No Campaigning” tape to visually mark the distance.

Under Outreach, general election palm cards are now available in English, Spanish, Vietnamese, and Korean. These cards and voting forms have been sent to all libraries and supervisors’ offices.

The required language assessment interviews of Spanish, Korean, Vietnamese, Farsi, and Arabic bilingual election officers is ongoing.

Office Manager Mary Lee Crabbe will retire on September 18, 2018. Activities are planned to recognize and honor her long years of service to Fairfax County.

Ms. Lawton asked about the status of the Public Interest Legal Foundation’s (PILF) FOIA (Freedom of Information Act) request. Mr. Scott responded that after completion, it was submitted to the County Attorney for final review. If approved, it will be sent out today, September 17, 2018.

Under the Chairman’s report, Mr. Hunt noted that the Board and the Clerk to the Board attended the Northern Virginia region of the Virginia Electoral Board Association (VEBA) meeting on September 13, 2018. The Board presented the idea of moving the June primary to the third Tuesday in June. Mr. Hunt explained that Delegate Rip Sullivan raised the issue of no-excuse, absentee voting, suggesting it would be more secure than the current absentee process. Mr. Hunt said he did not share this opinion, stating it would be less secure due to more locations requiring VERIS access. A discussion ensued over the differences between early and absentee voting, and the challenges of educating the public and legislators about these distinctions. Mr. Hunt also commended Commissioner Chris Piper for his efforts in improving communication between Electoral Boards and the Department of Elections.

There was no Vice Chairman report.

Under the Secretary’s report, Ms. Hanley reviewed the polling place changes to be submitted to the Board of Supervisors. These changes include:

- 1) In Mason District, change the name of the Ravenwood precinct polling location from Stuart High School to Justice High School;

- 2) In Mount Vernon District, change the street address for the Belvoir precinct polling location from 6900 Newington Rd to 8201 Cinder Bed Rd. This change is necessary because access to the facility off of Newington Road has been permanently closed;
- 3) In Springfield District, relocate the polling location for the Cedar Lake precinct from the VA Department of Transportation building where it is co-located with Fair Oaks precinct to the Michael Frey Animal Shelter; and
- 4) In Springfield District, relocate the polling location for Centerpointe precinct from the Centerpointe Church at Fair Oaks to the Waterford at Fair Oaks. This move was necessary because the Centerpointe Church has been sold and will be demolished.

Ms. Hanley reported that despite the disruption caused by Hurricane Florence in North Carolina, the ballots for Fairfax County were printed and delivered on time.

Legislative support for moving the June primary to the third Tuesday in June continues to gain support and momentum. Ms. Hanley suggested sending a letter to the Fairfax County School Board requesting that the March 2020 Presidential Primary be added to the school calendar as a teacher workday. The Board supported this action.

Ms. Hanley summarized the risk-limiting audit “pilot” held in the City of Fairfax. She applauded the organization and efficiency of this pilot. Mr. Hunt explained that a risk-limiting audit does not “limit risk”, rather a statistical sampling of the ballots is re-counted to verify that the outcome makes sense based on the sample that is examined.

Under New Business, Ms. Hanley moved to adopt the Resource Allocation for the November 6, 2018, General and Special Elections, attached and made a part of this record. The motion passed by a vote of 3-0.

Under Public Comments, in order to assist George Mason students, Ms. Thoensen asked for clarification regarding the deadline for voter registration. Mr. Scott explained that mailed-in voter registration applications must be post-marked by October 15. The on-line portal for voter registration closes at 11:59 p.m. Additionally, Ms. Thoensen remarked that she would encourage students to request absentee ballots well before the October 30 deadline. The Board asked that students be reminded where they can purchase stamps.

The pre-election Board meeting will be held on Thursday, November 1, 2018, at 5:00 p.m. at the Fairfax County Government Center.

There being no further business, Ms. Lawton made a motion to adjourn. The motion carried, and without objection, the meeting was adjourned at 12:42 p.m.

Attachments

Stephen M. Hunt, Chairman

Bettina M. Lawton, Vice Chairman

Katherine K. Hanley, Secretary