

MINUTES  
Fairfax County Electoral Board  
November 1, 2018

The Fairfax County Electoral Board met on Thursday, November 1, 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, Assistant Registrar Viki Kinsman, IT Manager Travis Potter, Election Officer Manager Ravi Udeshi, Public Information Officer Lisa Connors, and Clerk to the Board Beth Dixon Methfessel were present. Brian McConville representing the Fairfax County Democratic Committee (FCDC); Keith Damon representing the Fairfax County Republican Committee (FCRC); Therese Martin, Maggi Luca, and Rachael Hamlet representing the Fairfax League of Women Voters (LWV); and Stephen Spitz, member of the FCDC, also attended the Electoral Board meeting.

Mr. Hunt called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. and introduced himself, Vice Chairman Lawton and Secretary Hanley (Board). Mr. Hunt called for a motion to approve the November 1, 2018, meeting agenda. Ms. Hanley moved to approve the agenda, and by a vote of 3-0, the November 1, 2018, meeting agenda, was adopted.

Mr. Hunt asked for approval of the Draft Minutes of the Electoral Board meetings held on September 17, 2018, and October 9, 2018, and by a vote of 3-0, the September 17, 2018, and October 9, 2018, Minutes were adopted.

Mr. Hunt called for a motion to appoint 308 election officers (EOs) (175 Democrats, 58 Independents, and 75 Republicans) for a term ending February 29, 2020. Ms. Hanley moved to adopt, with the addition of Jeffrey Hunter-R, to bring the total appointment to 309 election officers, and the motion passed by a vote of 3:0.

Mr. Scott presented the General Registrar's (GR) report.

Approximately 39,000 absentee ballots have been mailed with a 60% return rate. To date, 36,000 have voted in-person for a total of 75,000 absentee ballot applications. In the remaining three days to vote absentee, Mr. Scott estimates that an additional 11,000 will turn out to vote. Mr. Hunt asked how many of the absentee ballot requests originated from UOCAVA (Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act) voters. Mr. Scott responded that approximately 2,200 were UOCAVA; with 500 new FPCA (Federal Post Card Applications).

Three positions supporting voter registration were filled.

On Election Day, two-thirds of the phone support will be allocated to receive calls from the polling locations, and the remaining third to handling calls from the public.

There was no Chairman's report.

Under the Secretary's report, a security meeting was held earlier in the day. The Canvass will begin at 9:00 a.m., Wednesday, November 7, 2018, with the Provisional Ballot meeting beginning at 12:00 p.m. The Board will be available to hear provisional voters through Thursday, November 8, 2018.

An additional 140,000 ballots were ordered for absentee voting (see attached revision).

Under New Business, twenty additional DS200 voting machines were leased at no additional cost. Rovers will carry three back-up machines. Tech Command personnel received additional training and will be staged in the Alternate Emergency Operations Center (AEOC). Future plans include moving Tech Command up to Conference Room 319.

Under the Vice Chairman's report, Ms. Lawton received a number of compliments about the efficiency of absentee voting in the satellites.

Under Public Comments, FCDC visited 8 out of 10 satellite locations, and reported that the staff is customer-oriented, professional, and efficient. FCRC asked if sworn election officers staff the satellites and if they are balanced by party. Ms. Hanley stated that all satellite workers are sworn election officers including at least one Assistant Registrar. As far as practicable, partisan balance is attempted in a similar manner as the precinct assignments. Mr. Hunt asked if the officers are approved by the party, and Ms. Hanley answered affirmatively. FCRC asked if future assignment lists could include the officers serving in the satellites.

FCRC asked for an explanation as to why a number of Republican voters who applied for an absentee ballot either by mail or online reported receiving an email from the Democratic Party even before they received their ballot. FCRC asked how the Democratic Party is getting voter email addresses. Mr. Scott responded that the list of absentee ballot applications only contains the voter's name, the address to which the ballot was sent, the date the application was processed, and the status of the ballot. Mr. Scott further explained that when a voter registers on-line and provides an email address, this information is captured and becomes part of the public record. This information may be included on the lists the state sells to the political parties.

FCRC related an incident at the McLean satellite of an absentee voter who did not have appropriate photo ID. The voter was told that she could get an ID that day at the satellite. The application for a photo ID requires the voter to sign a statement swearing/affirming that a photo ID may only be issued to registered voters who do not have acceptable photo identification. FCRC questioned if the voter is required to provide any proof that they do not have any other form of acceptable photo ID. Mr. Scott responded that the guidance from ELECT indicates that nothing further is required if a voter requests a photo ID and signs the form. Mr. Hunt asked if satellite workers are offering the photo ID as an alternative when someone does not have appropriate photo ID. Ms. Kinsman replied that the instructions from ELECT also include satellite workers offering a temporary photo ID, but to reiterate to the voter that signing the application attests that they have no other acceptable form of photo ID. Mr. Hunt opined that

this seems “contrary to the law.” LWV added that after extensive discussions conducted prior to the implementation of photo ID, it was concluded that the affirmation on the photo ID application infers that the voter has no acceptable photo ID *at the time they present themselves to vote* (emphasis added).

There being no further business, Ms. Lawton made a motion to adjourn. The motion carried, and without objection, the meeting was adjourned at 5:34 p.m.

Attachments

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Stephen M. Hunt, Chairman

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Bettina M. Lawton, Vice Chairman

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Katherine K. Hanley, Secretary

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