

MINUTES  
Fairfax County Electoral Board  
January 31, 2019

The Fairfax County Electoral Board met on Thursday, January 31, 2019, in Conference Room 315/319 at the Fairfax County Government Center located at 12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax. Chairman Stephen M. Hunt, Secretary Katherine K. Hanley, General Registrar Gary Scott, Assistant General Registrar Viki Kinsman, Election Manager Eric L. Spicer, Election Officer Manager Ravi Udeshi, Assistant to the General Registrar Patty Reilly, IT Director Travis Potter, Public Information Officer Brian Worthy, and Clerk to the Board Beth Dixon Methfessel were present. Keith Damon representing the Fairfax County Republican Committee (FCRC); Rachael Hamlet representing the Fairfax League of Women Voters (LWV); Greg Brandon, member of FCDC; and Jean Thoensen, Fairfax County resident, also attended the meeting.

Mr. Hunt called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. and introduced himself and Secretary Hanley (Board). He extended the thoughts and prayers of the Board to Vice Chairman Bettina Lawton who would not be attending the meeting due to a family emergency. Mr. Hunt called for a motion to approve the January 31, 2019, meeting agenda. Ms. Hanley moved to approve the agenda, and by a vote of 2-0, the January 31, 2019, meeting agenda, was adopted.

Mr. Hunt called for a motion to appoint 44 election officers (EOs) (24 Democrats, 8 Independents, and 12 Republicans) for a term ending February 28, 2021. Ms. Hanley moved to adopt the election officer appointments as submitted, and the motion passed by a vote of 2:0.

Mr. Hunt asked for approval of the Draft Minutes of the Electoral Board meeting held on December 13, 2018, and January 9, 2019. By a vote of 2-0, the December 13, 2018, Minutes and the January 9, 2019, Minutes were adopted.

Under the General Registrar's update, Mr. Scott reported that absentee voting for the February 19, 2019, Special Election, began on January 30, 2019. This was three days later than originally intended because one of the candidates, failing to qualify due to lack of the appropriate number of signatures, was allowed a 5-day appeal period. This expired on January 29, 2019, after which the ballot was finalized. Ms. Hanley mentioned that if any potential candidate for the upcoming 2019 election season contacts the local committee with questions about filing, please refer them to the Office of Elections.

Of the approximately 200 absentee ballots issued, 160 were Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (UOCAVA) or Federal Post Card Application (FPCA). Mr. Hunt asked how voters are removed from the UOCAVA and FPCA absentee lists. Mr. Scott replied that the mechanism for removal is re-registration upon returning from overseas.

The biannual NVRA list maintenance was completed during the past week, and approximately 33,000 individuals were removed from the voter rolls in Fairfax County. This number is higher than expected because the 2015 biannual maintenance was not performed.

There were no Electoral Board reports.

There was no Old Business.

Under New Business, Mr. Spicer presented the Resource Allocation for the Special Election in VA House 86 (attached and made a part of this record). The ballot order will be 30% of the active voters, with an additional 7% for absentee voting. Six election officers will be assigned to each precinct. FCRC asked if partisan balance was achieved, and Mr. Spicer responded that the assignments include 38 Democrats, 36 Republicans, with 4 Independents serving as language officers.

FCRC asked if half-day officers will be used in November, and Mr. Spicer commented that this decision has not been finalized. Ms. Hanley added that half-day officers may be assigned for the morning to assist with set-up and to manage the higher voter turnout in the earlier hours on Election Day.

FCRC requested the Chief Notes for the 2018 November election, including the machine incident report. Ms. Hanley indicated that staff is in the process of determining the best way to redact information that cannot be released, and this will be completed after the February 19, 2019, Special Election is certified. Ms. Hanley also suggested that the FCRC submit any reports of incidents that occurred during the November 2018 election for follow-up.

There being no further business, Ms. Hanley made a motion to adjourn. The motion carried, and without objection, the meeting was adjourned at 5:17 p.m.

Attachments

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Stephen M. Hunt, Chairman

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Katherine K. Hanley, Secretary