

MINUTES
Fairfax County Electoral Board
March 28, 2019

The Fairfax County Electoral Board met on Thursday, March 28, 2019, 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, Public Information Officer Brian Worthy, Election Officer Manager Ravi Udeshi, Assistant Registrar Patty Reilly, Chris Schäffer, 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, Vice Chairman Lawton, and Secretary Hanley (Board). Ms. Hanley moved to approve the agenda, and by a vote of 3-0, the March 28, 2019, meeting agenda, was adopted.

Mr. Hunt called for the reorganization of the Board. Ms. Hanley moved that Stephen Hunt be reelected as Chairman. The motion passed by a vote of 3-0. Mr. Hunt moved that Bettina Lawton be reelected as Vice Chairman. The motion passed by a vote of 3-0. Ms. Lawton moved that Ms. Hanley be reelected as Secretary. The motion passed by a vote of 3-0.

Mr. Hunt called for a motion to appoint 169 election officers (EOs) (95 Democrats, 39 Independents, and 35 Republicans) for a term ending February 28, 2021. Ms. Hanley moved to adopt the election officer appointments as submitted, with thanks to staff and parties for their work in preparing the list, and the motion passed by a vote of 3:0.

Mr. Hunt asked for approval of the Draft Minutes of the Electoral Board meeting held on February 20, 2019. By a vote of 3-0, the February 20, 2019, Minutes were adopted.

Under the General Registrar's update, Mr. Scott reported that with a gain of 4000 voters, registration numbers are now increasing since the recent biannual NVRA list maintenance. Mr. Scott announced that Pat Ferguson and Patty Reilly have been appointed as Assistant General Registrars without a change in their merit status, bringing the total number of appointed assistant registrars up to five. In the 2020 budget cycle, Mr. Scott plans to request two additional merit positions in order to convert two of the other three assistant registrar positions to merit status. This will leave one exempt assistant registrar position out of the five positions previously authorized by the Electoral Board.

Absentee voting for the Vienna Town Election began on March 22. To date, there have been no in-person absentee voters, however, 73 absentee ballots have been mailed out.

A total of 2,700 ballots were printed for the Vienna Town Election to allocate for 24% of the active, registered voters in the Town of Vienna.

A contract with KnowInk for an election night results reporting function has been signed with an internal test scheduled for the June Primary. Full implementation is expected in November, however, as a back-up, the results call-in system will still be utilized. Once the new version of the PollPad application is certified by the Virginia Department of Elections (ELECT), this new function will allow election officials in the precincts to enter their results. This information will then be reviewed by appropriate staff before it is published to a public site. Mr. Hunt asked Mr. Potter if he expects approval of this new version of the PollPad. Mr. Potter responded that if an independent, third-party reviewer approves it, ELECT will certify the new version.

Beginning in April and extending through October, staff will host a table on Saturday from 10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. at Sherwood Hall Regional Library to conduct voter registration/confirmation, accept absentee ballot requests, and provide photo ID. Ms. Hanley asked Mr. Scott if Senator Surovell was informed of this event. Mr. Scott replied that the Office of Elections did not reach out to Senator Surovell because the event originated with the library. Ms. Hanley expressed gratitude to the Fairfax County Public Library System for initiating the request for this event, as well as for agreeing to allow the Herndon Fortnightly Library to serve as the satellite location for the special elections in January and February. Ms. Lawton added that additional thanks should be added for the use of Martha Washington Library as it will serve as the temporary relocation for Belleview precinct while Belle View Elementary school undergoes renovation. Mr. Hunt then relayed a concern that had been brought to his attention about the potential lack of parking at the Martha Washington Library. Mr. Scott replied that additional signage will be provided to direct voters to overflow parking at the Mount Vernon Recreation Center. Ms. Hanley added that the van pool parking spots in front of the library may also be used for reserved voter parking.

There was no Chairman's report.

Under the Vice Chairman's report, Ms. Lawton and Mr. Scott accepted an invitation to give a presentation to the Rotary Club of Fairfax about elections in Fairfax County. Ms. Lawton praised Mr. Scott for a masterful and insightful performance.

Under the Secretary's report, Ms. Hanley attended the annual Virginia Electoral Board Association (VEBA) meeting with Ms. Lawton. She stated that the following members were appointed as the new State Board; Robert Brink, Chairman; John O'Bannon, Vice Chairman; and Jamilah LeCruise, Secretary. Additionally, she reported that today was the deadline for candidates to file the required documentation to run for various offices in the June primary. Ms. Hanley opined that the filing process is too complicated and should be made simpler and more uniform. She also noted that the Republicans called for an open primary for supervisor in Springfield District, however, there is currently only one candidate who has filed. The parties' deadline to certify qualified candidates is Tuesday, April 2, 2019.

There was no Old Business.

Under New Business, Mr. Spicer presented the Resource Allocation for the May 7, 2019, Vienna Town Election (attached and made a part of this record). Ten EOs will be

assigned, including 6 PollPads, 2 ExpressVote machines, and 2 DS200 scanners. All voting will be held in the Vienna Community Center.

Ms. Hanley remarked that if there is no dual primary in June but rather a county-wide Democratic primary, preliminary projections indicate a need for approximately 1800 Democratic EOs. Currently, approximately 1200 Democratic EOs and 300 Independents have confirmed availability, leaving a gap of 200-300. The staffing plan going forward will be to assign only Democratic chief and assistant chief EOs; remaining Democrats will be assigned as EOs; Independents will then be utilized. Any remaining openings will be filled with Republican election officers. This plan will be reviewed at the May 8, 2019, Canvass and Board Meeting.

Under Public Comments, Mr. Schäffer asked the Board if they had chosen a date to determine ballot order for candidates filing simultaneously. Mr. Scott answered that the Va. Code 24.2-527 instructs that party chairman must certify the order, date, and time that the candidates submitted their filing, and as such, there should be no “tie.” Mr. Schäffer then inquired about in-person absentee voting on Saturday, June 8, because Celebrate Fairfax will be held at the Fairfax County Government Center. Mr. Scott responded that the satellites will be open on June 8, and the Government Center will also be open on Saturday, June 1.

Mr. Hunt moved that the Board enter into a Closed Session for the purpose of discussing specific personnel matters, as permitted by Va. Code § 2.2-3711(A)(1). Without objection, and by a vote of 3-0, the Board entered into Closed Session at 5:36 p.m.

At 6:12 p.m. the Board concluded the Closed Session. Chairman Hunt read the following statement:

“In accordance with *Virginia Code* § 2.2-3712(D), I am asking the Secretary of the Electoral Board to conduct a roll call vote to certify that to the best of each member’s knowledge that (i) only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements of the Virginia Freedom of Information Act were conducted in the closed meeting and (ii) only such public business as was identified in the motion for the closed meeting, by which the closed meeting was convened, was heard, discussed or considered in the closed meeting of the Electoral Board. That roll call vote shall be recorded and included in the minutes of the Electoral Board.”

Secretary Hanley then called the roll for the vote on the above statement:

Voting Yes:	Chairman Hunt
	Vice Chairman Lawton
	Secretary Hanley

There being no further business, Ms. Lawton moved to adjourn. The motion carried, and without objection, the meeting was adjourned at 6:16 p.m.

Attachments

Stephen M. Hunt, Chairman

Bettina M. Lawton, Vice Chairman

Katherine K. Hanley, Secretary