

MINUTES
Fairfax County Electoral Board
March 4, 2020

The Fairfax County Electoral Board (Board) met at 9:00 a.m. on Wednesday, March 4, 2020, in Conference Rooms 2 and 3 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 Democratic Presidential Primary Election held on March 3, 2020. Chairman Stephen M. Hunt, Vice Chairman Bettina M. Lawton, Secretary Katherine K. Hanley, General Registrar Gary D. Scott, Election Manager Eric Spicer, 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.

Mr. Hunt called the Canvass to order at 9:00 a.m., introduced the Board, and welcomed the Canvass workers. He thanked all the election officials for their outstanding effort in conducting a seamless election from start to finish.

The Board then unsealed Conference Room 315 containing the election materials. The provisional ballots were given to the General Registrar for research purposes.

Staff reported that there will be over 500 provisional ballots to adjudicate, with 80 voters casting provisional ballots because they did not have an acceptable form of photo ID.

Mr. Spicer reviewed the County's emergency evacuation plan for the Canvass. All of the statement of results (SORs) will be double-checked after the first Canvass team's examination. Corrections to the SORs should be made in red and initialed by the Canvass team and brought to the immediate attention of Mr. Spicer. Any election materials with missing signatures must be placed in the envelope provided for that precinct. The new blue call-sheet must also be checked along with the yellow call-in sheet against the Statement of Results and the machine tapes. Any issues or problems regarding the Canvass should be brought to the Board.

Mr. Hunt asked for approval of the Draft Minutes of the Electoral Board meeting held on February 20, 2020. By a vote of 3-0, the February 20, 2020, Minutes were adopted.

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

At 12:00 p.m. the Electoral Board convened the provisional part of the canvass as required by Va. Code § 24.2-653 to allow voters casting provisional ballots in the March 3, 2020, Democratic Party Presidential Primary 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 and no authorized representatives present. Mr. Hunt recessed this provisional meeting subject to the call of the chair.

The Canvass teams recessed for lunch at 12:00 p.m. Conference Rooms 2 and 3 were then locked. At 1:00 p.m. the conference rooms were reopened, and the Canvass resumed.

At 3:30 p.m. the Canvass concluded for all 243 precincts, as well as the Central Absentee Precinct (CAP). Staff reported that there will be **577** provisional ballots to adjudicate.

Mr. Hunt moved that the Board enter into 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(B). The motion passed by a vote of 3-0 and the Board moved into Closed Session at 3:38 p.m. There were no authorized representatives present. **One** voter presented information regarding his/her provisional ballot.

At 3:50 p.m. the Board concluded the Closed Session. Mr. Hunt 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.

At 3:51 p.m. Mr. Hunt recessed the Canvass. The Provisional Ballot Meeting will reconvene at 1:00 p.m. on Friday, March 6, 2020.

Friday, March 6, 2020
Reconvened Provisional Ballot Meeting

At 1:01 p.m. in Conference Room 315, the Electoral Board reconvened the provisional part of the canvass as required by Va. Code § 24.2-653 to allow voters casting provisional ballots in the March 3, 2020, Democratic Party Presidential Primary 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 authorized representatives present.

Mr. Hunt moved that the Board enter into 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(B). The motion passed by a vote of 3-0 and the Board moved into Closed Session at 1:02 p.m.

At 1:31 p.m. the Board concluded the Closed Session. Mr. Hunt 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.

Mr. Hunt moved that **173** out of the 577 Provisional Ballots entered as recommended on the Master Provisional Ballot Log be **qualified** for the reasons determined by a majority vote of the Electoral Board. The Provisional Ballot Log shall be retained and incorporated into the Minutes of the Canvass for the March 3, 2020, Democratic Party Presidential Primary Election. The motion passed by a vote of 3-0.

Mr. Hunt moved that **404** out of the 577 Provisional Ballots entered as rejected on the Master Provisional Ballot Log be **disqualified** for the reasons determined by a majority vote of the Electoral Board. The Provisional Ballot Log shall be retained and incorporated into the Minutes of the Canvass of the March 3, 2020, Democratic Party Presidential Primary Election. The motion passed by a vote of 3-0.

Reporting by Congressional District as follows:

- 1) 8th Congressional District – 52 qualified, 137 disqualified
- 2) 10th Congressional District – 41 qualified, 58 disqualified
- 3) 11th Congressional District – 80 qualified, 209 disqualified

The Board approved a total of **173** provisional ballots on Friday, March 6, 2020.

The Board then opened and scanned the qualified provisional ballots. The Board completed the Statement of Results for the 8th, 10th, and 11th Congressional Districts.

The Board then certified the election results for the March 3, 2020, Democratic Party Presidential Primary Election, and signed the abstracts. All paperwork was submitted to the Department of Elections on Friday, March 6, 2020.

Mr. Scott reported that approximately 600 absentee ballots were received after the 7:00 p.m. March 3, 2020, deadline. The Board discussed the implications of legislation, including the extension of the date to return absentee ballots as well as same day voter registration, that may create difficulties in completing the canvass within the seven-day time frame required by Virginia Code.

Ms. Lawton moved that there being no further business, the Board conclude the March 3, 2020, Democratic Party Presidential Primary Election. By a vote of 3-0, and without objection, the Board adjourned at 3:39 p.m.

Attachments

Stephen M. Hunt, Chairman

Bettina M. Lawton, Vice Chairman

Katherine K. Hanley, Secretary