



County of Fairfax, Virginia

GENERAL REGISTRAR'S REPORT

DATE: February 28, 2024

TO: Hon. Katherine K. Hanley, Chairman of the Fairfax County Electoral Board
Jeffrey K. Shapiro, Vice Chairman of the Fairfax County Electoral Board
Amb. (ret.) Christopher Henzel, Secretary of the Fairfax County Electoral Board

FROM: Eric L. Spicer, General Registrar and Director of the Office of Elections

CC: Beth Dixon Methfessel, Clerk to the Electoral Board
Office of Elections – All staff

SUBJECT: General Registrar's Report for the February 29, 2024 Electoral Board Meeting

Voter Registration

Registered Voters	As of February 26, 2024	Change from 1/16
Active registered voters	727,329	+3,498
Inactive registered voters	66,243	-703
TOTAL	793,572	+2,795

Registration Transactions	January 2024 (1/1 to 1/31)	Year-to-Date 2024 (1/1 to 1/31)
DMV online voter registration transactions	15,460	15,460
Web voter registration transactions	1,980	1,980
Third-party voter transactions	568	568
Other voter registration transactions	1,251	1,251
TOTAL	19,259	19,259

Voter Cancellations	January 2024 (1/1 to 1/31)	Year-to-Date 2024 (1/1 to 1/31)
Deceased	482	482
Out-of-state	260	260
Other	68	68
TOTAL	810	810

Breakdown of DMV Transactions	January 2024 (1/1 to 1/31)
Change of Address	2,444
New Registrant	2,996
Transferred In	1,183
Administrative Duplicate Match	4,299
Name and/or Address Change	242
Other (Includes voters who moved out of Fairfax County, moved out of the state, were reactivated, or identified themselves as non-citizens)	4,296
Total DMV Transactions	15,460

Greenspring Polling Place Relocation

On December 5, 2023, the Board of Supervisors approved the permanent relocation of the polling place for Greenspring precinct to Village Square. When we received approval from the Attorney General’s office on February 5, we mailed a notice to voters in Greenspring precinct (this is the same location assigned temporarily for the last two elections).

Name Change from Oak Marr to Oakmont Recreation Center

We recently learned that the name of the Oak Marr Recreation Center, polling place for Island Pond precinct, changed to the Oakmont Recreation Center in November. After consulting with our attorneys, we determined this does not require us to notify voters because the Park Authority made this name change and no action was taken by the Board of Supervisors. Additionally, the new name is very similar to the retired one. We have updated the name in VERIS and we will change the name in our election documents. Island Pond precinct contains 188 voters.

Same Day Registration

We began accepting Same Day Registration (SDR) applications for the current election on February 13. As of February 26, we had received 16 SDR applications and accompanying provisional ballots.

We will have an SDR specialist at every polling place on Election Day. These individuals will be thoroughly trained on the SDR and provisional process.



Absentee by Mail Requests for March 2024 Election

As of February 26, we have approved 39,723 absentee ballot applications for the March 2024 Democratic Presidential Primary Election. This includes 38,131 permanent applications, 607 applications from overseas and military voters, and 985 one-time applications.

As of February 26, we have approved 8,963 absentee ballot applications for the March 2024 Republican Presidential Primary Election. This includes 8,010 permanent applications, 233 applications from overseas and military voters, and 720 one-time applications.

Note that to receive a ballot for primary elections, a permanent absentee voter needs to have indicated on their application they would like to vote in primary elections and chosen a specific party's election.

Returned Undeliverable Absentee Envelopes

As of February 26, 1,057 absentee mail ballots have been returned by the USPS to our office as undeliverable. The receipt of an undeliverable ballot is noted in the voter's record in VERIS and the returned envelope is processed in the same way as other undeliverable mail.

New Absentee by Mail Return Envelope

The statutory requirement that removed the witness requirement on the "statement of absentee voter" on absentee ballot envelopes and replaced it with the last four digits of the voter's Social Security number and year of birth has added to the overall expense of absentee voting.

To comply with the new law, we redesigned the return absentee ballot envelope and added a perforated security flap to protect the voter's sensitive information. This significantly increased the price of each envelope.

Additionally, because the security flap needs to be removed and the accuracy of the SSN and year of birth confirmed by individually checking the voter's record in VERIS prior to recording its receipt, the time required to process returned ballot envelopes has doubled.

There was concern that the security flap would not arrive intact at the office after going through the postal system, however we're pleased to report that this has not been the case.



In-Person Absentee Voting

As of February 26, 2,084 individuals voted absentee in person for the Democratic Presidential Primary Election and 2,589 for the Republican Presidential Primary Election, for a total of 4,673 ballots. An additional 13 locations opened on Saturday, February 24. All locations will be open through Saturday, March 2.

Logic and Accuracy Testing for March 2024 Election

- All Precincts and Early Voting sites completed as of February 9
- DS850's completed as of February 7
- All voter machines officially completed as of February 9

IT Team L&A:

- Early Voting Electronic Pollbook L&A took place January 11
- Early Voting Ballot on Demand L&A took place January 30
- Election Day Electronic Pollbook L&A will take place March 3 at 9:00 a.m. in room 251

Election Officers for Election Day

We have assigned and confirmed 2,050 election officers across all 265 precincts and are in the process of filling daily cancellations with replacements. All chief officers represent the Republican Party, and all assistant chief officers represent the Democratic Party, with sufficient reserves to ensure that this balance remains through Election Day. We have approximately 700 Republican election officers, 1,050 Democratic election officers, and 300 unaffiliated election officers assigned to the Election Day polling places. We continually strive to achieve party balance, and have greatly increased our recruiting efforts to meet this requirement.

On Thursday, February 22, we conducted a mandatory online briefing for all chiefs and assistant chiefs to cover critical information ahead of Election Day. They were required to either watch live or watch a recording, as well as complete a quiz afterwards.

Election Officer Training

We have hosted many in-person training classes for this election, including workshops for chiefs and SDR specialists, and equipment practice sessions for first-time officers. In addition, we are offering open houses to provide optional opportunities for additional practice, including one for chiefs and assistant chiefs on Tuesday, February 27 and one for all election officers on Thursday, February 29. More than 850 officers have attended in-person training for this election or are enrolled in an upcoming open house.



Office Personnel

Sherry Kirk, who has been a non-merit employee in the Voter Services/SDR Division for three years, successfully competed for the Administrative Assistant V, Voter Services/SDR Assistant Manager position, effective February 10. This new position was created by reclassifying an existing position.

Sarah Prowitt, a new County hire formerly employed as the Program Manager: Compliance, Outreach and Policy for DC Health, started on February 26 in the Communications Specialist III position (Division Chief of Communications). This new position was created last year by reallocating an Administrative Division Chief position that was at the same level.

Lisa Hogle, who served as an Administrative Assistant IV for eight years in the Absentee Mail Division, successfully competed for the Management Analyst I, Candidate Services Manager position under the Voter Services/SDR Division, effective March 9. This new position was created by reallocating an existing position at the same level.

FOIA

We have received three VFOIA requests and three NVRA requests since the January Board meeting. We received a total of four VFOIA and five NVRA requests between January 1 and February 26.

RFID Chain of Custody Program

We are in the process of replacing our barcode inventory system with one that uses an RFID tracking system. We initially planned for a March rollout, but supply chain issues delayed the project start. With all equipment now delivered, our vendor has been onsite to witness our L&A process. We have imported our data and are on track to roll out the new system for June.

