

MINUTES
Fairfax County Electoral Board
June 10, 2024

The Fairfax County Electoral Board (Board) met on Monday, June 10, 2024, in Conference Room 315 at the Fairfax County Government Center located at 12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax. Chairman Hon. Katherine K. Hanley; Vice Chairman Jeffrey K. Shapiro; Secretary Amb. (ret.) Christopher P. Henzel; General Registrar Eric L. Spicer; Deputy Director Cheryl Jones; and Clerk to the Electoral Board Beth Dixon Methfessel were present.

IT Manager Cord Whitehouse; Election Manager Ravi Udeshi; Deputy Registrar for Voter Registration Bushra Ardan; Deputy Registrar for Absentee Voting Sean Stewart; Deputy Registrar for Voter Satellite Offices Florence Brown; Voting Equipment and Logistics Manager Tyrone Allen; Training and Operations Manager Sean Rogers; Election Officer Manager Gretchen Coleman; Communications Manager Sarah Prowitt; Supply Manager Kay Garrison; Ann Hines (Office of Elections (Office) staff); Christine Brim (Fairfax County Republican Committee (FCRC) Election Integrity Task Force); Patricia O'Brien (member FCRC); and Judith Helein, Maggi Luca, and Sandi Middleton (League of Women Voters (LWV) – Fairfax).

The following individuals participated using the Zoom videoconferencing platform: Human Resources Manager Yoon Choi-Lee; IT Business Analyst George Panagakos; FOIA Coordinator Pat Ferguson; Financial Specialist Teresa Maza; Office staff and/or rovers Nazila Arefi, Lisa Hogle, Kathryn Martin, Lateef Owodunni, Abigale Peters, Norma Rengel, Jerald Taylor, and Bill Turley; Peggy Morrison (Fairfax County Democratic Committee (FCDC) Voter Registration and Education); Stephen Spitz (member FCDC); and Mark Lenz (Fairfax County election officer and/or resident of Fairfax County or neighboring jurisdictions).

Ms. Hanley called the meeting to order at 12:00 p.m. and introduced the Board. Mr. Henzel moved approval of the agenda, and the motion passed by a vote of 3-0.

Mr. Henzel moved to adopt the Draft Minutes of the Board meeting held on May 13, 2024. By a vote of 3-0, the Minutes of the Board meeting held on May 13, 2024, were adopted.

Mr. Henzel made a motion to appoint 119 election officers (EO) (48 Democrats, 30 Republicans, and 41 Unaffiliated) for a term ending February 28, 2025. Henzel commended the efforts of the Office to achieve partisan balance. Although parity might not be achieved, Mr. Henzel commented that it is the right thing to do as well as being required by law. The motion passed by a vote of 3-0.

Under the General Registrar's (GR) report dated June 8, 2024 (attached and made a part of this record), Mr. Spicer used a new format to update the voter registration numbers since the last Electoral Board meeting. As requested by the Board at the May 13, 2024, meeting, Mr. Spicer included Attachment A to explain the changes in the number of active and inactive registered voters, as well as the information on new voter registrations. He also

provided an Attachment B to outline the sources of information on voter registration transactions (both attachments are attached and made a part of this record).

Voter Registration

Registered Voters	As of 5/1	As of 5/31	Change from 4/30
Active Registered Voters	734,694	736,453	+ 1,759
Inactive Registered Voters	64,856	64,429	- 427
Total	799,550	800,882	+ 1,332

Active Voter Registration Subtractions (Cancellations and Transfers Out)	5/1 – 5/31	Year-to-Date 2024 (1/1 to 5/31)
Deceased (multiple sources) ¹	383	2,025
Out-of-State (multiple sources) ²	404	1,416
Declared Non-Citizen (from ELECT)	26	136
Declared Mentally Incapacitated (from Court)	8	23
Felony Conviction (from ELECT)	13	95
Voter Request (paper form from voter)	29	142
Transfer Out to Another Jurisdiction in VA	1,433	7,097
Other Subtractions (administrative error, other)	0	25
Total Cancellations and Transfers	2,296	10,959

Active Voter Registration Additions	5/1 – 5/31	Year-to-Date 2024 (1/1 to 5/31)
New Voter Registrations (multiple sources)	2,495	16,077
Transfer In from Another Jurisdiction in VA	1,159	5,840
Other Additions (reactivated, reinstated, other)	401	2,100
Total	4,055	24,017

Voter Registration Transactions³ (includes transactions that result in additions, subtractions, and no change)	5/1 – 5/31	Year-to-Date 2024 (1/1 to 5/31)
Online DMV (from ELECT)	16,509	79,946
Online Citizen Portal (from ELECT)	1,529	9,129
Online Third-Party DMV Verified (from ELECT)	76	637

Va. Paper Form Third Party (delivered to the office)	315	3,002
Va. Paper Form In-Person (office walk-ins, new citizen ceremonies, at polling locations)	58	753
Va. Paper Form by Mail (delivered to the office)	203	1,361
Federal Post Card Application (multiple sources)	136	718
National (EAC) Paper Form (delivered to the office)	63	262
Same Day Registration (office or voting locations)	6	1,072

¹ Deceased (multiple sources) includes: Bureau of Vital Statistics through ELECT, Report of Death information provided by relative, Death Certificate provided, and General Registrar Report of Death created based on an obituary

² Out-of-State (multiple sources) includes: DMV, State mail, NCOA, and other voter registration update forms

³ All categories include: new voter registrations, change of address, change of name, voter cancellations (including out of state), and duplicates (no change of data)

Mr. Henzel asked that any spike in a category of registration be brought to the attention of the Board. Mr. Henzel asked that other than the LWV, what other groups submit voter registration applications. Ms. Jones responded that high school voter registration drives are another source of paper voter registration applications. Any third-party group cannot take more than 25 applications; however, nothing stops a group from making photocopies of the application. Mr. Shapiro applauded the new organization of the data as more transparent, easier to understand, and he appreciated the effort to improve the format.

Ms. Hanley distributed the Governor’s Executive Order issued on June 7, 2024, (attached and made a part of this record) establishing multi-agency data sharing protocols with respect to voter list maintenance. She remarked that this much-needed, and long-anticipated action finally extends the responsibility for list maintenance to multiple state agencies. Now numerous sources will be required to cooperate and provide data to the statewide voter registration system. Mr. Shapiro asked that the record reflect that Mr. Spicer’s initiative on reporting was issued prior to the Governor’s Executive Order.

Due to extensive damage caused by a fire at St. John’s United Methodist Church. the assigned polling place for Edsall precinct, this polling place will temporarily relocate to Poe Middle School, 7000 Cindy Lane, Annandale for the June 18 primary elections. A post card was mailed to the voters of Edsall precinct to inform them of the relocation, and notices are posted on the Office website. This is an emergency relocation; the polling place will return to the church for the November election.

As of June 5, 8,679 absentee ballot applications were approved for the June 2024 Republican primary election. This includes 8,155 permanent applications, 281 applications from overseas and military voters, and 243 one-time applications. As of June 5, 28,020 absentee ballot applications were approved for the June 2024 Democratic primary election.

This includes 26,910 permanent applications, 607 applications from overseas and military voters, and 503 one-time applications.

On May 3, the remaining voter satellite offices opened. As of June 5, 914 individuals voted in-person in the Republican primary election and 2,194 individuals voted in-person in the Democratic primary election. Remarking on the low turnout for this election, Mr. Henzel reflected that after this election cycle he would like to discuss the number of satellites that are opened early [in advance of the election]. He pointed out that the County bears the cost of paying the election officers when some of the locations aren't utilized in the beginning of the early voting period. Mr. Shapiro agreed that this should be discussed and added that in addition to the expense, the volunteers serving as poll watchers must devote additional time to cover the longer early voting period. Ms. Hanley commented that the June 2024 primaries are not reflective of the turnout expected in November. She pointed out that in 2020, 187,000 voters, almost 1/3 of the electorate in Fairfax County, voted early. She added that the law requires the same opportunities for early voting be afforded equally across the county. The Board agreed to revisit this issue after the November 2024 election.

Election officer assignments for early voting locations have been completed. There are currently 168 officers assigned across 15 locations, plus the Fairfax County Government Center. These include 76 Republican officers, 74 Democratic officers, and 18 unaffiliated officers.

On primary day, all Chief officers will represent the Republican party, and all Assistant Chief officers will represent the Democratic party. There are 1,890 election officers assigned and confirmed across all 265 precincts. In the 10th and 11th Congressional districts, where there is a dual-party primary, all 183 Chiefs are Republican officers, and all 183 Assistant Chiefs are Democratic officers. In the 8th Congressional district, where there is a single-party Republican primary, all 82 Chiefs and all 82 Assistant Chiefs are Republican officers. We have approximately 700 Republican election officers, 850 Democratic election officers, and 340 unaffiliated election officers assigned to the election day polling places.

Over the past six weeks, the Office offered numerous in-person training opportunities for election officers, including workshops for Chiefs and SDR Specialists and in-person training classes for new officers. An open house for Chief and Assistant Chief election officers will be held on Tuesday, June 11 to provide an opportunity to ask questions one-on-one and provide more hands-on practice with forms, equipment, and supplies.

The status of the Logic and Accuracy Testing for the June primary election:

- Early Voting Locations (DS200's & EVs): Completed
- Early Voting Pollbook Testing: Completed
- Ballot on Demand (BOD) Equipment: Completed
- Precinct Locations (DS200's & EVs): Completed
- DS850s: Completed
- Poll Pads for Election Day: June 16, beginning at 9:00 am (Fairfax County Government Center, 12000 Government Center Pkwy, Fairfax, VA, 22035, Suite 251)

Communications and Outreach continues to partner with the Office of Public Affairs and Fairfax County's Channel 16, and the following accurate and timely information was disseminated in May:

- A News Center article about the additional 13 early voting sites opening June 8-15
- Tweets about vote by mail, accessible voting, etc.
- An 'Around Fairfax' video, posted to YouTube and our website, with important information for the upcoming June 18 primaries

Under the Chairman's report, Ms. Hanley expressed her sorrow over the passing of Rosemary Walsh. She worked in the Office for almost ten years and was preparing to serve as the Chief of the early voting satellite office at the Jim Scott Community Center. Ms. Hanley said, "She was very valuable to the Office, and we will miss her."

Ms. Hanley also reported that the Office of Elections won Honorable Mention from the Election Assistance Commission National Clearinghouse for the submission of *Building an Interactive Poll Worker Portal Using No-Code Tools* submitted by Ravi Udeshi and Jean Thoensen. The Board applauded their achievement.

There were no Vice Chairman's or Secretary's reports.

Under New Business, Ms. Hanley explained that the policies for All-Virtual Public Meetings and for the Remote Participation of Members need to be amended and readopted. These policies will reflect changes in the laws effective on July 1, 2024. Ms. Hanley passed the gavel to Mr. Shapiro to make the following motions.

Ms. Hanley moved that, pursuant to Section 2.2-3708.2 of the Code of Virginia, the Electoral Board amend and readopt its POLICY FOR THE REMOTE PARTICIPATION OF MEMBERS as reflected in the draft distributed with the Board documents for this meeting. This policy will be in effect beginning July 1, 2024. The motion passed by a vote of 3-0.

Ms. Hanley moved that, pursuant to Section 2.2-3708.3 of the Code of Virginia, the Electoral Board amend and readopt its POLICY FOR ALL-VIRTUAL PUBLIC MEETINGS as reflected in the draft distributed with the Board documents for this meeting. This policy will be in effect beginning July 1, 2024. The motion passed by a vote of 3-0.

Under Public Comments, Ms. Hanley reminded the public that comments are limited to three minutes. The Board may provide the information; however, if more research is required, the Board may defer an answer. The Board may also request a written submission of the comment or inquiry.

Ms. Middleton expressed excitement over the outreach program information. She asked if the Outreach team is developing future events or if they will join other groups to support their efforts. Ms. Prowitt responded that this is a building year for outreach, and as such, the team hopes to partner with various stakeholders (senior centers, George Mason, Fairfax County Public Schools) to support their voter registration outreach efforts.

Mr. Henzel moved to adjourn. The motion carried, and without objection, the meeting was adjourned at 12:48p.m.

Attachments

Hon. Katherine K. Hanley, Chairman

Jeffrey K. Shapiro, Vice Chairman

Amb. (ret.) Christopher P. Henzel, Secretary