County of Fairfax, Virginia

GENERAL REGISTRAR'S REPORT

DATE: September 12, 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 September 16, 2024, Electoral Board Meeting

Voter Registration

Registered Voters	As of 8/1	As of 8/31	Change from 7/31
Active Registered Voters	723,604	729,179	+5,575
Inactive Registered Voters	81,087	79,015	-2,072
Total	**804,691**	**808,194**	**+3,503**

Active Voter Registration Subtractions (Cancellations and Transfers Out)	8/1 – 8/31	Year-to-Date 2024 (1/1 to 8/31)
Deceased (multiple sources)[1]	472	3,583
Out-of-State (multiple sources)[2]	522	4,551
Declared Non-Citizen (from ELECT)	28	210
Declared Mentally Incapacitated (from Court)	3	38
Felony Conviction (from ELECT)	15	119
Voter Request (paper form from voter)	61	284
Transfer Out to Another Jurisdiction in VA	2,979	13,814
Other Subtractions (administrative error, other)	12	49
Total Cancellations and Transfers	**4,092**	**22,648**

Active Voter Registration Additions	8/1 – 8/31	Year-to-Date 2024 (1/1 to 8/31)
New Voter Registrations (multiple sources)	5,295	29,035
Transfer In from Another Jurisdiction in VA	2,269	11,804
Other Additions (reactivated, reinstated, other)	2,103	5,883
Total	**9,667**	**46,722**

Voter Registration Transactions[3] (includes transactions that result in additions, subtractions, and no change)	8/1 – 8/31	Year-to-Date 2024 (1/1 to 8/31)
Online DMV (from ELECT)	25,295	148,454
Online Citizen Portal (from ELECT)	7,851	25,832
Online Third-Party DMV Verified (from ELECT)	406	1,703
Va. Paper Form Third Party (delivered to the office)	308	3,747
Va. Paper Form In-Person (office walk-ins, new citizen ceremonies, at polling locations)	328	1,420
Va. Paper Form By Mail (delivered to the office)	475	2,440
Federal Post Card Application (multiple sources)	1,476	3,201
National (EAC) Paper Form (delivered to the office)	108	544
Same Day Registration (office or voting locations)	0	1,301
Others (voter card, confirmation notice, update form)	348	2,382
Public Assistance, Disability Offices	1	9
Discretionary Agencies (BVS, NTIS, Social Security Administration)	554	4,537

[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)

Polling Place Consolidation/Name Changes

After receiving the Certification of No Objection from the Attorney General on August 20, 2024, staff published the consolidation of Hummer and Woodburn precincts, as well as the change in the polling place for Greenspring precinct from Village Square to the Conference Center. All voters affected by these changes have been sent the required notification. Signs in four languages will be posted at Fred Packard Center and Village Square (Hummer and Greenspring's retired polling places, respectively). Additionally, the Gerry Hyland Governmental Center was removed as a voter satellite office.

Ballots for November 2024 General and Special Elections

Our ballots were approved by ELECT on September 7. The ballot creation and approval process were delayed by the appeal process for an individual who initially did not qualify as a presidential candidate. Mr. Cornel West was added to the ballot on September 6 and we submitted our revised ballots to ELECT that evening for approval. Sample Ballots are posted on our website.

Sample Ballot Mailing

The sample ballot brochure is at the printer, so we expect it to be mailed this week to active voters. The brochure informs voters in four languages of their precinct name and polling location, early voting schedule and locations, and information on the three ways they can vote – by mail, early in person, or on Election Day.

After the brochure is sent, the printer will mail our address confirmation form to the voters who appear on the NCOA list that the USPS furnishes immediately. This will allow us to cancel the Fairfax County registration of voters who inform us that have moved out of the county, or update addresses of voters who moved within the county. Undeliverable brochures will be returned to the office and treated as normal undeliverable mail.

2024 General and Special Elections - Absentee by Mail Requests

As of September 11, we approved 77,726 absentee ballot applications for the November 2024 General and Special Elections. This includes 61,244 permanent applications, 4,902 applications from overseas and military voters, and 11,580 one-time applications.

2024 General and Special Elections – Absentee Voting at Satellites

We are ready for the start of in-person absentee voting on September 20 at the Fairfax County Government Center and the Mount Vernon and North County Governmental Centers. We've made a number of improvements, particularly at the Government Center, in preparation for high voter

turnout. At the Government Center, early voting will take place in Room 251, a significantly larger space than Rooms 2/3 in the Conference Center.

A line optimization/wait time model developed by MIT helped us determine the proper mix of check-in and marking stations. At Government Center, for example, we doubled the number of check-in stations to eight and increased the number of marking stations to 36.

We applied the same model to the other early voting locations and made similar changes to optimize the smaller room sizes.

To improve the voter's experience, the early voting locations periodically will collect wait time data that will be published on the website and give voters near real-time information on how quickly the lines are moving at each location.

Page Program

The 2024 Page Program continues to receive applications at a robust rate. Over 500 students have applied from 32 area high schools, including private high schools and homeschool. Applications received by Friday, September 13 will receive priority in the assignment process. The deadline to submit an application is Monday, September 30. A live Zoom will be held on Tuesday, October 1, from 5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. Each applicant must pass a quiz covering the training materials with a score of 100%. The training will be recorded for those unable to attend the live Zoom. All training requirements must be completed by Sunday, October 6 before an assignment will be emailed. Election Day assignments will be emailed after Friday, October 11.

Logic & Accuracy Testing

Due to delays by the Virginia Department of Elections in certifying qualified presidential candidates, dates for some logic & accuracy testing activities have been adjusted.

Pursuant to Virginia Administrative Code 20-60-70, the Poll Pads to be used for early voting at the Fairfax County Government Center and all voter satellite offices will now be tested and prepared on September 17-18, 2024.

Pursuant to Virginia Code § 24.2-633, the ballot-on-demand systems to be used for early voting at the Fairfax County Government Center and two additional 45-day voter satellite offices will now be tested and prepared September 12-18, 2024.

Pursuant to Virginia Code § 24.2-633, the voting equipment to be used at the Fairfax County Government Center and all voter satellite offices will now be tested and prepared September 12-18, 2024.

Election Officers

We are in the process of assigning approximately 3,700 election officers to serve in precincts on Election Day. We began notifying officers of their assignments on Tuesday, September 10 and are now making assignments on a rolling basis. In accordance with the Code of Virginia and Electoral Board policy, we have confirmed Chief election officers representing the Republican Party and Assistant Chief officers representing the Democratic Party in every precinct. We are working toward party balance among other election officers in the precincts.

As of the priority deadline on Friday, September 13, we have received over 1,300 applications to serve in this election. We are now prioritizing new officers to fill specific geographic needs and to meet party balance. The final deadline to apply is Tuesday, October 15.

Election Officer Training

To date, we have offered over 40 in-person training opportunities and have had over 1,000 election officers attend either a New Election Officer Class or a Provisional Specialist Workshop.

Across our multiple online class offerings, approximately 600 election officers have completed more than 1,000 on-demand online classes.

Workshops for Chiefs and Assistant Chiefs begin on Monday, September 23 and will continue through October. Across our various in-person classes, we are offering a balanced schedule to provide options for election officers to enroll in class sections on evenings or Saturdays on most weeks, with varied class types for officers with different assignments. We will be able to accommodate up to 4,000 election officers for an in-person class offering this election season.

Between now and Election Day, we are offering over 70 training opportunities, including in-person classes, open houses, and scheduled briefings with different target audiences of election officers based on their assignment:

- Election Officer Open House – Saturday, September 28
- Election Officer Open House – Friday, October 11
- Election Officer Open House – Saturday, October 12
- Chief Open House – Wednesday, October 23
- Chief Open House – Thursday, October 24

- De-escalation Techniques Webinar, in partnership with CISA – Tuesday, October 1
- Provisional Briefing – Tuesday, October 15
- Chiefs Briefing – Tuesday, October 22
- Election Officer Briefing – Tuesday, October 29

We hope these continued training opportunities will give our election officers confidence and familiarity with procedures to sufficiently prepare them to serve in this presidential election.

Tabletop Exercises

During two tabletop exercises, office staff learned ways to improve how we respond to a range of situations that may occur in "election season," particularly on Election Day. Four staff members attended the annual "Tabletop the Vote: National Election Exercise" hosted by the Virginia Department of Elections in partnership with the National Association of Secretaries of State (NASS) and the National Association of State Election Directors (NASED). The purpose of the tabletop exercise was to identify best practices and areas for improvement in cyber and physical incident planning, identification, response, and recovery through simulation of realistic scenarios.

Additionally, 25 office staff participated in the "2024 Region 7 Information Sharing Functional Exercise" sponsored by the Virginia Department of Emergency Management. The purpose was to test information-sharing capabilities across jurisdictions and agencies, as well as our Election Day command center's methods of addressing a range of possible issues and scenarios.

Security Preparations for Election

We are conducting an Election Security Meeting on Monday, September 16. We have invited key stakeholders from public safety and other agencies to participate in this meeting. During this meeting, we will discuss several logistical considerations, including potential security threats and issues, actions taken by the Office of Elections to minimize security threats, and actions needed of public safety agencies and other county staff to minimize security threats.

VFOIA and NVRA

We have received 8 VFOIA requests and 1 NVRA request since the August 15 Electoral Board meeting, bringing the total to 42 VFOIA and 14 NVRA requests in 2024.

Communications Division and Outreach Program

We are working closely with our OPA team to bring life to FairfaxVotes on X and other social media sites, as well as on OPA accounts in other languages. Several posts about the election and to recruit election officers have been published. Additionally, our IT Division's Todd Strelow is working with our OPA team to revamp the Office of Elections' website, to improve useability and ease of finding information. We expect the launch of the new look soon.

Absentee Ballot Manager Sean Stewart recorded two informational videos about this election in general and voting absentee. The video explaining how to complete an absentee ballot envelope is due out this week and will be posted on our website and to social media. The second video covers a range of information about this election and ways to vote. It was recorded by Channel 16 for "Around Fairfax" and is available on the Fairfax County Channel 16 YouTube channel at https://tinyurl.com/yythd9v8 and is linked to our website.

We have a team of enthusiastic, trained part-time staff who are preparing to host voting information and registration sessions at retirement communities. They have conducted voting registration for 10 new citizen ceremonies, collecting over 300 applications. However, two-thirds of the applications were from residents of other localities.

Risk Limiting Audit

In 2024, every locality in Virginia is required to participate in a Risk Limiting Audit (RLA). A risk-limiting audit is a type of post-election audit that utilizes statistical methods and a manual review of paper ballots to confirm that electronic voting systems accurately reported the correct outcome of an election. The RLA takes place after all election results have been received but before the State Board of Elections certifies the election.

There are two RLA methods used in the Commonwealth of Virginia: ballot-polling and batch-comparison:

- **Ballot-polling audits** manually review a randomly selected, sufficiently large sample of ballots to determine if the overall outcome of an election contest was correctly reported.
- **Batch-comparison** audits manually review randomly selected physical batches of ballots, such as those cast in one precinct, and compare those results with corresponding machine counts.

On September 3, 2024, the Virginia State Board of Elections voted to conduct two risk-limiting audits (RLAs) of the November 5, 2024 election.

- An RLA of the U.S. Senate election will be conducted using a ballot-polling audit. All localities will participate. This will be similar to four years ago, when a ballot-polling audit was conducted of the Presidential contest after the November 2020 election.

- An RLA of a randomly selected U.S. House of Representatives contest will be conducted using a batch-comparison audit. Fairfax County includes three congressional districts, so we have a 3 in 11 chance of being included in this RLA.

Action Items from August 2024 Electoral Board Meeting

1. Information to be posted under the "Awareness Campaign for Election Security" that is referenced in Governor Youngkin's Executive Order dated August 7, 2024.

   We contacted ELECT and determined that they are preparing this information. Commissioner Beals indicated last week that they completed the postings and were working on translations, after which the information would be distributed to localities.

2. Policy for Referring Individuals who were Removed from the Voter Rolls

   A draft policy has been prepared for referring individuals who were removed from the voter rolls, after being identified by ELECT as non-citizens, to the Commonwealth's Attorney and the Attorney General. The draft policy will be discussed by the Electoral Board during a closed session.