County of Fairfax, Virginia

GENERAL REGISTRAR'S REPORT

DATE: October 18, 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 October 21, 2024, Electoral Board Meeting

Voter Registration

Registered Voters	As of 9/1	As of 9/30	Change from 9/1
Active Registered Voters	729,179	736,718	+7,539
Inactive Registered Voters	79,015	76,610	-2,405
Total	**808,194**	**813,328**	**+5,134**

Active Voter Registration Subtractions (Cancellations and Transfers Out)	9/1 – 9/30	Year-to-Date 2024 (1/1 to 9/30)
Deceased (multiple sources)[1]	452	4,035
Out-of-State (multiple sources)[2]	226	4,777
Declared Non-Citizen (from ELECT)	254	464
Declared Mentally Incapacitated (from Court)	8	46
Felony Conviction (from ELECT)	17	136
Voter Request (paper form from voter)	121	405
Transfer Out to Another Jurisdiction in VA	3,966	17,780
Other Subtractions (administrative error, other)	15	64
Total Cancellations and Transfers	**5,059**	**27,707**

Active Voter Registration Additions	9/1 – 9/30	Year-to-Date 2024 (1/1 to 9/30)
New Voter Registrations (multiple sources)	7,295	36,330
Transfer In from Another Jurisdiction in VA	3,109	14,913
Other Additions (reactivated, reinstated, other)	2,194	8,077
Total	**12,598**	**59,320**

Voter Registration Transactions[3] (includes transactions that result in additions, subtractions, and no change)	9/1 – 9/30	Year-to-Date 2024 (1/1 to 9/30)
Online DMV (from ELECT)	23,269	171,723
Online Citizen Portal (from ELECT)	17,805	43,637
Online Third-Party DMV Verified (from ELECT)	1,572	3,275
Va. Paper Form Third Party (delivered to the office)	826	4,573
Va. Paper Form In-Person (office walk-ins, new citizen ceremonies, at polling locations)	724	2,144
Va. Paper Form by Mail (delivered to the office)	902	3,342
Federal Post Card Application (multiple sources)	2,449	5,650
National (EAC) Paper Form (delivered to the office)	115	659
Same Day Registration (office or voting locations)	0	1,301
Others (voter card, confirmation notice, update form)	271	2,653
Public Assistance, Disability Offices	1	10
Discretionary Agencies (BVS, NTIS, Social Security Administration)	711	5,248

[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

The fire damage at St. John's United Methodist Church that caused a temporary relocation of 527 Edsall's polling place for the June primaries has been repaired. Edsall voters will return to St. John's United Methodist Church for the November election.

Hummer precinct has been consolidated with Woodburn precinct with its polling place at Woodburn Elementary school.

With renovations now complete, the polling place at 426 Greenspring will be moved from Village Square to the Conference Center.

A sign in four languages directing voters to their new polling place will be posted at the polling places no longer in use.

Sample Ballot Mailing

Sample ballot brochures were mailed September 27 to active voters. Of those, 19,892 voters had submitted an address change notice (NCOA) with the post office. These voters were mailed our office's address change confirmation form to complete and email or mail to our office (addressed return envelope enclosed with the form). Registrations of voters who moved out of state and whose forms are received after the voter registration deadline ("close of books") will be cancelled after the election.

The brochures that the Post Office could not deliver for any reason are being returned to our office and are being processed in the same way as all other returned election mail.

2024 General and Special Elections - Absentee by Mail Requests

As of October 12, we approved 101,462 absentee ballot applications for the November 2024 General and Special Elections. This includes 67,108 permanent applications, 7,671 applications from overseas and military voters, and 26,603 one-time applications.

2024 General and Special Elections – Absentee Voting at Satellites

As of October 17, we had 64,825 in-person absentee voters at the Fairfax County Government Center and the Mount Vernon and North County Governmental Centers, all of which opened for voting on September 20. This compares with 30,781 in-person absentee voters during the same period in 2020 when only the Fairfax Government Center was open for voting through October 13. We had 4,569 voters on the first day of voting on September 20, compared to 1,213 voters on the first day of voting in 2020.

We were able to accommodate the increased number of voters while also minimizing lines because we made significant improvements to the process. This included opening two additional locations at Mt. Vernon and North County for the full 45-day absentee voting period, improving the curbside voting process, adding additional voting equipment and electronic pollbooks, and more than doubling the number of check-in stations and voting booths at the Fairfax County Government Center location.

Thirteen additional in-person absentee locations opened on October 17, and all 16 in-person absentee voting locations will be open through November 2, including three Saturdays and one Sunday. We had 10,381 voters on the first day of voting at all of the satellites on October 17, compared to 7,473 voters on the first day of voting for all satellites in 2020.

Page Program

Over 700 high school students, the largest number in the program's 24-year history, submitted applications for the popular Election Day Page Program. To receive an assignment, applicants were required to complete a training class and pass a quiz with a score of 100%. Beginning last week, 660 students accepted their assignment. New this year, the early voting satellite offices, including the Government Center, will also benefit from the assistance of student pages. Approximately 216 precincts (83%) will have at least one page for the upcoming election. Students who complete their assignment will receive 10 hours of service learning. Many students who participate are working to earn the Seal of Excellence in Civics Education.

Logic & Accuracy Testing

The majority of Logic & Accuracy testing activities are now complete, including for the Poll Pads being used during early voting, ballot-on-demand systems being used during early voting, voting equipment being used during early voting, voting equipment to be used on Election Day, and the high-speed absentee mail scanners.

Pursuant to Virginia Administrative Code 20-60-70, the Poll Pads to be used for Election Day will be tested and prepared on Sunday, November 3, 2024.

Election Officers

We have assigned and confirmed approximately 3,700 election officers across all 264 precincts. Approximately 100 officers have cancelled since confirming their assignment, and we anticipate an additional 200-400 cancellations. We are now in the process of filling daily cancellations to ensure precincts are fully staffed on Election Day. In accordance with Electoral Board policy, all Chief officers represent the Republican Party, and all Assistant Chief officers represent the Democratic Party. There are sufficient reserves to ensure that this remains the case through Election Day.

The last day to apply to serve as an election officer was Tuesday, October 15, and we have finished our onboarding process for new officers. We hired and onboarded over 1,300 new officers to serve in this election.

Election Officer Training

In addition to our ongoing New Election Officer Classes and Provisional Specialist Workshops, in the past few weeks we have also launched workshops aimed at our Chiefs and Assistant Chiefs – our Chiefs Workshop and our new Closing Procedures Workshop. The Chiefs Workshop focuses on unique aspects of the role, such as precinct management and non-routine voters, while the new Closing Procedures Workshop focuses on streamlining the process of closing a precinct— a task many officers have identified as particularly stressful. Feedback has been positive, and we hope these trainings help attendees feel more confident and prepared for the responsibilities of Election Day.

By Election Day, we will have offered 100 in-person classroom training opportunities and five open houses for election officers serving in any given role in the precinct. By Election Day, well over 3,100 election officers are expected to have participated in an in-person training class, workshop, or open house, and our online courses remain available on-demand at any time.

Since early October, we have also conducted several successful webinars, including our De-escalation Techniques Webinar (for all officers), our Provisional Briefing (for Provisional Specialists), and our Page Training (for high school students serving as Pages).

Upcoming events include the Chiefs Briefing on Tuesday, October 22, where we will share procedural and legal updates for Chiefs and Assistant Chiefs. We will also host an Election Officer Briefing on Tuesday, October 29, open to all officers for general updates and reminders for this election. Additionally, Chiefs and Assistant Chiefs can attend either of two open houses on Wednesday, October 23, and Thursday, October 24, where they can also collect their Chiefs Notebook.

We are confident that this comprehensive catalog of training opportunities will help our election officers approach their roles with assurance and readiness for a smooth Election Day.

VFOIA and NVRA

We have received 23 VFOIA requests and 2 NVRA requests since the September 16 Electoral Board meeting, bringing the total to 65 VFOIA and 16 NVRA requests in 2024.

Communications Division and Outreach Program

Our liaisons with OPA are frequently posting notices on social media to provide voters with information on deadlines, early voting, and absentee voting. Additionally, they created a section on the county's website home page with links for election information.

As we would expect, data about our website activity indicates voters are visiting primarily to find information on early voting. Between October 10 and October 16, the early voting web page received 24,328 visits, almost twice the number of people who voted in that time frame. 66% of the visits ended there, which would indicate visitors found the information they needed. More than 2,100 voters clicked the links on that page to locate an early voting location on Google Maps.

The short video explaining to Fairfax County college students how they can vote has been shared on social media and OPA liaisons are asking several larger universities in Virginia to share it with students. It also appears on the Office of Elections' website.

Our two outreach teams hosted voting information and registration sessions at 14 retirement communities, registering 142 residents, completing 108 absentee applications, and checking voter registration and providing other assistance for a further 111 residents.

We created a 3"x 8.5" "Scan to Register to Vote" flyer with a QR code that allows us to count the number of times it was used to access the state's Citizen Portal (for voter registration). It was distributed to libraries and used during Geroge Mason University voter registration drives. The goal is to reduce the number of paper voter registration applications we receive in the office by directing residents to the online portal to register.

Risk Limiting Audit

ELECT amended the dates for the Risk Limiting Audits:

- Senate: November 20
- House (if one of our congressional districts is selected): November 21

Office Personnel

Fily Vilasanta, who was hired in August 2020 as a temporary employee and currently works as a non-merit employee in the Absentee Mail Division, successfully competed for the Absentee Mail Voting Specialist, Administrative Assistant IV position, effective October 19, 2024.