Albemarle County Electoral Board

In-person and Virtual Meeting

December 4, 2024

Location: Albemarle County Office Building, 5th Street
Attendance: Jim Heilman, Clara Belle Wheeler, Erin Davis, Lauren Eddy, Jeania Pace, and Jonathan Gil
Guests: Rick Garnett, Bucky Walsh, Karen Juul-Nielsen, Laurie Jones, Doug Earle, Ann Brubaker, Jim Dillenbeck, and various Zoom attendees.

The meeting began at 2:02 pm.
Sylvia Flood made the following statement: Guests will have a maximum of three minutes to speak, either at the beginning or end of the meeting. The Board may waive the three-minute rule.

The agenda was unanimously approved.
The minutes for October 25, the Provisional and Canvass meetings of November 6, 8, 12, 13, 14, and 15, and the Risk-Limiting Audit of November 20 were all approved.

November 5 Post-Election Review

- Sylvia noted that the election went pretty well with just a few bumps. She said early voting helped a lot to alleviate pressure on the polling places on election day. She further noted that approximately 400 election officers worked on election day.
- Lauren said she was most worried about the technology working at the opening, but it went well.
- Clara Belle said she thought that, for the most part, things went well. She noted that we had some problems with same-day registration (particularly at University precinct) but that there were problems all over the state at college precincts.
- Lauren said that it bothered her soul that we felt we had to reject many same-day registrations.
- Clara Belle said that we need to have more complete education of the Election Officers and especially we need to improve our education for the processing of Same Day Registrations and Provisional Ballots.
- Ann asked if some of the training can be on line. Lauren noted that power point slides from our trainings were sent out to our officers.
- Rick asked about the kinds of mistakes made on provisional ballots. Discussion ensued.
- Bucky said that we need some better quality control.
- Jim Dillenbeck said that he heard that some Rio District voters received the wrong ballots in early-in-person voting. Lauren said that no one has told her that this happened and she believed that it didn't.

Polling Places. Sylvia suggested we need a "health check" of all our polling places. The need to move our Branchlands polling place was discussed. Clara Belle said she was investigating potential places. Jim said he wanted to check on availability of the two former locations we have used.

List Maintenance. Lauren reported that, after same day registrations were entered in the system, we had 90,084 registered voters.

Board Change. Sylvia reported that the Albemarle County Republican Party has not reappointed her to the Electoral Board and that this will be her last meeting. Bucky Walsh will be taking her place on the Board. Laurie expressed her thanks to Sylvia for all her hard work and her many contributions to the Board.

Staffing. Lauren announced that the office will be operating with a skeleton crew for most of December due to the extra-heavy workload staff has endured over the last few months. Clara Belle commended the staff for the "full court press" they have shown all year.

Executive Session. Sylvia moved the following: RESOLVED, that the Board enter into executive session for the purpose of discussion and consideration of the appointment, assignment, and/or performance of one or more current and prospective Albemarle County election officers for the election cycle that began on March 1, 2024 as provided by Section 2.2-3711.A.1 of the Code of Virginia. The motion passed unanimously. The Board went into executive session at 3:20 pm.

The Board came out of executive session at 3:59 pm. (Board members and staff participated in the executive session.) Sylvia moved the following: RESOLVED, that to the best knowledge of each member of this Board, (i) only public business matters lawfully exempted from the open meeting requirements of Chapter 37 (Virginia Freedom of Information Act) of Title 2.2 of the Code of Virginia and (ii) only such business matters as were identified in the motion by which today's executive session was convened were heard, discussed or considered in the executive session. The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

James M. Heilman

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Secretary, Albemarle County Electoral Board