Albemarle County Electoral Board Meeting Minutes

March 2, 2026

Location: Albemarle County Office Building, 5th Street
Attendance: Jim Heilman, Valerie Dormady, Bucky Walsh, Jonell McFadden, Alex Branch, Counselor Andrea Ruege
Public who spoke: Liz Word-Glennie

The meeting began at 9:01 am.
The agenda was approved.

Announcements from Registrar/Board. Bucky asked about the current status of the April 21 Special Election (Referendum). Andrea said that the Virginia Supreme Court has said that the Special Election should go forward and laid out the current situation with lawsuits concerning it.

The minutes for February 4 were unanimously approved.

Old Business.

- Preparation for voting at schools on April 21. Valerie gave a report on working with the public schools on plans for the Special Election. There was consideration of combining the two polling places at Monticello High School. Valerie said there will be another preparation meeting with the Albemarle County Public School (ACPS) system tomorrow. She raised issues of election officer and voter parking at some of the schools. Liz noted that handicapped parking is definitely a problem at Albemarle High School. Jonell noted that ACPS is giving consideration to keeping students home on April 21. She further noted that police are working on security plans and that there will be a stakeholder meeting on the 12th or 13th.
- Absentee mail ballots. Jonell said that staff will start stamping ballots which are due to go out on/by March 6.
- Voter education. Jonell noted that she has discussed public relations/voter education with the County's Communications Director.
- Early-in-person (EIP) voting. Alex announced that he will be providing pollpad training this week for those election officers who will be working EIP voting.

New Business.

- Emergency Ballot Boxes. Bucky asked that we get new lockable emergency ballot boxes since the emergency bins on the DS300 Optical Scan Machines cannot hold very many ballots.
- Mail voters arriving in person the first day ballots have been mailed. There was discussion of whether we should turn these people away and advise them to wait for their ballot to come in the mail.

The next meeting has been scheduled for March 12 at 9 am.

Executive Session. Bucky moved the following: RESOLVED, that the Board convene a closed meeting pursuant to Section 2.2-3711.A of the Code of Virginia under subsection 1 (i) to discuss and consider the appointment, assignment, and performance of current and prospective personnel, (ii) to obtain legal advice, (iii) to discuss election security, and (iv) to discuss contracts. The motion passed unanimously. The Board went into the closed meeting at approximately 10:30 am.

The Board came out of the closed meeting at approximately 11:15 am. (Board members and Andrea, Jonell and Alex participated. Jim had to leave the meeting early due to an emergency.) Bucky moved the following: RESOLVED, that the Electoral Board certify by recorded vote that, to the best of each member's knowledge, only public business matters lawfully exempted from the open meeting requirements of the Virginia Freedom of Information Act and identified in the motion authorizing the closed meeting were heard, discussed, or considered in the closed meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

The appointment of 6 new officers of election for a one-year term beginning March1 was moved. That motion passed unanimously. They are:

Julia Bingol
Joanne Hoyle
Michael Jacoway
Robert Rannigan
Ronald Waddell
Christine Wulff

The meeting adjourned at approximately 11:20 am.

Respectfully submitted,

James M. Heilman
Secretary, Albemarle County Electoral Board