Albemarle County Electoral Board Meeting Minutes

March 12, 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: Ann Brubaker, Liz Word-Glennie, Rick Garnett, Diane McNeal, Linda Seaman, Cheri Stephan, Clara Belle Wheeler

The meeting began at 9:00 am.
The agenda was approved.

Announcements from Registrar/Board. Bucky asked for Counselor Reuge to provide an update in May of election legislation passed and signed. Valerie announced that the Albemarle County Public School System has decided to close school for students on April 21.

Public Comments. Ann commented that scheduling workers for Early-in-Person (EIP) voting has been a big problem and is very frustrating. She further noted that party affiliation of election officers should not be public beyond staff and Chief Officers. Liz said that there has been too much chaos in the EIP room and that there has been disrespect by office staff of EIP officials. She further noted that preparation of mail ballots was chaotic. Jonell responded that she thought the preparation of mail ballots was orderly but required multiple workers due to the unusual time constraints.. Rick asked about the voting plans for the two polling places at Monticello High School. He was told that the situation should be alright now that we know there will not be students present on April 21. Linda sought clarification on new registrants having to wait five days before they could vote. Discussion ensued, and Jonell said she would query the Department of Elections (ELECT) on this issue. Cheri noted that there had been problems in EIP with the pollpads, upon scanning driver's licenses, coming up with the wrong voter. Clara Belle asked about Federal Only ballots and wondered if ELECT has given guidance on this.

The minutes for February 19 were approved unanimously.

Old Business.

- University Precinct. Bucky announced that he had a good meeting with University Election Officers (EOs) to plot out procedures to be used on April 21. They were discussed. Jim asked if we are still planning to have a template to use in checking the completeness of SDR ballots. Jonell said yes.
- Financial Accounting. Jonell discussed our current expenses. Bucky asked about state reimbursement for April 21 expenses. It is still unclear how much reimbursement we might get. Clara Belle asked about the current salary for our EIP workers. It is $15 per hour.
- Electoral Board/General Registrar Responsibilities. Jonell distributed her completed spreadsheet of who is responsible for what. It will be discussed at the next meeting.

- Placing EOs in or near their home precincts. Alex is still working on this. Bucky would like to see a count of how many would like to be working in their home precincts.
- Early Voting. Jonell reported on the numbers of early voters. So far, we have had 1,569 EIP voters. We mailed out 6,971 absentee ballots in our initial mailing. We have received 24 ballots so far in our drop box. Jonell also reported registration figures.
- Logs of Gold Oath Voters and Voters completing Confirmation of ID forms. The need for keeping logs of these two types of voters was discussed, as these logs were used last fall. It was the consensus of the Board that we do not need to keep these logs.
- LESS Reporting Form. Bucky asked if there was any remediation that we need to do to meet state requirements. Jonell said that, working with County IT, we are on track to finish that report by April 1.

Other Items. Jim inquired about our policies for (1) voiding a mailed ballot brought in by a voter wishing to vote EIP, and (2) instructions to voters who have been issued a mail ballot but do not bring it when they come to vote EIP. Valerie moved that, for voters with ballot in hand, the ballot be removed from the envelope, be voided, and then be stapled to the outside of the envelope. Jim moved that EIP voters who do not have their mail ballots with them be instructed to destroy their mail ballots rather than send/bring them back in. Both motions passed unanimously.
Rick asked if there is a list of procedures that differ from what is done in EIP voting and what is done on Election Day. He was told that there isn't such a list now.
The Board will meet on Monday March 9 to review and modify training slides for Chiefs/Assistant Chiefs.

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 to discuss and consider the appointment, assignment, and performance of current and prospective personnel. The motion passed unanimously. The Board went into the closed meeting at 10:30 am.

The Board came out of the closed meeting at approximately 11:01 am. (Board members and Andrea, Jonell and Alex participated.) 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.

Jim moved the appointment of 4 new officers of election for a one-year term beginning March1. The motion passed unanimously. They are:

Kathryn Hamilton	Taylor Frome
Ronald Brunk	Jonathan (Jonno) Alcaro

The meeting adjourned at 11:02 am.

Respectfully submitted,

James M. Heilman
Secretary, Albemarle County Electoral Board