Albemarle County Electoral Board Meeting Minutes

June 11, 2026

Location: Albemarle County Office Building, 5th Street
Attendance: Jim Heilman, Valerie Dormady, Bucky Walsh, Jonell McFadden, Richard Smyth, Andrea Tolk, Counselor Andrea Ruege
Public who spoke: Doug Earle, Diane McNeal, Liz Word-Glennie, Laurie Jones, Clara Belle Wheeler

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

Registrar/Board Comments. Jonell announced the hiring of Richard Smyth as Chief Deputy Registrar and the promotion of Andrea Tolk to full-time Senior Assistant Registrar.

Public Comments. Doug asked if the office is now at full staff. Jonell replied that it is not yet. Doug further asked about reimbursement from the State (ELECT) for the April 21 Special Election. Jonell said she is still working on the numbers to submit to ELECT. Doug asked who on the staff is the point person responsible for Early-in-Person (EIP) voting. Jonell responded that all staff are responsible. Diane asked if she could get an organization chart for the Office of Voter Registration and Elections. There were several further questions about reimbursement for the April 21 Special Election.

The minutes for April 9, April 21-27, and May 14 were approved unanimously.
There was no notable old business.

New Business. August 4 Primaries:

- Jonell presented a proposed schedule for the Primaries. It was reviewed and discussed.
- Jonell noted the County's announcement to the public concerning days of voting for the Primaries. Liz noted that the announcement did not point out that EIP voting, which starts June 18, would be closed for the holiday on June 19.
- Jonell described her proposed layout of Room A for EIP voting.
- Jonell noted that there are, as of today, 4,853 Democratic Primary Ballots and 944 Republican ballots being prepared for mailing. She ordered a total of 11,000 folded ballots for mail balloting.
- Jonell discussed the "Early Voting Manual" that was requested at the last hot wash. She said that there will not be an actual manual at the start of EIP voting, but instruction sheets will come out during the course of EIP, and by the end these will make up the manual.

Other Business:

- Jonell reported that as of today we have 90,401 registered voters.
- Bucky asked about the impact of the court ruling concerning restoration of rights for certain felons. Jonell noted that she has not denied registration of any since the court ruling.

- Laurie raised the issue of a court ruling concerning the addresses and registration of college students. Discussion ensued. It was noted that Albemarle County was not a party to the court case.
- There was a discussion of how new laws that go into effect July 1 might affect EIP voting which will be in progress then.
- Election Officers (EOs) working shifts. Jim gave a report on how the City of Charlottesville handles EOs working in shifts. He said about 70% of their EOs work half-day shifts.
- Jim presented a Resolution of Commendation and Appreciation for Alex Branch, our recently departed Election Manager. The resolution passed unanimously and all Board members signed it. It will be sent to Alex and also attached to these minutes.
- Clara Belle asked about the current status of replacement/repair of our DS300 Optical Scanners. She was told that the manufacturer (ES&S) has given us six loaners in addition to replacements for our broken machines.
- Clara Belle asked about any major discrepancies in the numbers reported for voters checked in and ballots cast in the April 21 Special Election. The Board told her that there were only a couple minimal discrepancies.

Executive Session. Bucky moved the following: I move that the Albemarle County Electoral 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 applications of prospective candidates as officers of election, and (ii) to discuss the annual performance review of the registrar as required under §24.2-109.1. The motion passed unanimously. The Board went into the closed meeting at 10:10 am.

The Board came out of the closed meeting at 11:35 am. (Andrea Reuge, Andrea Tolk, Richard and Jonell participated in part of the meeting. Board members participated in all the meeting.) 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 5 new officers of election for a one-year term beginning March 1, 2026. The motion passed unanimously. They are:

Donna Kerrigan	Michael Trice
Eric Mayberry	Catherine Zimmerman
John Todd Harvey	

The meeting adjourned at 11:36 am.

Respectfully submitted,

James M. Heilman
Secretary, Albemarle County Electoral Board