Albemarle County Electoral Board Meeting Minutes

July 9, 2026

Location: Albemarle County Office Building, 5th Street
Attendance: Jim Heilman, Valerie Dormady, Bucky Walsh, Jonell McFadden, Richard Smyth, Andrea Tolk, Counselor Andrea Ruege
Members of the Public who spoke: Rick Garnett, Clara Belle Wheeler, Peyton Walz

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

Public Comment. Rick asked when Chief Election Officers will be notified of their rosters of workers. Jonell said hopefully later today. He then asked if schools have been notified of the August 4 Primary. The answer was yes.

Old Business.

- Reimbusement for April 21 Special Election (Referendum). Jonell reported that out of approximately $240,000 in expenditures, she requested $154,000 in reimbursement from the State. We only received $70,596.67.
- Schedule for August 4 Primary. Jonell noted again that all polling places have been contacted. Rick asked that each polling place's contact information be sent to the Chief Officers.
- Training. Bucky noted that training for Chiefs/Assistant Chiefs will be conducted on Thursday, July 16.
- Half-day Shifts. Bucky said that he has reached out to the parties for their views on election officials (EOs) working half-day shifts. He is still thinking of possibly introducing this on a trial basis for the November General Election.

New Business.

- Electoral Board Driving Routes for August 4. Bucky suggested that we keep the same routes we used for the April 21 Referendum.
- Upcoming Meetings. Bucky proposed that we meet on the night of August 4 for the purpose of inventorying provisional ballots. He also noted that we have until August 14 to finish the Canvass of Results for the August 4 Primaries.
- ID Badges. We now have the ID badges issued by the State that must be worn by electoral board members when they visit a polling place. He proposed and then moved adoption of a policy concerning wearing these. The motion passed unanimously.
- Issue of Missing B Envelopes. Jonell discussed the problem that some absentee-by-mail voters did not receive the envelope necessary for return of their voted ballots. She said this appears to be limited to one precinct, Pantops. She then explained the office's solution to the problem. They have sent 159 B Envelopes to affected voters in that precinct who had not already requested one. They are also allowing voters who have sent in their marked ballots without the B Envelope to provide the

information needed on the envelope in other ways. Clara Belle asked about voter signatures. Jonell said we can get those. Peyton asked if ballots missing envelope B will be processed in the Central Absentee Precinct in the normal way. Jonell said yes.

- Provisional Ballot Processing. Bucky presented a written proposal on how the Board will process provisional ballots. It is essentially the same process we used in the April Referendum. Clara Belle asked for an explanation of the process, which Bucky provided. Jim moved approval of the proposed process. The motion passed unanimously.
- Processing of Felons. Due to a recent court decision, we are not currently denying any registrant who checks that he/she has been convicted of a felony. Jonell explained that, per instructions from the State, such felons will be put in an "incomplete hopper" for now. Valerie stated that we need more information to understand this new process better.

The minutes for June 11 and July 2 were approved.

Other Items.

- Candidate Statement of Economic Interests. The State has implemented a new process for localities' dealing with these filings. Jonell and Andrea Tolk are dealing with candidate filings per the new process.
- Statistics for August 4 Primaries. Jonell reported that, as of yesterday, 4,872 Democratic mail ballots and 946 Republican ballots have been mailed out. 1,315 Democratic ballots have been returned as well as 152 Republican ballots. Of these, 50 Democratic ballots needed curing and 2 Republican ballots. 68 Democratic ballots and 12 Republican ballots have been emailed. 76 Democratic ballots and 27 Republican ballots have been returned as undeliverable. 439 Democratic ballots and 49 Republican ballots have been cast in Early-in-Person voting.
- Central Absentee Precinct pre-processing will start next week.
- The next regular Electoral Board meeting will be August 13.

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 conduct the annual performance review of the registrar as required under §24.2-109.1, and (iii) to approve the annual Voting Systems Security Plan as required under 24.2-625.1. The motion passed unanimously. The Board went into the closed meeting at 9:54 am.

The Board came out of the closed meeting at 11:05 am. (The Board, Jonell, and Counselor Ruege participated in all the meeting. Richard and Andrea Tolk participated in part of 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.

Bucky moved the appointment of Vivian Feggans as an Officer of Election for a three-year term beginning March 1, 2026. The motion passed unanimously. He also moved the appointment of the following five

individuals as Officers of Election for a period of one year beginning March 1, 2026. The motion passed unanimously. These are:

Kathryn Parker	Michaela Dunkin
Dolly Joseph	Cynthia Barnette
Susan Gross	

Jim moved approval of the annual Voting Systems Security Plan. The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 11:08 am.

Respectfully submitted,

James M. Heilman
Secretary, Albemarle County Electoral Board