



OFFICE OF THE ELECTORAL BOARD GENERAL REGISTRAR City of Fairfax

Minutes for the February 18, 2015 Electoral Board Meeting

The Secretary called the meeting to order at 10:13am in the Sisson House. Attendees: Dirk Brouwer, Secretary; Richard Herrington, Chairman; John Harold, Vice-Chairman; Kevin Linehan, General Registrar and Nancy Tingen, Deputy Registrar.

The Vice Chairman moved and the Chairman seconded a motion to approve the following minutes:

November 5, November 7, November 19, December 3, 2014, and
January 13, January 22, February 2, 2015.

The motion passed unanimously.

The Electoral Board discussed the following:

Proposed legislation in the General Assembly (HB 1433) which will reduce or eliminate Board authority for absentee ballots and campaign finance reporting among other changes. The Board will develop a position regarding this legislation for the next session of the General Assembly which will include its pluses and minuses. Electoral Board access to VERIS will be investigated.

Proposed legislation regarding funding of new voting machines was deficient in the requirement that all localities only use one kind of equipment. In order to refute the allegation that WinVote equipment cannot provide detailed information on each vote cast, the Board requested the General Registrar to produce an audit log from a voting machine.

The General Registrar described a digital optical scan machine that produces paper output that is then scanned thus producing a 100% sample. He also outlined differences between different types of optical scan machines:

- different paper weight settings,
- low absorbency rate paper which requires longer for ink to dry (this problem is compounded with different ballot styles),
- although Chief Officers of Election are authorized to print additional ballots, they will not be on the right kind of paper in many cases,
- hand counting of the ballots which has a high error rate will be required if machines cannot scan paper ballots,
- special markers are required (ballots are rejected if they are not used).

The General Registrar stated that purchases of additional DRE machines will be delayed pending final disposition of the voting machine funding proposal.

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The Board will work with the City Attorney to develop positions on Vote Centers for Primary Elections. The General Registrar was requested to provide a detailed cost breakdown for Primary Elections. He noted that Primary Elections are a good training opportunity for new Officers of Election and a good “refresher” for experienced Officers.

The Board discussed the following items regarding the Virginia Electoral Board Association (VEBA):

EB/GR workgroup proceedings were not disseminated to the VEBA membership,
VEBA leadership did not engage the membership,
There was no discussion of legislation at the last VEBA Regional Meeting,
The Voter Registrar’s Association of Virginia (VRAV) assigns one individual in each region to make up their organization’s legislative committee.

After a discussion, the Vice-Chairman moved that Christina A. Ralicki be appointed as an Officer of Election. The Secretary seconded the motion and the Board unanimously voted yea.

At 11:11am, the Vice-Chairman moved that the meeting be convened in closed session to discuss the General Registrar vacancy. The motion was seconded by the Secretary and approved unanimously. The General Registrar and Deputy Registrar left the meeting.

At 11:44am, the Chairman moved that the meeting be convened in open session. The motion was seconded by the Vice-Chairman and approved unanimously. The EB certified that the only matters discussed in the closed session were related to personnel.

The Board requested the Secretary to ask the Human Resources Director about soliciting applications for the General Registrar vacancy, when a decision about extending the advertisement period should be made, and to obtain a copy of the position description.

The Board agreed to develop a list of duties delegated to the General Registrar. The Board noted that Section 110 of the Virginia Electoral Code provides that only the General Registrar decides who is eligible to be registered and questioned why the Board does not participate in that decision.

The meeting adjourned at 12:01pm.

Dirk Brouwer, Secretary