



OFFICE OF THE ELECTORAL BOARD GENERAL REGISTRAR City of Fairfax



Minutes for the March 17, 2015 Electoral Board Meeting

The Secretary called the meeting to order at 10:06am in the Sisson House. Attendees: Richard Herrington, Secretary; John Harold, Chairman; Dirk Brouwer, Vice Chairman; Kevin Linehan, General Registrar; Nancy Tingen, Chief Deputy Registrar and Stephen Bilowus, Deputy Registrar.

The Vice-Chairman moved and the Secretary seconded a motion to approve the minutes of the March 2, 2015 Electoral Board Minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

VEBA Annual Meeting @ Homestead March 6-8, 2015:

The Secretary was the only Board member of the **City of Fairfax** Electoral Board (EB) able to attend the VEBA Annual Meeting this year and provided a detailed overview of his participation and VEBA activities at the annual meeting. There was discussion concerning HB1433 and VEBA's effectiveness in communicating with the VEBA membership.

Communications with GA through Representatives:

The Secretary recommended the EB put together a paper to be presented to Mayor & City Council and elected GA representatives on specific issues of concern, including DREs; this would be in addition to action the Board has already taken. Consensus of the Board was such a document be crafted and delivered to Mayor, City Council and GA representatives.

The Secretary noted considerable dissatisfaction among EBs throughout the Commonwealth concerning HB1433 and said many EBs are alerting the Governor about their concerns. The Chairman made a motion for the following action: "Have the City EB email the Governor's office about their concerns for HB1433 and their wish for the Governor to not sign HB1433 into law." The motion was seconded by the Vice Chairman. The motion passed unanimously.

The Secretary will send a message (by email) to the Governor:

"The Electoral Board of the City of Fairfax unanimously urges that you not sign HB 1433. The Electoral Board of the City of Fairfax believes this legislation, which reassigns duties of electoral board(s) of Virginia, compromises the authority of all Electoral Boards in the state. All of its legal and electoral implications should be more fully reviewed before enactment."

The Future of DREs:

State law requires eventual retirement of DREs used by the City. There are companies that offer various voting machine replacements. One company offers an optical scan technology with an

OFFICE OF THE ELECTORAL BOARD
GENERAL REGISTRAR
City of Fairfax

ADA component that resembled a DRE; the voter would use the touch screen (ADA) component to select choices and the component prints a pre-filled paper ballot on thermal paper which the voter inserts into a scanning machine. Downsides to this technology:

- The optical scan component is \$3,000.00 and the ADA component is an additional \$2,000.00, so both components together cost roughly \$5,000.00.
- Complete voting process will take longer if using the ADA component.
- Extra lines in polling place – poll book line, touch screen line, scanning line.

There was discussion concerning problems associated with digital & optical scan voting machines. Consensus of the Board regarding acquiring new voting equipment - maintain a local option for procurement (one size doesn't fit all localities needs), chose a reasonably priced and well vetted newer versions of optical & digital scan equipment when the time comes. The Mayor and City Council will need to be made aware of the potential cost implications.

Personnel matters – GR Applications:

The Secretary moved the Board go into closed session to discuss personnel matters regarding candidates for the GR vacancy. The Vice-Chairman seconded the motion and the Board unanimously approved the motion. The General Registrar, Chief Deputy Registrar and Deputy Registrar left the room.

The Board went into Executive Session at 11:22am.

- During Closed Session, the Secretary moved and the Vice-Chairman seconded a motion that the Secretary contact individuals selected by the EB for interview and schedule such interviews the week of 23 March 2015. The motion passed unanimously.
- The EB, by consensus, agreed to contact the City Personnel Department following the board meeting to determine if it would be appropriate for a representative from the Personnel Department to be present during the scheduled interviews.

At 12:05pm, the Chairman moved to reconvene in open session and a roll call vote was taken as required by § 2.2-3712(D) of the Code of Virginia, unanimously certifying that during the closed meeting (i) only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements under this chapter, and (ii) only such public business matters as were identified in the motion by which the closed meeting was concerned were heard, were discussed or considered. The Secretary seconded the motion and the Board unanimously approved the motion.

The EB reconvened in open session at 12:06pm.

The Secretary noted that during the Closed Session, the only item discussed was personnel matters related to GR applicants. Action taken in Closed Session:

**OFFICE OF THE ELECTORAL BOARD
GENERAL REGISTRAR
City of Fairfax**

- Selection of individuals to be interviewed by the EB during the week of 23 March 2015. The Secretary shall contact the individuals and schedule interview times.
- Following the Board meeting, the EB will ask the Personnel Department if it would be appropriate for a Personnel Department representative to be present at the interviews.

The meeting adjourned at 12:08pm.

Richard Herrington, Secretary
City of Fairfax Electoral Board