

## Albemarle County Electoral Board

### Virtual and In Person Meeting

October 20, 2021

Location: Albemarle County Office Building, 5<sup>th</sup> Street

Attendance: Jim Heilman, Michael Rodemeyer, Peter Wurzer, Jake Washburne, Erin Davis, Lauren Eddy, and Anne Schermerhorn

Observers who spoke: Abigail Turner, Albemarle Democratic Party; Clara Belle Wheeler, Albemarle Republican Party; Sue Lewis and Pat Cochran, League of Women Voters; and Renee Proctor, Party Observer

{Editor's note: For brevity, all participants' first names are used in these minutes.}

The meeting began at 9:06 am.

Peter made the following statement: This meeting is being held pursuant to and in compliance with the Continuity of Government Ordinance adopted by the Albemarle County Board of Supervisors. The following individuals are physically and electronically present: *(Anne, Pat, Sue, and Renee were electronically present; all others were physically present.)*

The agenda was unanimously adopted.

The minutes for October 7 and October 8 were unanimously approved.

Acceptable Face Coverings for Election Officers and Party Representatives. Renee – a party representative -- made the case for her mesh mask to be acceptable for observing Early in Person voting. Jake discussed the CDC/County guidelines for masks and stated that her mask does not appear acceptable under these guidelines. The Electoral Board concurred but thanked Renee for presenting her case. Clara Belle then discussed transmission of disease through cloth and presented the case for face shields to be permitted instead of a mask. Peter discussed the need for uniformity in this, and Jake pointed out the CDC/County criteria do not find face shields alone to be acceptable. The Electoral Board concurred.

Update on incorrect ballots sent to three precincts. Jake said that a total of 109 incorrect ballots (ballots with the wrong House of Delegates race on them) have been discovered in pre-processing as of Oct. 19. In addition 23 voters have caught the error on their ballots before mailing them back in. Of the 109, 27 have been mailed new ballots; thirteen voters have come to the office to get new corrected ballots, and he has delivered corrected ballots to 6 voters at their homes. Today the office will mail out 45 corrected ballots to those known to have received incorrect ballots. Discussion ensued.

Write-in Candidacy. The write-in candidacy of one Randy Zackrisson for the Samuel Miller District School Board seat was discussed. Jim provided an updated list of possible misspellings of his name, and the Board discussed which ones should be accepted as a vote for the write-in candidate and which ones should not be accepted. Abigail asked for a list of the acceptable and unacceptable spellings. We agreed to send one to her as well as Mr. Zackrisson.

Comments Made on a Radio Show. Peter expressed concern about comments made by Mr. Steve Harvey on a local radio show that questioned our mask policy and seemed to attack the integrity of Board and staff. He asked the Board's approval to appear on the same radio show and rebut these assertions. The Board gave him approval. Jake explained the order of events that occurred in banning

Mr. Harvey from early in person voting until he wore an acceptable mask. Abigail said there should be no exceptions to our mask rule. Lauren said that some of the party observers have been very confrontational with staff and election officers. Discussion ensued. Sue expressed concern about voters and observers not recognizing the authority of Lauren and Erin.

Page Program. Erin stated that about 6 high school students have applied to be pages.

Ballot Processing by USPS. Abigail stated that, according to sources in the Democratic Party of Virginia, out of 6,989 ballots we have put in the mail, over 2,600 -- as of today -- have not yet been scanned by USPS. Discussion ensued.

Safety Issues Outside Polling Places. Abigail expressed concern about safety issues in the parking lots of polling places, especially Woodbrook and Hollymead, based on incidents that happened last November with vehicles containing people acting in a riotous manner racing through the parking lots. Peter said that we are taking care of the issue at Hollymead by blocking off certain parts of the parking lot to traffic. He also said that we will work on the issue at Baker-Butler polling place. It was suggested that outside pollworkers take photos of any incidents like these. Pat suggested that we might set up fake cameras in these areas to deter such incidents. There was discussion of setting up speed bumps in these areas.

Clara Belle thanked the Board/staff on its diligence in serving the community.

Executive Session. Michael moved the following: RESOLVED, that the Board enter into executive session for the purpose of discussion and consideration of the appointment, assignment and performance of one or more current and prospective Albemarle County election officers for the election cycle that begins on March 1, 2021, as provided by Section 2.2-3711.A.1 of the Code of Virginia. The motion passed unanimously. The Board went into Executive Session at 10:49 am.

The Board came out of Executive Session at 11:07 am. (Only staff and Board members participated in the Executive Session.) Michael moved the following: RESOLVED, that to the best knowledge of each member of this Board (i) only public business matters lawfully exempted from the open meeting requirements of Chapter 37 (Virginia Freedom of Information Act) of Title 2.2 of the Code of Virginia and (ii) only such public business matters as were identified in the motion by which today's executive session was convened were heard, discussed or considered in the executive session. The motion passed unanimously.

Jim moved the appointment of 5 new election officers of Albemarle County for a period of one year beginning March 1, 2021. The motion passed unanimously. Their names will be attached to these minutes. Jim further moved the appointment of certain Election Officers to serve as Chief Election Officers and Assistant Chief Election Officers in our 31 precincts for the November 2, 2021 General Election. The motion passed unanimously and their names will be attached to these minutes.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:11 am.

Respectfully submitted,

James M. Heilman  
Secretary, Albemarle County Electoral Board