

Albemarle County Electoral Board

In-person and Virtual Meeting

October 5, 2022

Location: Albemarle County Office Building, 5th Street

Attendance: Jim Heilman, Michael Rodemeyer, Sylvia Flood, Erin Davis, Lauren Eddy, Jonathan Gil Garcia, and Jeania Oliver

Guests: Laurie Jones – Albemarle Democratic Party; Clara Belle Wheeler – Albemarle Republican Party; Kerin Yates and Sue Lewis – League of Women Voters; Nancy Muir

The meeting began at 9:31 am.

Sylvia Flood 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. Guests will have a maximum of three minutes to speak, either at the beginning or end of the meeting. The Board may waive the three minute rule. *(All were physically present, except for Kerin, Sue, and Nancy who were virtually present.)*

The agenda was unanimously adopted.

The minutes for the September 15 meeting were unanimously approved.

Early Voting. Lauren noted that we have had over 1,000 vote early-in-person voters and have mailed out over 6,000 mail ballots. Staff noted a concern that some voters want to call Clara Belle if they perceive something is wrong. Sylvia noted that Clara Belle is training Republican Party representatives and there may be some misconceptions. Clara Belle agreed that there are some misconceptions but said she emphasizes in her training that election officers must take the training provided by the Board and staff. She believes that the party representatives and election officers should have a symbiotic relationship. Discussion ensued. Michael noted that, when we are training new officers, we need to emphasize that in the polling place they are working for us and not their party. He also noted that at the polling place critical actions should be conducted by election officers representing each party. Sylvia noted that party representatives who are not sure about why a procedure was done the way it was should ask the Chief about it during lag time.

November General Election.

- Electronic Poll Books (EPB) : Lauren noted that a software glitch in the EPBs has been fixed. She also noted that we are waiting on more new scanning wands for use at the polling places.
- Party Representatives Do's and Don'ts: Jim opined that party rep's must stay back a reasonable distance from election officers working the EPB's, saying that if they can see names and addresses on the screen, that is fine, and if they can't, that is also fine. Michael concurred. Sylvia said that there have been tremendous problems with hearing names, but most of those problems are in the past. Discussion ensued. Part of the discussion was about party rep's standing up or sitting down. Sylvia summarized the issue saying that party rep's can't interfere with election officers' personal space, but they should be able to see the EPB screen. She further stated that the party rep's and election officers need to build trust. It was also noted that nothing in the Code allows party rep's to be present in the Registrar's Office.

- Training. Jim laid out a training plan. We set a work session for October 11 to further delineate our training schedule.

Voter Card Mailing. Lauren said that we have been told that our voter card mailing to all County voters went out two Fridays ago. However, no one has received them. It was noted that we need to find out why they have not been sent.

Ranked Choice Voting Presentation. Lauren is scheduled to do a presentation on this topic to the Board of Supervisors on November 16. She would provide information on the cost and timeframe that would be necessary if the Board of Supervisors decided to adopt ranked choice voting for local elections. Sylvia suggested that this session should be held at a later date since we will still be wrapping up the November election.

Problem with Registration Applications being held up. Michael raised the issue of how we are going to deal with approximately 1,500 applications from the DMV that, due to unknown factors, have not been sent to us by the Department of Elections. Discussion ensued.


Executive Session. Jim 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, 2022, 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 11:25 am.

The Board came out of Executive Session at 11:40 am. (Board members and select staff 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 certain election officers to be Chiefs and Assistant Chiefs in the polling places where they will be working. The motion was unanimously approved.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:43 am.

Respectfully submitted,



James M. Heilman
Secretary, Albemarle County Electoral Board