

Albemarle County Electoral Board

In-person and Virtual Meeting

October 25, 2022

Location: Albemarle County Office Building, 5th Street

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

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

The meeting began at 9:30 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, Norman and Steve who were virtually present.)*

The agenda was adjusted and unanimously adopted.

The minutes for the October 5 meeting were unanimously approved.

Early Voting. Lauren noted that it is going very well, and we have had over 7,000 vote early-in-person voters and have mailed out over 7,000 mail ballots. Pre-processing of mail ballots is on target.

November General Election.

- Training. Michael noted that he thought our various trainings went very well. He said he thought it would be helpful if we could have a statement (information sheet) about voting machine security for our Chief Officers to use. He offered to develop one.
- Election Day Generator. We discussed whether we needed to get one as we have in the past several elections in case a polling place loses power. Sylvia asked if we could make pre-arrangements just in case we need one.
- Meeting with Police. Jim asked that a meeting be set up as soon as possible to discuss election day plans.

Voter Card Mailing. Lauren said that the voter cards have finally gone out to all County voters. Sylvia said that we need to review why they went out so late.

Ranked Choice Voting (RCV) Presentation. Lauren is still scheduled to do a presentation on this topic to the Board of Supervisors on November 16. Michael discussed the technical issues involved in adopting RCV. There are issues about certification – and uncertainty if we can run new software without state certification. There are also major issues about tabulation software. Discussion ensued. Sylvia asked if we Board members can come to the presentation.

Party Parity among Election Officials at our Polling Places. The fact that we don't have equal numbers of election officers representing the two major parties has been questioned by several people. Jim noted that the party chairs are, at the beginning of each year, asked to nominate officers and that they never

do it, and thus we are left to appoint those who complete one of the many application forms which are out there. We do not know party affiliation on these people until we appoint them and they send us the "response form" which asks which party they wish to represent. Lately, the large majority of these appointees have said they wish to represent the Democratic Party. This has led to the imbalance. Erin suggested that we can just add more people that have not been assigned in order to approach parity. Would-be Officers also have the option of checking a box on the response form stating that they will "represent either party as needed." The consensus was not to use that option as a way of achieving better parity. Discussion ensued. Sue asked that we not be switching Officers around in order to achieve better parity this close to the election.

County Attorney Advice. Due to the wording in the recently passed SB30, our County Attorney has advised Lauren that neither she nor Electoral Board members should be appearing at any third party forums, even if only for voter education purposes. We expressed the opinion that this advice misconstrues the intent of SB30. Michael asked Sylvia to contact our County Attorney about this issue.

Observation of Our Canvass of Results. Lauren announced that John Cronin from the Virginia Department of Elections (ELECT) is planning to observe our canvass.

Chief Officer Pay. Jim moved that the base pay for Chief Officers be increased to \$225 immediately. The motion passed unanimously.

International Observers. There is a request from two international observers from the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe's Office of Democratic Institutions and Human Rights to observe our election preparation and election. Jim moved that we be welcoming to them and allow them to observe. The motion passed unanimously.

Executive Session. Sylvia 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 11:44 am.

The Board came out of Executive Session at 12:06 pm. (Board members and select staff participated in the Executive Session.) Sylvia 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.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:07 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



James M. Heilman
Secretary, Albemarle County Electoral Board