

## Albemarle County Electoral Board

### In-person and Virtual Meeting

August 20, 2024

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

Attendance: Jim Heilman, Clara Belle Wheeler, Sylvia Flood, Erin Davis, Lauren Eddy, and Jeania Pace  
Guests: Bucky Walsh, Bruce Kirtley, Sally Hudson, Jim Andrews, Doug Earle, Laurie Jones, Ann Brubaker, Betsy Eubanks, Nancy Muir, and various Zoom attendees.

The meeting began at 9:32 am.

Sylvia Flood made the following statement: 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 several Zoom attendees who were virtually present.)*

The agenda was unanimously adopted.

Board of Supervisors (BoS) Meeting on Ranked Choice Voting (RCV). There was a lengthy discussion of the Electoral Board and Registrar presentation tomorrow (Aug 21) to the Board of Supervisors. BoS Chair Jim Andrews announced that the BoS has no present plan to vote tomorrow on whether to adopt RCV. Clara Belle said that we will try to present factual information. Jim Andrews said that the BoS is basically up-to-date on the mechanics of RCV. Lauren distributed and went through her PowerPoint presentation on the estimated costs and logistics of adopting RCV. She noted that we will need to be able to export data to a Cast Vote Record. Additional software will be needed as well as (1) comprehensive voter education and (2) costs of increased ballot size. She also said that the \$40,000 estimated for voter education is probably a low figure. Bucky noted that time in the marking booth will increase. Sally noted that not all County voters would be in a RCV election because Supervisors have staggered terms. Bruce asked whether additional staff will be needed for both staff and voter education. Lauren answered yes. Clara Belle distributed and went through her PowerPoint presentation. This prompted discussion of whether adopting RCV is a political question. Nancy told Lauren that it sounds like a burden, but Lauren replied that it is not a burden but will require additional resources. Jim Andrews said that Lauren's presentation was on the mark but that he disagreed with some of the assumptions in Clara Belle's presentation. Sylvia asked Clara Belle to redo her presentation. There was much discussion.

#### November 5 Preparation.

- Training Dates. Erin distributed a list of proposed training dates. She asked that the Board review them and get back to her by August 23<sup>rd</sup>.
- Statement of Results (SoR). Erin said she will send us the last SoR for our review. She would like us to send proposed revisions by August 27.

Electronic Poll Books (EPBs). Lauren noted that our biggest issue in recent elections has been the set up and operation of our DemTech EPBs. There are about 30 localities still using the DemTech equipment. However, all of the DemTech programmers in Virginia have been let go by the company that recently bought out DemTech. This has her very worried – that we will have no support for our equipment going into a Presidential election. She and staff investigated a couple other EPBs at their most recent Registrar's Association meeting. They are most interested in a system called KnowInk. 67 localities in Virginia use it. KnowInk staff came to our office recently and did a demonstration for staff and for our

main IT support person. If we buy it, they will provide training. Since time is of the essence, Lauren is already in consultation with our Finance Department to see if money is there to make a purchase very soon. She said that the initial purchase price would be \$232,000 with an additional \$19,000 yearly for the next two years. Discussion ensued on various issues. Jim moved that we authorize Lauren to go forward with contracting with Knowlnk. The motion passed unanimously.

Presentation on Being Promoted to Chief or Assistant Chief. Sylvia requested that an invitation to this presentation be sent to all election officers. Jim suggested that the invitation not be sent to newly appointed election officers. Erin said that she will send out tentative dates for this.

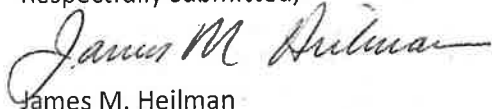
Executive Session. Sylvia moved the following: RESOLVED, that the Board enter into executive session for the purpose of discussion and consideration of the appointment, assignment and performance of one or more current and prospective Albemarle County election officers for the election cycle that begins on March 1, 2024 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 11:45 am. (Board members and 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.

Jim moved the appointment of 21 new officers of election for the term of one year beginning March 1, 2024. The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:45 am.

Respectfully submitted,



James M. Heilman  
Secretary, Albemarle County Electoral Board