

Albemarle County Electoral Board

Virtual Meeting

September 23, 2020

Location: Albemarle County Office Building, 5th Street

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

Guest: Abigail Turner, Albemarle Democratic Party

The meeting began at 9:04 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: *(All were electronically present.)*

The agenda was unanimously adopted.

The minutes for September 2 and September 9 were unanimously approved.

Public Outreach. Jim gave a report on public outreach/voter education efforts.

Michael commended the staff on all their Herculean work in processing mail-in ballot requests and implementing early voting.

Election Officer Training. Peter noted the need to discuss the new law concerning acceptable IDs at the polls. Jake listed what are now acceptable IDs and also noted that those voters with no ID can complete a Confirmation of Identity form. Michael asked whether the State Department of Elections (ELECT) training modules have been updated. Erin confirmed that they have been updated and have been sent to all Election Officers working at our Early In-person Voting site. It was noted that Election Officers now are only required to repeat a voter's name – and not his/her address – when checking in a voter. Jim noted that our locally-produced training videos will only need some tweaking in order to use them for the November election. The need for Zoom meetings with chiefs and customized videos for new Election Officers was discussed. We will aim for mid-October for training meetings for Chief Officers.

Drop-boxes for Mail Ballots at the County Office Building and at the Polling Places on Election Day. A discussion was held on how we will implement this new requirement and how these drop-boxes will be monitored. Discussion was also held on how often the drop-box at the County Office Building will be emptied on weekends and by whom. It was noted that drop-boxes at polling places must have good security and should be located noticeably separate from the line of people voting in person so that voters dropping off ballots do not need to wait in line.

COVID Protections at Early Voting Site. Abigail raised the issue of Election Officers not wearing their masks 100% of the time. Jim proposed being strict about this but also giving officers a warning before dismissing them for not being compliant. Michael and Peter agreed but noted that this should be discussed with Chief Officers. Abigail also noted problems with social distancing at the Early Voting Site. This issue was discussed.

Provisional Ballots at Early Voting. Many voters, especially the first day, who had requested a mail ballot, came to vote in person. According to our understanding, these voters were required to complete provisional ballots. The fact that this is not the procedure used in some localities was discussed. It was decided to continue processing these the way we have been – unless we get some other guidance from ELECT.

Pop-up Drop-off Centers. Peter discussed plans for implementing these centers for dropping off mail ballots. He would like to have centers at Albemarle High School, Western Albemarle High School, Walton Middle School, and Stone-Robinson Elementary School. He proposed starting them October 12 and ending them on October 30. The times that they should be staffed were discussed -- as well as renting or purchasing tents for these places. The tents must be large enough to allow for social distancing.

Logic and Accuracy Testing of Scanners. October 6 and 7 were the dates proposed for the testing.

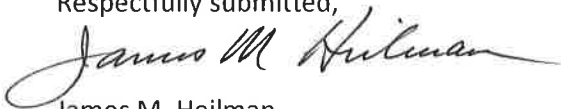
Medical Reserve Corps Volunteers. The issue of whether to enlist these volunteers was discussed. Michael offered to contact their coordinator to find out exactly what they would do at the polling places if employed.

COVID-19 Compliance Officers at Polling Places. The issue of how to ensure that we have someone assigned to perform COVID compliance was discussed. Jim suggested that two Election Officers be used for this task – each serving in this role for half a day.

Use of our Drop-box. Lauren noted that some people are dropping off their ballots without using the “outer envelope” with barcodes specific to the voter. This is causing extra work for the staff.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:22 am.

Respectfully submitted,



James M. Heilman
Secretary, Albemarle County Electoral Board