

Electoral Board Meeting Minutes March 2, 2017

The Electoral Board of Arlington County met at 8:00 a.m. on Thursday, March 2, 2017, in Room 311 of 2100 Clarendon Blvd. The meeting was called to order by Charlene Bickford, Chairman and present were David Bell, Vice Chairman; W. Scott McGeary, Secretary; Linda Lindberg, General Registrar; and Gretchen Reinemeyer, Deputy Registrar. Also present were Cragg Hines from the Arlington County Democratic Committee and Scott McCaffrey from the Sun-Gazette.

The minutes from the previous meeting were approved.

Board members then nominated and elected officers to serve for the period of March 1, 2017 through February 28, 2018. The configuration remains unchanged, with Charlene Bickford serving as Chairman, David Bell as Vice Chairman, and Scott McGeary as Secretary.

Linda Lindberg updated Board members on several bills of concern that passed both chambers of the General Assembly, mostly along party lines, and are now before the Governor for action. It is anticipated that the Governor may choose to veto most if not all of these bills. These include HB1428/SB872, which would require persons voting absentee by mail to include a photo ID; SB1303, which would push the voter registration deadline for electronic registrations back to 5 p.m. from the current 11:59 p.m.; and SB1253, which would require voter photo ID to be included in electronic pollbooks. Also of interest is a bill the Registrar and Board support, SB1467, which would permit processing and counting of hand-count absentee ballots prior to 7 p.m. on Election Days.

The Board next discussed a request from Arlington County Democratic Committee Chairman Kip Malinosky to provide satellite voting locations for the November 7, 2017 election. The office had not planned for satellite voting, nor does the proposed budget include any funding for such. While acknowledging that ongoing satellite voting will ultimately be inevitable, staff expressed a number of concerns about undertaking it in a non-Presidential year without thorough planning, when interest in absentee voting is at much lower rates.

Board members agreed that Mr. Malinosky's request to hold satellite voting at only one additional location was not acceptable, and that any such undertaking should be equitably spread throughout the County, with additional locations in both North and South Arlington.

The Board members concluded that, while offering the service could provide some benefit, to do so at the present time is probably not a viable option. They did agree to put together a longer-term plan that addresses concerns and challenges about satellite voting as well as a number of other options, including the warehouse space and staffing challenges.

Announcements and upcoming events:

- The Virginia Electoral Board Association (VEBA) Annual Meeting at The Homestead is March 3-5. All three Board members and Linda Lindberg will attend.
- There will be Democratic and Republican Primaries on June 13 for statewide offices and possibly also the 45th House of Delegates. Cragg Hines shared the dates, times, and locations of the Democratic County Board nomination and School Board endorsement caucuses
- The dates for the annual training by the Virginia Department of Elections are tentatively scheduled for the last week of June, at a Richmond location to be announced. Under current law, the most

recently appointed Electoral Board member, in this case David Bell, is required to attend, along with the registrar. Other Board members and staff may also attend.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:59 a.m.

Charlene N. Bickford

Charlene N. Bickford, Chairman

David A. Bell

David A. Bell, Vice Chairman

W. Scott McGeary

W. Scott McGeary, Secretary