Electoral Board Meeting Minutes March 20, 2018

The Electoral Board of Arlington County met at 4:00 p.m. on Tuesday, March 20, 2018, in the Office of Elections, 2100 Clarendon Blvd. Suite 320. The meeting was called to order by Charlene Bickford, Chairman and present were David Bell, Vice Chairman; W. Scott McGeary, Secretary; and Linda Lindberg, General Registrar. Also present were Assistant Registrar Bill Turner, Ann Sharp and Jackie Rivas from the League of Women Voters, Jill Ciaizzo from the Arlington County Democratic Committee, and Scott McCaffrey from the Sun-Gazette.

The minutes from the February meeting, having been previously distributed, were approved.

The Board unanimously elected the following to serve as officers for the period of March 1, 2018 through February 28, 2019, which is no change from the previous configuration: Charlene Bickford, Chairman; David Bell, Vice Chairman; Scott McGeary, Secretary.

Linda Lindberg presented the Board with an updated list of some of the election bills brought before the 2018 General Assembly and their current status. It was noted that all approved legislation will only have a minor impact to election administration, without any significant impact to voters. The bills changing the structure of the State Board of Elections were not successful.

Linda Lindberg distributed draft copies of the Electoral Board Strategic Plan, which had previously been distributed to Board members. After some discussion, the Board voted to accept the plan as prepared by staff, and directed it to be distributed to the County Board, County Manager, and other County leaders. The intent of the plan is to draw attention to needs and challenges faced by the office and to open dialog on how these needs might be addressed.

Scott McGeary and Linda Lindberg provided a brief recap of the recent annual meeting of the Virginia Electoral Board Association (VEBA) at The Homestead, which both attended. They were encouraged by new Commissioner of Elections Chris Piper, and noted that the sessions seemed to have more substance than in some past years. It was noted that there is interest in combining the state's required annual training with the VEBA meeting in March. While there are benefits, there is also some pushback from localities that would have to travel many hours to The Homestead, as well as with the perceived expense of going to the resort.

Linda Lindberg noted that the State Board of Elections plans to adopt new ballot design standards at their March 23 meeting. She said she reviewed the proposal and did not believe that any changes would affect us, as our ballots meet the proposed guidelines.

Upon recommendation by Linda Lindberg, the Board agreed that no changes need be made to the current Voting Systems Security Plan. The plan will be reviewed later in the year and updated as necessary. The Security Plan is protected by law and is not available for public inspection.

Announcements and upcoming events:

- Gretchen Reinemeyer is currently in Russia for election observation of their Presidential election.
- The Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments Election Officials Technical Committee will present a regional workshop on April 6 in Washington, featuring speakers from the U.S. Election Assistance Commission and the Center for Technology and Civic Design.

- The June 12 primary elections are expected to be a Republican Primary for U.S. Senate and a Democratic Primary for County Board. The Board set April 24 as the tentative date for validation of voting equipment.
- The potential dates for state training are June 25-26. Charlene Bickford is expected to attend.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:07 p.m.

Charlene N. Bickford, Chairman

David A. Bell, Vice Chairman

W. Scott McGeary, Secretary