

## Electoral Board Meeting Minutes March 31, 2016

The Electoral Board of Arlington County met at 4:00 p.m. on Thursday, March 31, 2016, 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; newly-appointed Electoral Board member Scott McGeary; Linda Lindberg, General Registrar; and Gretchen Reinemeyer, Deputy Registrar. Also present were former Electoral Board member Allen H. Harrison, Jr.; Matt Weinstein and Cragg Hines from the Arlington County Democratic Committee and Scott McCaffrey from the Sun-Gazette.

Clerk of the Circuit Court Paul Ferguson arrived at the meeting and administered the oath of office to Scott McGeary. Mr. Ferguson then left the meeting.

The Board members next elected officers to serve for the next year, through February 28, 2017. David Bell nominated Charlene Bickford as Chairman and Scott McGeary as Secretary. Charlene Bickford nominated David Bell as Vice Chairman. All nominations were accepted, and officers were elected by affirmation.

The minutes from meetings held pertaining to the March 1 Presidential Primaries were approved.

The Board next conducted a drawing for the ballot order for the Democratic Primary for County Board, to be held on June 14. Since Democratic Party Chairman Kip Malinosky indicated on his certification that both candidates had filed at the same time, the Board was required to hold a drawing for the ballot order.

Linda Lindberg demonstrated that the names of the two candidates, Libby Garvey and Erik Gutshall, were printed on two separate pieces of paper. The papers were folded and inserted in a hat provided by Allen Harrison. Ms. Lindberg asked office employee Nerys Lopez to join the meeting and draw a name. The name selected was Erik Gutshall. Charlene Bickford confirmed the name printed on the other paper was Libby Garvey. Thus Mr. Gutshall's name will appear first on the ballot, followed by Ms. Garvey.

Board members next discussed equipment validation for the primary. Absentee voting must begin April 29, and David Bell noted that he could be available to assist with validation for the absentee machines if it could occur before April 22. The exact date of the validation is contingent upon receipt of ballots. The Board agreed to validate the machines for voting at the polls on June 1.

Gretchen Reinemeyer told Board members that the training schedule and requirements for the June primary will likely be shortened and abbreviated because election officers had just completed training prior to the March 1 Presidential Primaries. An exact schedule is forthcoming.

Linda Lindberg next gave the Board a brief update on election legislation passed during the 2016 General Assembly Session. There will be no major changes to election procedures, and most of the legislation passed concerns administration or campaign finance. Governor McAuliffe has not yet taken action on a bill that would permit party affiliation on the ballot for all offices, including local offices, but is expected to veto the bill because of opposition from major groups like the Virginia Municipal League.

The Board next discussed several polling places issues, especially in regards to the November election. Satellite absentee voting will be held at Madison and Walter Reed Centers. Board members asked if parking can be designated for voters at Walter Reed for the satellite period, as it is on Election Day. Staff will look into this.

Several changes need to go before the County Board for approval. Garfield Park Apartments, which served as an interim polling place while Lyon Park was under renovation, is willing to be a new polling place permanently. The Bartlett building in Pentagon City, where the County has a site plan condition for a polling place, is planning to open soon and should be available by November to ease crowding in the Virginia Highlands precinct.

Unfortunately the Homeless Services Center will not be able to accommodate a polling place at this time, in accordance with a request discussed with County staff prior to its opening. This means staff will need to explore other alternatives to crowding in the Park Lane precinct.

Two precincts will have location changes due to renovations: Virginia Highlands, from the Aurora Hills Community Center to the adjacent Aurora Hills Library; and Abingdon, from Abingdon School to the Fairlington Villages Community Center. Linda Lindberg said she would also request Claremont precinct be changed from Claremont School to Wakefield High School because of better parking.


In other planning for the November election, staff advised the Board that the new fiscal year budget will include funding for additional scanners for the polling places of a volume that will provide two scanners to most locations; a high-speed scanner to process absentee ballots; a software package that will enable staff to program ballots, analyze results for additional reporting; and run batch processing for the high-speed scanner; tablet devices to use for lookup; permanent marking stations; and new precinct carts.

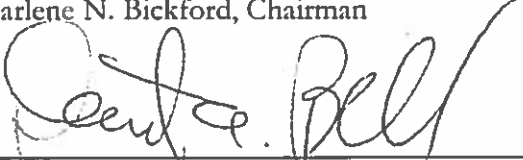
Other plans for the November election include specialty workshops for election training; community outreach, and an Election Concierge program that enables adult volunteers who cannot work a full day as election officers to assist for a few hours performing tasks such as line management.

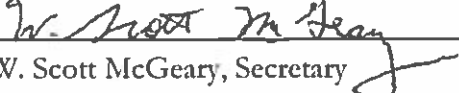
Board members were advised of the following items of information:

- The Virginia Electoral Board Annual Meeting at The Homestead is April 8-10. Scott McGeary, Linda Lindberg, and Gretchen Reinemeyer will attend, along with Allen Harrison, who will attend as a guest.
- The dates for the annual training by the Virginia Department of Elections are June 27-29, at a Richmond location to be announced.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:30 p.m.

  
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Charlene N. Bickford, Chairman

  
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David A. Bell, Vice Chairman

  
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W. Scott McGeary, Secretary