

Electoral Board Meeting Minutes February 4, 2016

The Electoral Board of Arlington County met at 3:00 p.m. on Thursday, February 4, 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; Allen H. Harrison, Jr., Secretary; Linda Lindberg, General Registrar; and Gretchen Reinemeyer, Deputy Registrar. Also present were Matt Wavro from the Arlington County Republican Committee and Scott McCaffrey from the Sun-Gazette. Cragg Hines from the Arlington County Democratic Committee joined the meeting around 4 pm.

The minutes from the several previous meetings were approved.

Gretchen Reinemeyer presented the Board with a list of 760 individuals recommended for appointment as Officers of Election for the term beginning April 1, 2016 and ending February 28, 2017. The Board members recalled that the term for officers appointed in 2015 was previously extended to end March 31, 2016, to include appointment for the March 1, 2016 Presidential primaries.

Board members next discussed the upcoming Presidential primaries. It was noted that the requirement for an affiliation statement for voters voting in the Republican Primary was no longer in effect, having been rescinded by the Republican Party of Virginia and accepted by the State Board of Elections. The voting equipment validation is scheduled for February 17 at 8 am. Gretchen Reinemeyer distributed a schedule of the training dates and Board members discussed who would attend which sessions.

Linda Lindberg provided Board members with a brief update on polling place issues. The Lyon Park Community Center has reopened after renovations, so voters will return there for the March 1 primaries, after having voted in Garfield Park Apartments for the past two years. The Aurora Hills Community Center will undergo renovations beginning July 1 and will not be available in November, but arrangements have already been made to relocate voting for the Virginia Highlands precinct to the Aurora Hills Library. There is also a possibility that the new polling location in the Metropolitan Park project will be available by fall, which would help ease crowding at Virginia Highlands.

A new precinct, with voting in the Homeless Services Center, will be created out of part of Park Lane precinct in time for the November election. Discussion was held over potential names for the precinct. Other issues include relocating Wilson precinct, most likely to the atrium at the Bennett Park Apartments. Charlene Bickford asked if Garfield Park would be willing to continue as a polling place; staff will contact them.

Linda Lindberg presented the Board with a list of some of the election bills brought before the 2016 General Assembly and their current status. Bills of particular concern are HB9, which would require registrars to more strictly deny voter registration applications due to missing information; HB88, which would require electoral board members to attend annual state training in their first year or appointment and the year of each subsequent reappointment; and HB1121, which would require absentee Election Officers to compare signatures on absentee ballot envelopes with voter signatures on applications.

She also noted that it is expected the November ballot will include three proposed Amendments to the Constitution of Virginia.

Gretchen Reinemeyer informed the Board that a new group texting service will be implemented during the March 1 primaries. This service will enable staff to quickly text any important message to all precinct chiefs.

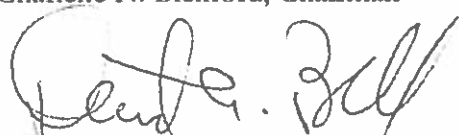
Board members were advised of the following items of information:

- The Arlington County Republican Party has recommended Allen Harrison be reappointed to another term on the Board, and it is anticipated the appointment will be signed by the Circuit Court within the next week. Allen noted, however, that his intention would be to serve only through the March 1 primaries and all subsequent post-primary activities. His plan would be to resign at some point in mid-March, after which the Court would need to make a new appointment to serve the remainder of his term.
- Board members noted that they must meet during the month of March to elect Board officers for the coming year, but deferred setting a specific date, pending the potential appointment of a new member.
- The Virginia Electoral Board Annual Meeting at The Homestead is April 8-10. It is anticipated the newly-appointed Board member will attend, along with Allen Harrison, who will attend as a guest. Charlene Bickford may also attend, as will Linda Lindberg and Gretchen Reinemeyer.
- There likely will be a Democratic primary on June 14 for County Board.
- 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 4:15 p.m.



Charlene N. Bickford, Chairman



David A. Bell, Vice Chairman



resigned effective March 18, 2016
Allen H. Harrison, Jr., Secretary