



GRETCHEN REINEMEYER
GENERAL REGISTRAR

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ELECTORAL BOARD
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KIMBERLY PHILLIP
CHAIR
RICHARD SAMP
VICE CHAIR
W. SCOTT MCGEARY
SECRETARY

Arlington County Electoral Board Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, March 14, 2023

The Electoral Board of Arlington County met at 5:30 p.m. on March 14, 2023 at 2100 Clarendon Blvd, Room 318. The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. by Kimberly Phillip, Chair and present were Richard Samp, Vice Chair, Scott McGeary, Secretary, Gretchen Reinemeyer, Director of Elections, and Tate Fall, Deputy Director of Elections.

Ms. Phillip moved that the minutes from the February 4, 2023 meeting be adopted. Mr. Samp seconded the motion, and the minutes were unanimously adopted.

First on the agenda, Ms. Phillip announced the Electoral Board reorganization per Virginia Code 24.2-107. Mr. McGeary nominated Ms. Phillip as Chair of the Electoral Board and Mr. Samp seconded the nomination. Ms. Phillip nominated Mr. Samp as Vice Chair and Mr. McGeary seconded the nomination. Finally, Ms. Phillip nominated Mr. McGeary as Secretary and Mr. Samp seconded the nomination.

The next item on the agenda was the appointments of Officers of Election for a term of March 1, 2023 to February 29, 2024. Ms. Phillip moved that nine new applicants be appointed as Officers of Election and four previously appointed Election Officers be affiliated with the Republican Party. Mr. Samp seconded the motion and the motion was approved. As a reminder, Ms. Reinemeyer noted that the Electoral Board will accept Election Officer nominations from the parties ten days prior to every Electoral Board meeting throughout the year.

Next on the agenda, Ms. Reinemeyer presented a legislative review of the following bills:

- HB2266 – Sets standard of 7 days to enter early voting and mail results by precinct. (Sent to Governor)
- HB1948 – Allows last 4 of SSN & DOB in lieu of witness signature on mail ballot. (Sent to Governor)
- HB2324 – Requires ELECT to draft standards for recounts of contests with more than 1 winner. (Sent to Governor)

Moving on, Ms. Reinemeyer recommended the following Early Voting hours and locations for the June 20, 2023 Democratic Primary:

Arlington County Courthouse

- May 5 – June 17 | Monday – Friday (8 a.m. – 5 p.m.)
- June 10 & June 17 | Saturday (9 a.m. – 5 p.m.)
- Extra Hours: Tuesday, June 13 & Thursday, June 15 (8 a.m. – 7 p.m.)

Walter Reed & Madison County Community Center

- Tuesday, June 13 & Thursday, June 15 (2 p.m. – 7 p.m.)
- Jun 10 & June 17 | Saturday (9 a.m. – 5 p.m.)

The Electoral Board unanimously approved the proposed Early Voting locations and hours.

Next on the agenda, Ms. Reinemeyer provided an update on candidate filings for 2023. Ms. Reinemeyer announced that a Democratic Primary has officially been called and candidates can begin filing with the Democratic Party beginning on March 20th and the deadline is April 6th. Ms. Reinemeyer also made a note that all campaigns need to file a Statement of Organization and must file campaign finance reports.

Next, Ms. Reinemeyer reviewed the Ranked Choice Voting Outreach and Education plan. Ms. Reinemeyer noted the plan has four goals: provide information for voters about how to correctly mark a RCV ballot, provide information on the background and benefits of RCV and why Arlington has adopted this method of voting, provide detailed information about the tabulation process of RCV and when results will be reports, and finally to ensure community outreach partners are trained and have the tools needed to educate the public about the use of RCV in Arlington County. Voters, Election Officers & Outreach Partners, Candidates & Media, and Election Enthusiasts will be the targeted audiences for the outreach and education plan.

Ms. Reinemeyer also noted that Arlington's Officer of Voter Registration and Elections is working with Virginia's Department of Elections to create a suite of outreach materials. The outreach program will officially launch on April 12th, in conjunction with the grand opening of the newly renovated Ellen M. Bozman Government Center.

Next, Mr. McGeary announced that Matthew Weinstein, a former member of the Electoral Board, has been appointed by the Governor to the State Board of Elections.

Moving on, Ms. Reinemeyer presented on the use of mail ballot drop boxes in Arlington. First Ms. Reinemeyer provided background on the installation of Arlington's nine mail ballot drop boxes, which occurred in 2020. Ms. Reinemeyer noted that mail ballot drop box locations were determined based on Early Voting locations for the November 2020 election and additional drop boxes were placed in geographic gaps to ensure that no voter was no more than 2 miles from a drop box. Furthermore, Arlington's number of drop boxes is comparable to the amount of mail ballot drop boxes available per voter in Maryland, DC, and smaller cities in Virginia.

Ms. Reinemeyer also reviewed existing costs related to mail ballot drop boxes and ways to reduce costs, such as removing drop boxes or cutting the amount of time drop boxes are open. Based on analysis by the Office of Voter Registration & Elections, reducing the number of mail ballot drop boxes in Arlington would result in negligible cost savings.

Additionally, Ms. Reinemeyer noted that fraud and security instances related to mail ballot drop boxes are almost nonexistent and Arlington's mail ballot drop boxes being under 24/7 surveillance allows for the Election's office to quickly detect and recover from any security breaches. USPS mail boxes do not have this level of security.

Moving on, Ms. Phillip opened the meeting for public comment and the following members of the public made comments related to mail ballot drop boxes:



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- Joan Porte – League of Women Voters
- Frank Lusby – GOP Election Integrity Group
- Carol Burnett – Arlington Democrats
- Dominick Schirripa

Wrapping up the conversation on mail ballot drop boxes, Ms. Reinemeyer noted that because the upcoming election is being run for the Democratic Party, she would consult with the Chair of the Arlington Democrats regarding the use of mail ballot drop boxes.


Finally, Ms. Phillip moved that the Electoral Board go into closed session pursuant to State Code Section 2.2-3711 – (a){35}, for the purpose of discussing issues related to Local Election Security Standards. Mr. Samp seconded the motion and the Board moved into closed session at 7:12 p.m.

The Board reconvened the public session at 7:33 p.m. Upon entering the public session, the Board affirmed that only public business matters lawfully exempt from open meeting requirements by Virginia law, and only such public business matters as were identified in the motion convening the closed session were here, discussed, or considered.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 7:34 p.m.



Kimberly Phillip, Chair



Richard Samp, Vice Chair

W. Scott McGeary, Secretary