Augusta County Electoral Board Approved Minutes of Meeting October 14, 2021

Board Room, Augusta County Government Center

Call To Order - The meeting was called to order at 2:30pm. Present were Marcy Reedy, Chair; Georgia Alvis-Long, Secretary; and Connie Evans, Director of Elections/General Registrar. Public present were Dave Bourne, Augusta County Republican Committee, Chair and Kirk Barley, Augusta County Republican Committee, Election Integrity Committee, Chair.

Marcy extended a warm welcome to Mr. Bourne and Mr. Barley. She apologized that our Vice Chair, Dave Leatherwood, was not able to attend the meeting due to him notifying her this morning that he was not feeling well. Marcy acknowledged that 2 Electoral Board members present at a meeting constituted a Quorum.

Georgia motioned to set the adjournment time at or before 3:30pm, as our first OE training session is scheduled to begin at 4pm. Marcy seconded and the motion was approved unanimously.

II. Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting - Georgia moved to approve the minutes from the September 21st meeting. Marcy seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

III. Registrar's Report

Report AB numbers

Connie reported that, as of today, 1971 ballots had been mailed out with 940 being returned. She stated that, as of approximately 1pm today, there had been 2894 ballots cast for In Person Early Voting.

IV. Continuing Business

Appointment of New Officers of Election

John Hooser Dwayne Maricle Doug Brabon

Georgia moved to appoint all names submitted as new OEs with their term ending on February 28, 2022. Marcy seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

V. New Business

Procedures for Central Absentee Precinct

- Update on the number of absentee ballots mailed and number received back in the office to date - See Registrar's Report.
- Confirm dates and start times for the CAP OEs
 - * Tuesday, October 26 at 9am (also Wednesday, October 27 if necessary)
 - * Saturday, October 30th at 10am
 - * Tuesday, November 2nd at 3pm
 - * Friday, November 5 at 11am

Marcy reported that the CAP OEs were prepared and ready to begin processing absentee mailed ballots returned on the above dates and times. The start time for November 2nd will remain flexible per the volume needing to be processed.

Policies for Authorized Representatives

Overview of what is and is not permitted activities for authorized representatives

 Review of coronavirus social distancing policies and instructions to Election Day OEs regarding authorized representatives.

Marcy, again, welcomed Mr. Bourne and Mr. Barley and thanked them for accepting the invitation and attending our meeting. She stated that the Board had been made aware of some disagreements and concerns voiced by political party authorized representatives as to what is and is not permitted activities at polling places, most recently at In Person Early Voting. Marcy extended the floor to both men in order for them to present their concerns, disagreements, and requests. Mr. Bourne stated that Mr. Barley would be the one to address the Board regarding this matter. Discussion ensued regarding Mr. Barley's interpretation of VA Code 24.2-604.4 and of official guidance received from ELECT on Authorized Representatives at the GR's Office and Satellite Locations. After many questions and answers, from both sides, the Board was amenable in making accommodations to the requests and concerns made by Mr. Barley where it was allowable such as allowing one appointment letter to list all early voting dates instead of requiring an appointment letter each day. One request the Board was not able to grant involved the positioning of authorized representatives. Due to Covid health precautions and the requirement to preserve the personally identifiable information of voters, the Board stated that authorized representatives must be positioned six feet adjacent from the poll pad. Where the Board felt that it was not within their capacity to accommodate Mr. Barley's requests he challenged the Boards interpretation. The Board explained they, as well as the Registrar's Office, must and will adhere to all VA Election Laws, official guidelines of the VA Department of Elections, the VA Department of Health, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The Board ended the discussion by encouraging Mr. Barley to contact Christopher Piper, the VA Department of Elections Commissioner, and/or his General Assembly legislators if he did not agree with our unanimous decision regarding our interpretation and decisions on what is and is not permitted authorized representative activities at polling locations. Marcy made it known that the Board's intentions were to be as fair, honest, transparent, and accommodating, as lawfully possible, to all Augusta County voters.

VI. Other Business

Public Comments

Mr. Bourne stated that he felt comfortable with the accommodations and decisions the Board had made today regarding what is and is not permitted activities for authorized representatives. He stated that being in law enforcement himself he knew how important it is to follow department policies and laws to the best of your ability and knowledge. He ended by stating that he had confidence in the voting process being conducted by the Augusta County Electoral Board and the Registrar's Office.

Board Member Comments

None

VII. Adjournment

The meeting was unanimously adjourned at 3:30pm. The next meeting will be Canvass on November 3 at 10:00am in the Board Conference Room.

Respectfully submitted,

Georgia Alvis-Long, Secretary