Electoral Board
Isle of Wight County Virginia
02 November 2022

The Electoral Board of Isle of Wight County held its regularly scheduled meeting on Wednesday, 02 November 2022 at the General Registrar's Office at IOW Courthouse. The Chairman called the meeting to order at 2:04 PM. Members present were Inetha Holmes (Chairman), Geoffrey McFather (Secretary), and Lisa Betterton (Director of Elections (DE)/General Registrar (GR)). Electoral Board Member Rod Hallum was unable to attend for personal reasons. Steven Faleski of the Smithfield Times attended as an observer.

The minutes of the 05 October 2022 Electoral Board Meeting were read. Motion was made, seconded and unanimously approved to accept the minutes as written. Once signed by the Electoral Board Members, the minutes were delivered to the DE for filing.

Secretary's Report.

1. Campaign Finance Reporting. The Secretary provided the Board Members with a document reflecting the various Campaign Finance Reporting Dates established by the State Board of Elections. Additionally, the Secretary clarified it is each candidate's responsibility to electronically report their campaign's financials via the State Board of Election's COMET system. The Secretary also provided each Board Member with copies of VA Code §§ 24.2-953.1 through -953.3 respectively addressing: (1) Failure to file required reports; (2) Late filing of required reports; and (3) Incomplete reports. Discussion ensured. The Registrar commented that 15-years ago when she first started as Registrar, Campaign Finance was filed with the local Registrar. However, State implementation of the COMET system, the local Registrar no longer receives Candidate Finance Reporting. Penalties are assessed for a Candidate's failure to file and/or late filing. It remains unclear whether State or the local Registrar is responsible for determining the completeness of a Candidate's filing. However, the VA Code is clear that Candidates failing to comply with the Campaign Finance Reporting requirements (following the Candidate being notified and afforded an opportunity to remediate/correct), shall be channeled to the local Commonwealth's Attorney for enforcement. The Registrar acknowledged that the Registrar Staff has indeed, notified non-compliant/delinquent Candidates of their failure to file via Certified U.S. Mail and email. Candidates failing to comply or remediate will be forwarded to the Commonwealth's Attorney. The Secretary noted that he had reached out to the Commonwealth's FOIA Counsel lead attorney for clarification as to whether it is proper to release any letters mailed directly to a Candidate alerting the candidate of their failure to properly file necessary Campaign Finance Reporting. The Board tasked the Registrar with preparing a follow-up regarding the entire Campaign Finance Reporting matter during the scheduled December 7, 2022 Electoral Board Meeting.

2. FOIA Request Procedures. The Secretary asked whether FOIA Requests for information from the Registrar should come directly to the Registrar for action or first be submitted to Don Robertson, the IOW Assistant County Administrator and FOIA Point-of-Contact for tracking and compliance purposes. Discussion ensued. The Secretary took an action item to inquire of the Assistant County Administrator and report back to the Electoral Board during the December 2022 Board Meeting.

General Registrar's Report.

1. GR reported that Pre-processing dates were changed to 06 & 07 December 2022.
2. GR obtained a county vehicle for the EB Chairman for Election Day. Travel logs were provided to all EB Members and GR Support Staff for Election Day.
3. GR reported receiving a letter from the VA Democrat Party for an "Observer" to spend time inside the Early Voting Precinct to observe voting process.

Motion was made, seconded and a unanimous vote rendered to accept the General Registrar's Report as delivered.

New Business.

No New Business was offered or discussed.

Old Business.

1. The EB Chairman reported that she has engaged both the Smithfield and Windsor Chief of Police to obtain their commitment to ensure their respective deputies "will be in the area of precincts" and available to respond to any call from the GR regarding security concerns. The Chairman also indicated she has already spoken with the IOW County Sheriff regarding the same matter.

Good of the Order.

None was offered or discussed.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2:42 PM

Inetha Holmes, Chairman

Absent
Rod Hallum, Vice-Chairman

Geoffrey McFather, Secretary