Electoral Board
Isle of Wight County Virginia
Special Called Meeting
25 July 2022

The Electoral Board of Isle of Wight County held a Special Called Meeting on Monday, 25 July 2022 at the General Registrar's Office at IOW Courthouse. The Chairman called the meeting to order at 1:07 PM. Members present were Inetha Holmes (Chairman), Caleb Kitchen (Vice Chairman), Geoffrey McFather (Secretary). Public Guests included Bill Yoakum (Chair, IOW Republican Party of Virginia), Steven Faleski (The Smithfield Times), Valerie C. Butler, and Joe Puglisi (Chair, IOW Democrat Party of Virginia).

Secretary's Report:

1. Motion was made, seconded and unanimously approved to resume the previously recessed July 14, 2022 Special Called Meeting of the IOW Electoral Board.
2. The Secretary reported that 3 separate candidate petition packets for the upcoming November 2022 General Election were FOIA'd by 3 separate citizens for Candidates Michael Vines, Valerie C. Butler, and Renee Dial.
3. The Secretary reported that the Electoral Board decided to pull all 14 candidate petition packets and perform a review of each petition to assess compliance with 1 VAC 20-50-20 (Material omissions from candidate petitions and petition signature qualifications). The Secretary then articulated the various provisions of the cited Code section, describing how the Electoral Board methodically performed its review.
4. The Secretary identified that 7 of the 14 candidates had "material omissions" on one or more of their petitions, thereby causing the affected candidate to have fewer than the requisite number of registered voters needed to qualify to be on the November 2022 ballot.
5. The Secretary read an email from David Nichols, General Services Manager at the Virginia Department of Elections that clarified, "it has been a long-standing interpretation of law by the Department of Elections (DoE) and general practice that once a candidate has been qualified, the only entity with the authority to disqualify a candidate or have their name removed from the ballot is a court of competent jurisdiction. General Registrars, Electoral Boards, the State Board of Elections, and the Department of Elections do not have this authority once a candidate has been officially qualified." Wide-ranging "material omissions" discussion ensued.
6. Candidates with "material omissions" are: Valerie C. Butler, Renee Dial, Jason Maresh, Jeff Brooks, George Stubbs, J. Randy Carr, and Michael Vines.
7. A motion was made, seconded and unanimously approved declaring that, based on the DOE statement, all 14 candidates for the IOW County November 2022 Election designated as "qualified" and "certified" by the Department of Elections shall have their names listed on the ballot despite the identified "material omissions".

There being no further business, the Special Called Meeting adjourned at 1:57 PM

Inetha Holmes, Chairman

Caleb Kitchen, Vice-Chairman

Geoffrey McFather, Secretary