Electoral Board
Isle of Wight County Virginia
01 May 2024

The Electoral Board of Isle of Wight County held its regularly scheduled meeting on Wednesday, 01 May 2024 at the General Registrar's Office at IOW Courthouse. The Chairman called the meeting to order at 2:10 PM. Members present were Inetha Holmes (Chairman), Rod Hallum (Vice Chairman), Geoffrey McFather (Secretary), and Lisa Betterton (Director of Elections (DE)/General Registrar (GR)). In accordance with the Electoral Board's newly-adopted Electronic Participation Policy, Inetha Holmes attended the Electoral Board Meeting virtually via telephone due to personal illness.

The minutes of the 03 April 2024 Electoral Board Meeting were discussed. Motion was made and seconded to unanimously approve the Minutes as written. The minutes were then delivered to the DE for filing.

Secretary's Report.

1. The Secretary addressed conversations he had during the month of April with the Mayor of Smithfield and the Attorney for the Town of Smithfield with regard to the names of the two individuals appointed to fill the remaining term of each of the two vacated Town Council Seats. There appears to remain some confusion as to which of the two vacated seats the individuals (James Collins and Reynard Gibbs) have been appointed to fill. Significant discussion ensued regarding the various scenarios that may unfold for filling the full terms and remaining term of Smithfield Town Council voting as the June 18th Filing Deadline approaches.

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

General Registrar's Report.

1. The GR provided a discussion regarding the availability of different styles of Election Day Envelope Stick-on Seals that can be obtained on the open market. The desire for procuring a new seal-type is so that when a seal on an Election Day Envelope has been opened/unsealed/breached, the fact that the seal has been broken will be clearly obvious to an observer. After reviewing a number of different seal-types from a catalogue provided by the GR, the Vice Chairman asked the GR to see about obtaining a sample of the several seal-types deemed to be most appropriate by the Electoral Board.
2. The GR briefed the Electoral Board on the two ballots that have been produced for the upcoming June 18th Primary. There are 5 Republican Candidates for the Republican nomination for Virginia U.S. Senate and 2 Democrat Candidates for the Democrat nomination for Virginia U.S. House of Representatives for the Second Congressional District.

3. The GR reported that she has purchased a couple of new "Vote Here" Precinct signs to more clearly mark Voting Precinct locations. This is especially important given the relative absence of Campaign Signs for Primary Elections vs the proliferation of Campaign Signs that routinely accompany General Elections.

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

New Business.

1. The Vice Chairman provided a brief synopsis of the topics addressed by the new VEBA President, John Nunnally, at the Tidewater Region VEBA Meeting conducted earlier in the day on May 1st in Williamsburg. Topics included VEBA's role in promoting 'free and fair elections'; the status of several new legislative bills addressing (among other topics): (1) increasing the timeline for each voting jurisdiction to increase the timeline for Certifying their election results from 7-days to 10-day post-election; (2) new Green Same-Day Registration Envelopes for use during Elections; (3) Candidates running for election will have access to the Polling Precincts in accordance with defined parameters; (4) Campaign support staffers outside of Polling Places shall not be permitted to enter a Polling Place to use the bathroom facilities if access to the bathroom facilities cannot be accessed without physically traversing the area established for citizen voting; (5) only ADA-approved Service Animals shall be permitted inside of a Polling location to accompany a voter.
2. The Secretary reported that the May 1, 2024 Logistics and Accuracy (L&A) Testing of the DS200 and Express Vote vote tabulation machines in preparation for the upcoming 45-day In-person Voting and June 18th Primary Election has been successfully completed and machines closed and properly sealed until opened for the election.

Old Business.

1. The GR reported that the Locality Election Security Standards (LESS) certification has been completed, signatures obtained and paperwork submitted to the Virginia State Board of Elections in accordance with submission requirements.
2. The GR revisited the 'Election Officer Dismissal Process'. The specific concern involves Election Officers that demonstrate an inability to 'get along well' with fellow Election Officers despite being moved to different precinct teams in order to try and find a workable team situation. The decision of the Electoral Board is merely to cease asking such Election Officers to serve in upcoming Primaries and General Elections vs sending the Election Officer any manner of notification of the Registrar's intent to no longer request their services to staff a Voting Precinct.

Good of the Order.

1. None this month.

There being no further business, meeting adjourned by motion and second at 2:56 PM

Inetha Holmes, Chairman

Rod Hallum, Vice-Chairman

Geoff McFather – Secretary