Electoral Board
Isle of Wight County Virginia
08 January 2025

The Electoral Board of Isle of Wight County held its regularly scheduled meeting on Wednesday, 08 January 2025 at the General Registrar's Office at IOW Courthouse. The Chairman called the meeting to order at 2:01 PM. Members present were Inetha Holmes (Chairman), Rod Hallum (Vice Chairman), Geoffrey McFather (Secretary), Lisa Betterton (Director of Elections (DE)/General Registrar (GR)), and Nicole Smith (Chief Deputy).

The minutes of the 04 December 2024 Electoral Board Meeting were reviewed and a motion for approval was offered, seconded, approved, signed and submitted to the DE for filing on the Isle of Wight County website for public consumption.

Secretary's Report.

1. The Secretary reported that the Chief Judge of the IOW County Circuit Court re-appointed the Secretary to another 3-year term commencing January 1, 2025.
2. The Secretary reported that he did not have any pressing matters for the Electoral Board to address from either the preceding month or the upcoming month of Electoral Board activities.

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

General Registrar's Report.

1. The GR asked the Board to make a determination 'how to proceed' regarding the leadership staffing of the Walter's Precinct. Much discussion ensued. The decision of the Board is that the leadership of the Walter's Precinct shall be requested to attend an in-person meeting with the Board during a regularly-scheduled Board Meeting (in Closed Session) to discuss and determine a way forward. The Board determined that the GR shall be included in the Closed Session, but shall not have a vote. The GR was asked to schedule for the February Board Meeting.
2. The GR raised the topic of hosting and catering the annual Election Officer Appreciation Dinner. Discussion ensued regarding possible venues, catering and menu options, and scheduling dates in the April-May timeframe. The GR reported she will check with the Smithfield Center for available dates and secure a weekday reservation during the first calendar week of May.
3. The GR reported the VEBA Meeting will be March 23-25, 2025. The Vice Chairman and the Secretary indicated that they will both be attending. The Secretary also indicated that he will also need to attend the required March 22nd VEBA Bootcamp that all newly-appointed/re-appointed Electoral Board Members must complete. The GR mentioned that an alternate Bootcamp date is available, but the Secretary

indicated he has a calendar conflict for the Caroline County alternate date option. The GR reported that she has proactively booked hotel rooms at the discounted block-rate for both the Vice Chairman and Secretary.

4. The GR reported that she will be submitting her new budget request to the IOW County Administration on January 27th. Accordingly, the GR asked that the budget include a County-owned laptop for the Secretary to use for official Electoral Board activities such as Board Meetings, Primaries, General Elections, etc., versus using his personal laptop for such matters. A designated County-owned laptop will provide a higher level of security for the Election-related data since the data will not be co-mingled with the Secretary's personal laptop data.
5. The GR reported that she will again this calendar year petition the County Human Resources leadership to update the GR staff positions (i.e., Deputy 1-4 positions) to align with the Deputy 1-4 positions in the Clerk of Court's Office vs the current alignment with the Commissioner of the Revenue Office.
6. The GR initiated a discussion regarding the format of the Precinct Provisional and Same-Day Registration Reporting Spreadsheets the GR and Electoral Board have been using for Primaries and General Elections. The goal is to streamline the spreadsheet to capture only the specific data required for reporting to the State Board of Elections (ELECT).
7. The GR reported that the cost to Isle of Wight County to administer the November 2024 General Election totaled $87,869.60 (all inclusive). In contrast, prior to the legislated implementation of the "45-day Early Voting" mechanism, the cost of a General Election was roughly $17,000. Further discussion ensued regarding the tremendous additional workload on the Electoral Board, the General Registrar and her staff caused by the "Same-Day Registration" mechanism is overwhelming. The post-election tabulation and reporting effort took the Electoral Board and GR Staff an unprecedented nine (9) calendar days to complete.

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

New Business.

1. The Chairman stated that the Electoral Board's first order of business for the new calendar year is to vote which Electoral Board position each of the three (3) members of the Board will fill for the Calendar Year 2025. Nominations were made, seconded and unanimously approved that the 2025 positions shall be filled as follows:
    a. Chairman: Inetha Holmes
    b. Vice Chairman: Rod Hallum
    c. Secretary: Geoff McFather
2. The Secretary requested that the Board consider the various activities and actions that will be coming before the Board during the coming 12-month and be prepared to discuss at the February Board Meeting.

Old Business.

1. None this month.

Good of the Order.

1. None this month.

There being no further business, meeting adjourned by motion and second at 3:00 PM

Inetha Holmes, Chairman Rod Hallum, Vice-Chairman Geoff McFather – Secretary