

City of Richmond



CHERLYN STARLET STEVENS
SECRETARY

JAMES M. NACHMAN
CHAIR

JOYCE K. SMITH
VICE-CHAIR

Electoral Board

Meeting Minutes

March 13, 2018

"SIC ITUR AD ASTRA"

SUCH IS THE WAY OF THE STARS

The meeting was called to order by Chairman, James Nachman.

ELECTORAL BOARD REORGANIZATION

It was moved by Starlet Stevens and seconded by Joyce Smith that James Nachman will remain Chairman of the Board. All were in favor of the motion. Motion passed. It was moved by Starlet Stevens and seconded by James Nachman that Joyce Smith will serve as the new Vice Chair of the Board. Motion carried and passed. Starlet Stevens will remain Secretary of the Board on motion by Joyce Smith and seconded by James Nachman. Motion passed.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

It was moved by Starlet Stevens and seconded by Joyce Smith that the minutes of the February 6, 2018 meeting be approved. Motion passed.

PRIMARIES CALLED

Kirk Showalter, General Registrar, reported that both the United States Senate and House of Representatives have called for Primaries in the Fourth District. But her guess is that we probably will not have a Democratic Primary.

ELECTION NIGHT CELLPHONE RESULTS REPORTING SYSTEM

Ms. Showalter reported that she is very optimistic about the election night cellphone results reporting system. A motion was made by Joyce Smith to go forward with this system, motion seconded by Starlet Stevens. There was no discussion. Motion passed. A test run will be done on the system by Ms. Showalter's staff after which the application will be put on the Board's cellphones so that they can become familiar with the system.

ADDITIONAL ELECTION OFFICER APPOINTMENTS, INCLUDING LENGTH OF TERM

The majority of the precincts will be covered for the June Primary. However, some officers did not return their signed Oath forms for reappointment after the February meeting. A motion was made by

Starlet Stevens and seconded by Joyce Smith that those persons be given an opportunity to be sworn for the next three (3) years.

Ms. Showalter has a concern about precincts that have a deficit of officers. Her recommendation is that the Chiefs be contacted to inform them that the officers have been given another chance to turn in the Oath form and that this is the last chance. Also establish an “Amnesty Saturday” for special situations (i.e. limited to no parking spaces down town during the week). There was no discussion. Thirty-six precincts are in deficit for election officers for the June Primary election.

On the “DO NOT RE-APPOINT” list there is one person who wishes to work and has turned in the Oath form and has taken classes, but has not worked since the November 2016 Presidential election. It was moved by James Nachman and seconded by Starlet Stevens that the Chief of the precinct where the officer previously worked be contacted to see if the Chief wishes to have the officer remain on staff. Motion passed.

A lengthy discussion was held on how to be sure that all Officers have proper training before each election. A lot of suggestions were offered, but no final decision was made.

NOVEMBER 2018 ELECTION ARRANGEMENTS NOT PREVIOUSLY DISCUSSED

The proposed dates for machine certification are September 17 and 18, 2018. June 12, 2018 is Primary election day and also Independent Candidate filing deadline date; 7th District School Board special election; June 20th is deadline for General Registrar and Electoral Board’s Secretary to certify the candidates; June 26th is deadline for the Department of Elections to certify the June Primary; June 28th the General Registrar will analyze appeals and June 29th is the deadline for the Electoral Board to hear Candidates’ appeals. The Department of Election’s training is tentatively June 25th & 26th. No firm date has been set. Sunday, November 4, 2018 @ 4:00 PM, the Electoral Board will certify E-Poll Books and any machines used during training. November 6, 2018 is election day.

PRECINCT 101 AND 413 STATUS UPDATE

St. Luke Lutheran Church has agreed to host Precinct 413 as a polling place and University of Richmond has agreed to host Precinct 101 as a polling place. Two locations were suggestion at U of R, the gym or the alumni house. Ms. Showalter is contemplating splitting precinct 101, also, moving precinct 102 to St. Giles Church in Tuckahoe since it is now ADA compliant.

APPROVAL OF NUMBER OF GENERAL REGISTRAR STAFF

Ms. Showalter reported that the General Registrar’s office staffs 13.33 full time employees and has requested one additional full time employee, also additional temporary staff as needed. Starlet Stevens moved that Registrar Showalter’s request be granted on a biennium basis. Motion was made by Starlet Stevens and seconded by Joyce Smith. Motion passed.

OFFER FOR RELOCATION

Ms. Showalter presented an offer to relocate polling place 301, now at John Marshall High School, to a facility called “The Old School” at Chamberlayne and Azalea Avenue. The Board declined the offer and decided that Precinct 301 will remain at John Marshall High school.

2018 GENERAL ASSEMBLY UPDATE

Ms. Showalter gave a brief synopsis of bills to watch.

HB158 – will allow General Assembly to make technical adjustments a year after redistricting.

Previously the Governor vetoed a similar bill.

HB767 – freezes boundary changes to precincts by February 1, 2019.

HB1405 - suggests commissioners are hired by the Department of Elections instead of the Governor.

SB150 – under current law, if 5% of the total votes cast are write-ins, the Board has to enumerate on one list to the City, every name written-in.

SB153 - Order of Independent Candidates on the Ballot – under current law, the order of independent candidates were determined by “time of filing” which had not been defined. “Time of filing” has now been defined as the point in which the candidate turns in petition pages with at least the minimum number of requires signatures.

SB521 – local Electoral Boards have directed General Registrars to investigate the list of registered voters, whenever the number of registered voters exceed the population of persons 18 or older, based on the most recent population estimated by the demographics group, The Weldon Cooper Center. It also, require Boards to direct Registrars to investigate the list of persons voting in an election, whenever the number of persons voting in an election exceeds the number of persons registered to vote in that election.

ELECTORAL BOARD MEETING TIMES

Ms. Showalter suggested that the meet at an earlier time since the budget cannot continue to support meals and overtime for the staff. Starlet Stevens moved that the meeting time be moved to 4:00 PM. Motion loss for lack of a second.

FREQUENCY OF ELECTORAL BOARD PAY

The frequency of Electoral Board pay will continue to be monthly.

NEXT MEETING DATE

The next meeting date will be decided by the Board at a later date.

OTHER BUSINESS

Disability Law Center of Virginia want a survey as to how Election Officers handle handicapped voters. Provisions are already in place with the Express Vote Machine however, Norman Shelton will be asked to incorporate the request in the training classes.

Ms. Showalter called attention to an e-mail pertaining to a bill that is before Congress which will allow armed Secret Service Agents to enter the polling place. After much discussion, it was suggested by the Chairman Nachman that the Board will review a copy of the legislation to get a clear understanding of the intent before suggesting to Senators Kane and Warner to oppose this legislature if necessary.

Adriene Davis asked the Board's permission to be absent on June 13, 2018 which is Canvassing day to attend the graduation of her son. Starlet Stevens moved and all were in favor that Ms. Davis' request be granted. Keith Balmer will be the back-up person in Ms. Davis' absence.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

There was no one for comment.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned.

James M. Nachman
Chairman to the Electoral Board

Joyce K. Smith
Vice Chairwoman to the Electoral Board

Cherlyn S. Stevens
Secretary to the Electoral Board