

City of Falls Church Electoral Board
MINUTES – January 12, 2016 – 9:00 a.m.

Office of General Registrar

Board Members Present: Linda Neighborgall, Bill Wanlund

Others Present: David Bjerke, Stacey Pilson, TedTrott

1. Call to Order: Linda Neighborgall, 9:05 a.m.

Logic and Accuracy Testing. Equipment was successfully tested and sealed pending March 1 dual primary election.

(continued) Dogwood Room, City Hall
10:15 a.m.

Board Members Present: Linda Neighborgall, Bill Wanlund

Others Present: David Bjerke

2. Public Comments: none
3. Approval of Minutes: Minutes of October 27, 2015 and November 4, 2015 were approved as presented.
4. **Electoral Board Items**

-- **GREB Working Group:** The working group issued its comprehensive, final report and recommendations, including a number of pie charts summarizing delegation of duties and work done, and supporting working papers. The State Board of Elections reviewed and discussed the recommendations at their January 8, 2016 meeting and voted 2-1 (Alcorn) to continue the work group for another year.

-- **Legislative Day,** January 19, 2016: Renee Andrews and David Bjerke will attend and meet with Delegate Simon and Senator Saslaw to discuss election-related legislative goals for the 2016 legislative session. Delegate Tony Wilt (26th District) is working on and will sponsor legislation to authorize establishment of vote centers or super-precincts.

-- **Page vs Alcorn:** Redistricting/gerrymandering case affecting districts 3, 4 and 7. A 3-judge Federal appeals panel denied the request for a stay of the lower court's order establishing a revised district map and ordered implementation in time for the June 2016 congressional election. An appeal to the Supreme Court will be heard in March 2016, with a ruling anticipated by June. The litigation could affect Falls Church if no decision is forthcoming before the election. In that case, the Court could order the election delayed until August, perhaps statewide.

-- **March primary election:**

-- **Election planning:** Election timeline was reviewed and updated. Renee Andrews and Ted Trott will print and seal ballots starting Jan. 12 and, as necessary, continuing into next week. Dave Bjerke will request city hall access for GR and staff, officers of election and voters during absentee voting, training and election; notify Public Works of schedule for moving election equipment to polling places; contact polling places to remind them of election schedule. Dave will update the EO manual and Renee will establish a training schedule. Linda Neighborgall will contact GMHS to invite the participation of Election Pages.

-- **Outreach & voter education:** Bill Wanlund suggested that, in view of some circumstances of this election (dual primary, loyalty oath to be required of GOP voters, Lindsey Graham's name appearing on the official Republican ballot despite his withdrawal of candidacy) the Board could mitigate potential voter confusion and line delays by doing targeted voter information outreach in addition to the usual voter notices. Linda Neighborgall will draft additional language for GR and EB review.

-- **Appointment of officers election** – EB has identified several people interested in serving as EOs. EB will meet in early February to finalize EO list and make appointments.

-- **Bipartisan Policy Center election-related programs:** On 12/7/15 R Andrews and L Neighborgall attended a panel discussion about the history of disputed elections in the U.S. Panelists: Ned Foley, author, "History of Disputed Elections in the US", and others. The panelists commented on the lack of standards nationwide for handling disputes but cited Virginia as an example of effective election dispute resolution standards. Upcoming BPC programs include:

- January. 22, 2016 – Commission on Presidential Elections, *The Voting Experience: Two Years of Progress on Election Administration*
- January 25 - *Decoding the Iowa Caucuses*

5. **General Registrar Items**

-- **Ballot approval; availability of materials:** Our ballots have been approved and loaded into the voting machines. ELECT is experiencing delays in obtaining election forms from its printer but assures that forms will be available in time for the March 1 primary. GR is prepared to print forms locally where possible and anticipates no problems.

-- **Absentee ballot distribution and survey:** Mail ballots requested by the January 16 deadline are on target to be timely mailed.

-- **Presence on of name of withdrawn candidate on GOP ballot:** GOP candidate Lindsey Graham suspended and later withdrew his candidacy; however, the State Board had already approved the official ballot and Graham's name remains on the ballot. State Board is preparing voter information materials.

-- **Status of Republican primary ballot oath/litigation:** The VA GOP requirement for voters intending to vote in the Republican primary is subject to a lawsuit. Absent Court action or GOP withdrawal of the requirement, EOs will be responsible for enforcing the requirement. SBE will supply oath forms.

-- **GR Office holiday calendar.** Issue arose during the recent Christmas/New Year holidays re whether the GR's office was covered by the holiday schedule observed by the Courts or the Falls Church City schedule. HR determined that the GR office has elected to follow city personnel policies generally and should follow the City holiday schedule.

-- **Change in delivery time for First Class mail:** The USPS has announced a 2-day extension of the delivery time for First Class mail. This change will affect our mail ballot processing time commensurately.

6. **Other Items:** None

7. **Announcements:**

Upcoming Events:

January 19, 2016 – Legislative Day

January 21, 2016 – LWV voter registration at GMHS

March 1, 2016 – Presidential Primary (dual)

April 8-10, 2016 – VEBA annual meeting at the Homestead

8. **Next Meeting:**

-- Wednesday, February 3, 2016 9:00 a.m.

9. **Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 11:15 a.m.