

Lynchburg Electoral Board Meeting
August 29, 2019 6:00 p.m.
Registrar's Office Conference Room

Members present:

Patricia M. Bower, Chair;
David B. Neumeyer, Vice Chair
John W. Cobbs, Secretary

Others present:

Christine Gibbons, General Registrar
Kim Conner, Deputy Registrar
Tom Hilton, Assistant Registrar
Malik Bolden, Intern Registrar
Jim Weigand, Citizen
Steve Troxell, Citizen
Betty Gibbs, Citizen
Oliva Johnson, News & Advance
Joseph Norris, Citizen
Amber Haskew, Political Director for Lynchburg Republican Party
Eddie Robinson, Citizen
Karen Angulo, Citizen
Kelly Hilton, Citizen
Wendell Walker, Citizen

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Ms. Bower at 4:00 p.m.

Consideration of Approval of the Minutes Approval of July 24, 2019 Electoral Board Minutes. Motion made by John Cobbs, Secretary. Seconded by David Neumeyer, Vice Chair. Motion approved unanimously.

Citizen Comments

Citizen 1 Amber Haskew: Had several questions regarding election officials.

Citizen 2 Steve Troxell: Spoke on equal representation for election officials in the precincts.

Citizen 3 Betty Gibbs: Spoke on her FOIA request to the city

Registrar's Report:

ADA solutions utilized by other states for gravel or grassy parking. Use horse stall mats for parking spaces Registrar is seeking board's permission to leaving information on upcoming census in precincts during the upcoming election. Two election officials have agreed to assist with office coverage during the absentee voting time period.

Old Business:

Voting Security: Request that our voting machine vendor, ESO, respond to the issues raised about voting security in the New York Time magazine.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2018/09/26/magazine/election-security-crisis-midterms.html>.

Response from ESO included information regarding the devices utilize encryption, the in-precinct tabulation and ballot marking devices are stand alone, functioning without networking to prevent outside influence, equipment from ESO are certified by EAC and meets all security requirements. The original paper ballots are retained for every single vote and can be viewed, audited, and recounted.

New Business:

Ballots

- Instruction phrasing: ELECT has asked for the removal of the word "qualified" under the information for write in candidates on ballots next year. Vendor asked if Lynchburg Registrar's office would like to delete the word from the instructions on this upcoming election. The board agreed with deleting the word "qualified".
- November ballot order has been tabled until the next Electoral Board meeting. Registrar to prepare data from 2011 and 2017 turnout.

Report from VEBA Southern & Southwest Districts Regional Meeting August 7, 2019.

Legislative update including information regarding a bill to move May elections to June, discussion that localities are not reimbursed 100% from the state for General Registrars Salaries. Let VEBA know what kind of sessions electoral board members are interested in seeing at the VEBA meeting in March. Discussion on what No Excuse Early Voting will look like. Currently a work group has been developed to study absentee mailing. Discussion on risk limiting audits what they are and all localities must complete one within the next five years.

Considerations for next year's budget (July 2020-June 2021): This topic was tabled for further consideration as budgeting is due in December. In the meantime registrar to schedule a meeting with Bonnie Svrcek, City Manager, to discuss early voting budget considerations.

- Need for additional staffing
- Initial planning for fall 2020 Early No-Excuse Absentee Voting
- Budgeting for attendance for all EB member at annual training

Consideration of executive session to discuss a personnel matter under Code of Virginia 24.2-109A

MOTION TO GO INTO CLOSED SESSION

David Neumeyer, Vice Chair moved that the Electoral Board go into closed session pursuant to State Code Section 2.2-3711-(A)(1), for the purpose of discussing a personnel matter. Seconded by John Cobbs, Secretary. Motion approved unanimously Time: 5:15

§ 2.2-3711(A)(1): Personnel. Provides an exemption for:

Discussion, consideration, or interviews of prospective candidates for employment; assignment, appointment, promotion, performance, demotion, salaries, disciplining, or resignation of specific public officers, appointees, or employees of any public body

MOTION TO RETURN TO PUBLIC SESSION

David Neumeyer, moved that the Electoral Board return to public session and certify that only public business matters lawfully exempt from open meeting requirements by Virginia Law, and only public business matters as were identified in the motion convening the closed session were

hear, discussed, or considered. Seconded by John Cobbs, motion approved unanimously. Time:
5:55

Next meeting Date September 3, 2019 4:00 p.m. Registrar's Office

There being no further business, Ms. Bower adjourned the meeting at 5:55 p.m.

Adjournment

Respectfully submitted,

John W. Cobbs, Secretary
Electoral Board
City of Lynchburg