

Minutes
City of Virginia Beach
Electoral Board
Meeting of November 8, 2017

The Virginia Beach Electoral Board Meeting was called to order by D.A. Ablowich, Chairman at 9:00 AM, Wednesday, November 8, 2017 with other Electoral Board members present: Tim Barrow, Secretary. Also present was Donna Patterson, General Registrar. These minutes constitute the account of proceedings required by the Code of Virginia §24.2-107 and are prepared in accordance with Robert's Rules of Order 11th Edition.

The purpose of this meeting is the canvass of the vote in the November 7, 2017 General Elections in accordance with the Code of Virginia §24.2-671.

The following observers were present: Tina Mapes, Chair Republican Party of Virginia Beach; Bill Banis, Matt Felzenfeld, Christina Carvallo, Emma Welsh Huggins, John Chicle, Jason Toups, Angela Nixon, Kim Spector, Democratic Party of Virginia Beach.

A. Ablowich, Chair, explained to the observers the general process to be followed during the canvas of the election.

The canvass was recessed at 9:10 AM for the purpose of opening the precinct 1A Envelopes containing the regular provisional ballots so that investigations of the log sheets that set forth the reasons for casting the provisional ballots could begin. A. Ablowich and T. Barrow, Virginia Beach Electoral Board; D. Patterson, General Registrar; Christine Lewis and Shirley Stanton, Registrar staff members and Pam Waltizer, Circuit Court staff began the provisional ballot meeting at 9:15 AM with the following political party representatives present: T. Mapes, Republican Party Chair and J. Toups, Democratic Party representative

Meredith Anne O'Connell, who offered a provisional ballot at the Thalia (0028) precinct, was present to state her reason for the provisional ballot.

At 9:30 AM Lauralee Grim, Vice Chairman Virginia Beach Electoral Board arrived to participate in the provisional balloting process.

At 9:35 AM the Board continued the opening the 1A Envelopes to investigate the reasons for voting the provisional ballots. T. Mapes departed at 10:05 AM. At 12:15 PM it had been determined that 440 provisional ballots, including 21 ID Only ballot, had been submitted. Research of the acceptability of each was begun. This portion of the provisional ballot meeting concluded.

The provisional ballot meeting was recessed until such time as the research on each individual provisional vote offered was completed.

The canvass reconvened at 12:30 PM to canvass the votes cast at each precinct. The following observers present: Matt Felzenfeld, Christina Carvallo, Emma Welsh Huggins, John Chicle, Jason Toups, Angela Nixon, Kim Spector, Democratic Party of Virginia Beach.

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At 12:40 PM the following canvass officials were sworn in: Patrick Thomas, Mary Ann Thomas, Gwen Holmes, Raymond Newlon, Joseph Bernard, and Gwen Mulholland. Other canvass team members from the office of the General Registrar were: Christina White, Annick Koumal, and Stephanie Wiggins

Three teams conducting the canvass were: Team #1: Al Ablowich, Christina White, Pat Thomas and Raymond Newlon; Team #2, Lauralee Grim, Stephanie Wiggins, Gwen Mulholland, and Joe Bernard Team #3: Tim Barrow, Annick Koumal, Mary Ann Thomas and Gwen Holmes. The three teams then began to canvass the results of the 98 Virginia Beach precincts with the assistance of Pam Walizer and other staff members of the Clerk of the Circuit Court.

At 4:15 PM Wednesday, November 8, the teams working with the Electoral Board on the canvass of the 98 precincts, such work now having been completed, were dismissed with thanks and appreciation. The canvass was recessed until 9:00 AM Thursday, November 9, 2017, to canvass the Central Absentee Precinct.

The canvass reconvened at 9:00 AM Thursday, November 9, 2017 with the Electoral Board, General Registrar, and Laura Kane, General Registrar staff, present to review the Central Absentee Precinct (CAP) election material. The following observers were present: None

Canvass of the CAP was completed at 10:30 AM.

The canvass continued with Electoral Board members and D. Patterson, General Registrar to discuss other items of business as proposed in the agenda.

There was a general discussion of the performance of the new Robis EPB software. There was a consensus that a working meeting should be scheduled after a review of the comments submitted by the election officers was reviewed. A comprehensive evaluation with suggested software improvements should be submitted to Robis for consideration in their next revision to the software.

Requests for DMV lookup for provisional ballots are due to the Virginia Department of Elections (ELECT) by noon today. C. Lewis is making this a priority, but because of the short notice from ELECT, D. Patterson is requested to ask for an extension until 4:00 PM today.

A general discussion of resource allocation for absentee balloting followed. The Board recognizes that the processing of absentee ballots is a difficult and complex process. Those tasks that could be advanced prior to the CAP processing on Election Day should be investigated and pursued. Various means to raising the visibility of the staff function was also discussed.

T. Barrow led a discussion of General Registrar space allocation and our continual efforts to obtain a firm commitment from the city management to provide the space necessary to ensure secure and efficient voter registration and elections. T. Barrow reported on his discussions with the Clerk of the Court for the submission of a letter outlining the joint requirements of the two offices.

In-person absentee satellite voting locations was discussed, specifically the consensus that a location in the Kempsville area or western part of the city should be identified.

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At 12:30 PM, Thursday, November 9, the canvass was recessed until 8:30 AM Monday, November 13, 2017.

The canvass reconvened at 8:30 AM Monday, November 13, 2017 with the following present: Electoral Board; General Registrar; S. Stanton and C. Lewis, registrar staff; P. Waltizer, clerk of the court staff. This meeting was the continuation of the provisional ballot meeting, and was to determine the acceptability of each provisional ballot offered following the research of each ballot. The following observers were present: T. Mapes, Republican Party Chair and D. Belote, Democratic Party Chair.

Each precinct Envelope 1A was opened and the eligibility for counting the enclosed provisional ballot was determined. Each outside envelope B was marked to indicate accept or reject. Each accepted Envelope B was opened and the ballot set aside for subsequent counting. Those precinct Envelopes 1A containing provisional ballots cast for Photo ID only and no acceptable ID yet provided were set aside for consideration after 12:00 noon.

A motion by T. Barrow and properly seconded was made for the General Registrar staff to contact the Chief Officer of Election at two precincts who had one provisional ballot each submitted without the voters' signatures on Envelope B, and ask that they contact the two voters, who were otherwise eligible to have their votes counted, to sign their provisional ballot envelopes before noon today. The motion passed 2-1 (Nay-Ablowich). The Chiefs subsequently contacted to two voters, and neither appeared before the Board to sign their Envelope B's.

The provisional meeting recessed for lunch at 12:15 PM, and the two observers departed.

The provisional meeting reconvened at 12:45 PM with no observers present. The meeting continued with a determination of the eligibility for counting the enclosed provisional ballots contained in each precinct's Envelope 1A. T. Mapes returned at 1:40 PM and D. Belote returned at 1:45 PM.

This processing was completed at 2:35 PM. A DS 200 optical scan tabulator was used to tabulate all accepted ballots. Tabulation was completed at 3:15 PM.

The three ballots offered for the house district contest only were hand counted and the tallies added to the final DS200 results tape. The two observers departed the meeting.

Of the total of 446 provisional votes offered on Election Day, 161 were found to be properly registered to vote. This included a total of 23 Photo ID Only provisional ballots offered, of which 6 were determined to be valid as the voter had subsequently presented a copy of an acceptable form of identification.

The names have been recorded in the applicable precinct poll book, their vote counted, and included in the election results. The remaining 285 were found to be disqualified, and therefore deemed ineligible to vote a provisional ballot. These voters will be notified as to why they were not qualified to vote in this Virginia Beach general election. The Statement of Results prepared, and the provisional vote count entered into VERIS. The processing for the provisional ballots was completed at 4:05 PM.

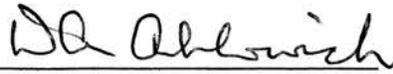
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An additional items of business as promulgated in the agenda for today's Board meeting was taken up. The minutes of the October 18, 2017 Electoral Board were reviewed. Upon a motion by T. Barrow and properly seconded, the minutes were approved by voice vote.

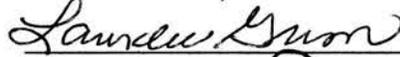
The Abstract of Votes was completed, signed, and copies prepared. This process was concluded at 4:55 PM. D. Patterson faxed copies of the abstracts to ELECT prior to the originals being sent via UPS to ELECT.

The next meeting of the Electoral Board will be held .on Monday, December 4, 2017 at 10:30 AM. The primary items of business will be to review and critique the Robis EPB software and to consider a joint letter with the Clerk of the Court pertaining to General Registrar space requirements.

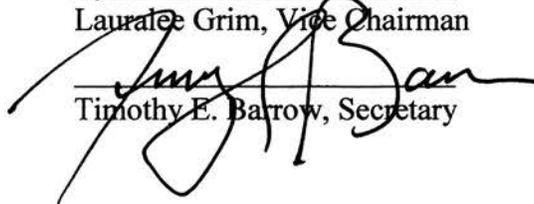
Having completed its work, the board meeting was adjourned at 5:03 PM, Monday November 13, 2017.



D.A. Ablowich, Chairman



Laurelee Grim, Vice Chairman



Timothy E. Barrow, Secretary