

**City of Virginia Beach**  
**Electoral Board Meeting Minutes**

Election Canvass, June 9, 2021

Virginia Beach Convention Center and Building 14, Agriculture Conference Room

The Virginia Beach Electoral Board Meeting was called to order by Chair Jeffrey Marks at 9:16 AM, Wednesday, June 9, 2021, with other Electoral Board members present David Belote, Vice Chair and Lauralee Grim, Secretary. Also present was Donna Patterson, Director of Elections/Voter Registration and Clerk of the Court Tina Sinnen, as well as members of the Clerk of the Court Staff and the Office of Voter Registration & Elections. These minutes constitute the account of proceedings required by the Code of Virginia (COV) §24.2-107.

The Board welcomed observers/representatives throughout the Canvass process. HOD83 candidate Tim Anderson and Diego Rebollar, representing HOD83 candidate Chris Stolle, were in attendance throughout the process. On June 10 and June 14, Latoya Haight also represented the Friends of Tim Anderson campaign.

As the primary purpose of the meeting was the canvass of the vote in the June 8, 2021, the chair indicated that the first order of business was moving into closed session to begin the provisional ballot determination process. As noted in COV §24.2-653B, the criteria used to determine whether the provisional voter is qualified are two-fold; the person must be registered to vote in Virginia, and the person must be legally eligible to vote in the precinct in which the vote is cast. In addition to the Electoral Board, there are other individuals who may be in attendance during the provisional portion of the Canvass including, one representative per party, one representative per primary candidate, and a representative accompanying any person who completed a provisional ballot envelope and wished to share information with the Board. Staff identified by the Director of Elections and the Clerk of the Court remained to assist in completion of the provisional process. The Board unanimously approved a motion (Grim) at 9:25 AM to move into a closed meeting for the purpose of opening the precinct IA 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.

At 11:12 AM, the Board moved out of closed session and a motion was made that the Board certified that only actions that occurred related to reviewing provisional ballots and obtaining a total number of ballots for which action would be needed. On this motion, the Board vote was 3-0, as follows: Marks – Yes; Belote – Yes; Grim – Yes.

Vice Chair Belote reported that number of provisional voters per primary: 68 provisional Democratic voters, with 3 needing identification; and 9 provisional Republican (HOD83) voters, with 2 needing identification.

Chair Marks recessed the meeting at 11:50 and ask the group to return by 1:00 PM so that the Canvass of the 100 precincts could begin.

At 12:55 PM, members of the Board teams that would assist in the conduct of the Canvass had arrived. Director Patterson asked these team members to have identification available and then

administered the Election Official Oath to each of them. The three teams conducting the canvass included: Team #1: Jeff Marks, Raymond Newlon, Patrick Thomas, and Christina White; Team #2: Lauralee Grim, Stephanie Wiggins, Sandy Monroe, and Joe Bernard; Team #3: Dave Belote, Annick Koumal, Mary Ann Thomas and Gwen Holmes. The three teams then began to canvass the results of the 100 Virginia Beach precincts with the assistance of the staff members of the Clerk of the Circuit Court. At 3:35 PM, the team members completed the review of all 100 precincts. The Chair thanked all members for their service and indicated that the Board hoped they would be a part of the process in the future.

After a break, the Board members began discussing some of the items that were not covered in the May 12 meeting. Board members recognized that certain items needed action prior to the previously scheduled July meeting. The Board made the decision to schedule a Board meeting for June 29, beginning at 5:00 PM. (Belote) The May 12 minutes indicated that the next meeting would be in July. The motion made by Vice – Chair Belote provides for an additional meeting.

The following listing is a summary of the topics and any action taken.

- The minutes of the May 12, 2021 meeting were approved. (Grim)
- A reminder that On May 15, City Council would be acting on the Board request to submit a resolution to the Virginia Department of Elections (ELECT) noting that the City Council supports the Electoral Board position that the 4 split precincts would remain as such until the redistricting process had been complete. The Electoral Board specifically did not want any voter moved to a different precinct prior to the November election.
- At the June 29 Board meeting, discussion will occur regarding Satellite voting locations, the possibility of Sunday voting, recommendations for precinct location changes regarding the shared locations, new envelopes that will be used for Absentee voting in November, laws enacted by the 2021 General Assembly, and possible closed session discussion of the Security Plan. Additionally, information and the impact of covered practices noted in SB1395 will be reviewed by staff. Some of the items may need to be moved to the July meeting, based on time constraints or citizen input received during the meeting.
- On a 3 – 0 vote, the Board directed the staff to pursue the use of the Central Library for a satellite location. (Belote) The Board also asked the staff to prepare latest information on precincts currently sharing the same voting location.
- Topics for the July meeting will include discussion regarding a CIP IT Electronic Poll Book Expo, closed session for staff evaluation and security plan, as needed, and an option for a third-party printer to be used with the absentee mailing process, as well as items not completed at the June 29 meeting or are new to the agenda.
- The Board received information regarding annual absentee request forms, permanent absentee request forms, and the purge of over 24,000 voters which will occur on June 24. The Board was reminded that anyone who was going to be purged would have received notices and failed to vote in two federal elections. One can become an active voter again by contacting the Office and completed registration forms either on-line, by mail, or in person.

The meeting was recessed at 5:22 PM. The final portion of the Canvass was scheduled for 9:00 AM, Monday, June 14.

At 9:10 AM, Monday, June 14, Chair Marks called the Board meeting to order. The first order of business was to complete the Canvass of the Central Absentee Precinct (CAP). This precinct includes absentee ballots voted by mail, absentee in-person voting, and absentee ballots placed in the Drop off bags. Assistant Registrars Kane and Koumal joined the Board and Director Patterson for this process. The total number of in-person voters was 1525 for the Democratic Primary and 63 for the Republican Primary. The number of returned absentee ballots included 11 ballots that had to be hand counted, 10 from email and 1 from the mail. The number of absentee ballots returned and cast for the Democratic Primary was 2169; the number of absentee ballots returned and cast for the Republican Primary was 132. Following checking items contained in Envelope 2, 2A, and 7 and comparing the spreadsheet summarizing votes cast to the tapes, the Board completed the CAP Canvass and thanked the team for a job well done.

The meeting was recess at 9:45 AM and reconvened at 9:57 AM. The Chair accepted a motion (Belote) to move into closed session to complete the provisional portion of the Canvass. At 11:50, the Board completed the closed session. On a motion (Belote) the Board unanimously confirmed that the only business conducted in closed session was the provisional process. On this motion, the Board vote was 3-0. as follows: Marks –Yes; Belote –Yes; Grim –Yes. A summary of the ballots accepted was shared by Vice-Chair Belote. The same number of ballots were recorded on the DS200 tape. Two SORs and the Printed Return Sheet were completed and signed. Of the 68 Democratic Primary ballots, 44 were accepted including 2 from individuals who needed to present identification. Of the 9 Republican Primary ballots, 3 were accepted including 1 from an individual who needed to present identification.

Abstracts were developed for each race and Board members signed them, as required. Chair Marks adjourned the meeting at 12:50 PM.

Jeffrey Marks, Chair



David Belote, Vice Chair



Lauralee Grim, Secretary

