

MINUTES

City of Charlottesville Electoral Board Meeting of Mar 26, 2021

The meeting was called to order by the Chair at 6:02 p.m. on Friday, March 26 in the office of the Charlottesville General Registrar. Those present were Electoral Board members Jon Bright (Chair), Anne Hemenway (Vice Chair), and Jim Nix (Secretary), and Deputy Registrar Taylor Yowell.

On a motion by the Vice Chair, seconded by the Secretary, the agenda was unanimously approved without change.

On a motion by the Vice Chair, seconded by the Secretary, the minutes from the March 16 meeting were unanimously approved without change.

Public Comment

Ms. Sharon Webb, Co-chair of the Charlottesville Democratic Committee, was present but made no comment.

Discussion Items

Resolve Ties in Ballot Order for Democratic Primary

Ms. Yowell distributed a list of local candidates who have thus far filed for either the June 9 Democratic Primary or the November 2 General Election. She reported that two primary candidates for City Council and two for Commonwealth's Attorney had filed simultaneously and this was confirmed by Ms. Webb. According to the Code of Virginia (§ 24.2-529) the order of candidates on primary ballots is determined by the order of filing with a random draw by the Board of Elections to be employed if two or more candidates file simultaneously. The Vice Chair wrote the names of the two candidates for Commonwealth's Attorney, Joe Platania and Ray Szwabowski on small pieces of paper and inserted them into identical 35mm film canisters. These were dropped into a larger container by the Secretary and the Chair drew the first, which contained Mr. Platania's name. He will be first on the ballot followed by Mr. Szwabowski. The same procedure was followed for the two City Council candidates, Brian Pinkston and Juandiego Wade, and Mr. Pinkston's name was in the first canister drawn. He will be listed first among the City Council candidates followed by Mr. Wade and the two other candidates who filed later.

Precinct Boundary Review

The Vice Chair announced that the committee that will undertake the redrawing of precinct boundaries and the selection of polling places will have its first meeting, by Zoom, on Wednesday April 7. This meeting will be open to the public and details will be posted shortly.

Changes in Voting Rules for the June Primary

The Secretary reported that, according to a March 25 advisory from the Department of Elections, a budget amendment expected to be passed by the General Assembly and signed by the Governor will waive the absentee ballot witness requirement for the June 8 primary. This is in addition to the measures previously announced mandating the use of drop boxes for absentee ballots, ballot cure for ballots cast by mail and pre-paid postage for the return of ballots by mail. The waiver of the witness requirement applies only to the primary while the other measures are permanent and will apply in November for the general election.

There followed a brief discussion about scheduling Sunday early voting days. The Board is open to considering this option for the General Election in coordination with Albemarle County.

Closed Session

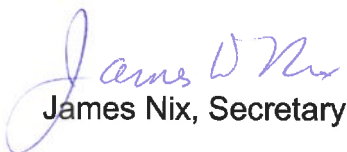
On a motion by the Secretary, seconded by the Vice Chair and passed unanimously, the Board agreed to meet in closed session for the purpose of discussion of a personnel matter.

Following the closed session, on a motion by the Secretary, seconded by the Chair and passed unanimously, the Board certified that only public business matters lawfully exempted from the open meeting requirements of the Virginia Freedom of Information Act were heard, discussed or considered in the closed session.

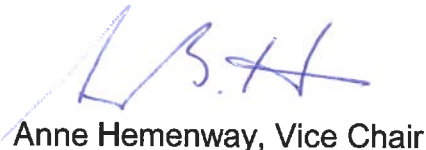
The next meeting will be held in the office of the Charlottesville General Registrar starting at 11:00 a.m. on Monday, April 19, 2021 to be immediately followed with logic and accuracy testing of voting equipment in preparation for the start of early voting.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:


James Nix, Secretary


Jon Bright, Chair


Anne Hemenway, Vice Chair