

COUNTY OF BATH, VIRGINIA
ELECTORAL BOARD MEETING
BATH COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY BOARD ROOM
65 COURTHOUSE HILL ROAD
WARM SPRINGS, VA 24484

Wednesday September 8, 2021, 3:00pm

Eric Johnson, Chair; Liz Knapp, Vice Chair (Acting Secretary); Donna Weaver, General Registrar

Nancy Peery, Secretary, Absent

Call to Order: 3:00 pm

Minutes from August 11, 2021, were approved, with corrections. Liz made a motion to approve with corrections and Eric seconded the motion. Donna will make the corrections.

Old Business:

Results of the Logic and Accuracy (L&A) testing on September 7, 2021 – L&A testing was completed on Express Vote and DS200 machines by Jay Glen (Custodian). Donna Weaver, Haley Woodzell (Administrative support specialist), Liz Knapp and Matt Cauley (Republican party representative) were present. (Matt Cauley left before DS200 testing.) One Express Vote machine jammed but has worked successfully on subsequent tests. If it continues to work, Jay will retest it following L&A procedures. If it fails, Donna will have the machine checked by repair techs. All other machines tested successfully. One pollbook will be tested on Tuesday, September 14th for early voting. All other pollbooks will be tested just before the election in November. L&A for the new DS200 will be done for a specific precinct if needed. In the future, Donna will add a note to the party chairs invitation to L&A about the amount of time that L&A takes.

Status of Liability Insurance for Officers of Election - The Board approval for obtaining liability insurance was sent to the County Administrator for underwriting and process of insurance policy.

New Business:

Procedure for Conducting In-Person Early Voting - Board members will be attending a Western District meeting of the Virginia Electoral Board Association on Saturday, September 11 to discuss, among other issues, how each locality is conducting In Person Early Voting. Donna explained Bath County In Person Early Voting will start at 8:30am on Friday, September 17, 2021 and end on Saturday, October 30, 2021. We will use the small room in the GR office as it is easier to clean for Covid and has a separate door for quiet and privacy. A voter will be checked in on the pollbook, their id checked, given a ballot to vote and which will then be put in the DS 200.

Haley will start working 5 days a week starting September 20, 2021. There will always be at least one person in the GR office (Donna, Haley or other Officer of Election). The office will be open on two

Saturdays, October 23rd and 30th for voting. Sunday voting is not required by law but is up to the local Board and General Registrar. After a discussion, it was decided to table the issue of Sunday voting until after the Board members have heard what other localities are doing.

Training of Officers of Elections – Due to the increasing Covid cases in Bath County, the OE training scheduled for October 21st needs to be changed. After discussion it was decided to do 3 sessions lasting about 1 hour each on separate evenings. Donna will set up the schedule so that training is completed by October 30th as required. Training will be done by GR with the Board Chair chairing each session. Board members attending can add other emphasis or comments. Power Point slides are being reviewed and revised by the Board and GR.

The OE Appreciation Dinner scheduled for October 13th will be postponed for now. The Board and GR will revisit this after the election with regards to Covid.

General Registrar Report – Donna reported on the Seminar she attended on August 18th. Of interest was the discussion on MyBallot which is designed to help the visually impaired vote without paper. It is considered a mail in ballot but must be hand counted since it cannot be read by the DS200. If a voter wishes to use MyBallot, the GR would send an email link to the app with instructions and would mail them a return envelope. CAP would hand count when returned and include it in the totals.

Also discussed at the seminar was a new requirement which would require processing of mail in ballots each day for the seven days prior to the election and the suggestion that a preprocessing schedule be sent to party chairs. Donna noted that changes to this requirement have been indicated by the State and she is waiting for further guidance before setting a schedule.

It has come to the attention of the Board that an Officer of Elections has been asked to speak to a party committee meeting. While the Board and GR are supportive of OEs sharing the voting process with the public, we are concerned about them being asked to share security information and procedures. Donna will reach out to other locality GRs for guidance on setting up suggested guidelines for OEs who speak.

The third-party voter absentee ballot applications recently mailed to Bath County voters are legitimate and allowed by law.

Public Comment - John Fischer asked about the procedure for authorized representatives to be allowed in the polling place. It was explained that s/he must be a qualified voter and have a written statement from the party chair. He also asked about the processing of mail in ballots, which Donna explained.

Meeting was adjourned at 4:35pm. Next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, October 13, 2021, at 3pm.