

## Electoral Board Meeting Minutes June 30, 2021

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The Electoral Board of Arlington County met at 5:00 p.m. on June 30, 2021 virtually due to the ongoing pandemic. The meeting was called to order by Matthew Weinstein, Chairman, and present were Scott McGeary, Secretary, Kimberly Phillip, Vice Chairman, Gretchen Reinemeyer, Director of Elections, and Eric Olsen, Deputy Director.

Matthew Weinstein moved that the minutes from the previous meeting be adopted. Scott seconded, and the meeting were approved without objection.

Moving on to the next item, Gretchen Reinemeyer provided a summary of the 2021 Democratic Primary. The full post-election report is attached to these minutes. Matt Weinstein asked what the breakdown between early in person, mail, and election day votes would look like in the fall. Ms. Reinemeyer responded that this will be something the Office continues to monitor. Kim Phillip noted the overtime hours worked. Ms. Reinemeyer responded that the main factor driving the overtime is that the mail ballot drop boxes have to be picked up every day for 43 days. This results in staff working 7 days a week for several weeks and that she was working on a plan to manage this process differently in the fall. There was no public comment on this item.

Mr. Weinstein introduced the next item of adopting an Electronic Meeting Policy. Mr. Weinstein explained that the Electoral Board was meeting electronically tonight because of an emergency order that allowed public bodies to meet as such until July 1, 2021. In order to allow electronic meeting participation moving forward, the Board had to adopt a policy. He noted that this was done by the Arlington County Board several years ago. Mr. Weinstein provided a brief overview of the policy. He noted that policy only allowed for one member to participate electronically as the other two were needed to establish a quorum. Members can request to attend the meeting electronically because of a personal matter, medical conditions, or emergency orders. The full policy is attached to these minutes. Mr. Weinstein moved that the electronic meeting policy be adopted. The policy was unanimously approved. There was no public comment on this item.

Ms. Reinemeyer next provided a brief overview of the status of ranked-choice voting. She noted that the State Board of Elections released draft ballot and tabulation guidelines in their meeting on June 22, 2021. These guidelines will be available for public comment July 19<sup>th</sup> to August 6<sup>th</sup>. Ms. Reinemeyer suggested the Office hold a mock election the first week of August to test both the equipment and regulations to help inform any comment they might provide. Members of the public provided the following comments. Mike Cantwell from FairVote USA stated his continued support for ranked choice voting and suggested the Arlington County Fair be used for the mock election. Charles Head stated his support for ranked choice voting but expressed concern for the requirement to print the offices using ranked choice voting on a separate page. As a chief election officer, Mr. Head feels that tracking multiple ballot pages will increase the amount of work at polling places.

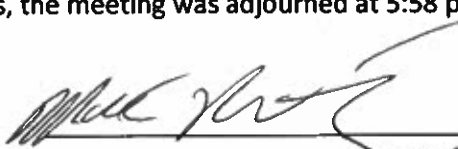
There being no further public comment, Ms. Reinemeyer provided a summary of legislation passed during the 2021 General Assembly session and bills passed in previous sessions with an effective date of July 1, 2021. A complete list of bills and their status as of this meeting can be found at the bottom of these minutes. Mr. Weinstein emphasized that the requirement that mail ballots be witnessed will be in

place for this November and suggested that voter outreach organizations emphasize this in outreach. Mr. Weinstein then noted that the Supreme Court would be deciding a case challenging Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act the next day. He noted that it could have implications in Virginia if they decided against Arizona's practice of restricting out of precinct voting. He recommended that everyone look out for the decision.

Gretchen moved on to discuss the upcoming election calendar. She provided a brief presentation showing trends from 2017's Governor election and recommended the following schedule for Early Voting. Courthouse: M-F, 8am – 5pm; Sept 17th to Oct 30th Saturday, 9am – 5pm, Oct 23rd & 30th Sunday, 11am – 3pm, Oct 24<sup>th</sup>, Tues, Wed, Thur, 8am – 7pm, Oct 26th-28<sup>th</sup>, Madison & Walter Reed Community Centers Saturday, 9am – 5pm, Oct 23rd & 30th Sunday, 11am – 3pm, Oct 24<sup>th</sup>, Tues, Wed, Thur, 2pm – 7pm, Oct 26th-28<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Weinstein moved that the recommendation be approved. The motion was approved without objection.

The meeting was opened to public comment at this time. Mike Cantwell noted the recent news about test ballots being included in a final tally of an election in New York City and asked what measures were in place to prevent something like this from happening in Arlington. Ms. Reinemeyer responded that, while she was not familiar with the system being used in NYC, the one used in Arlington tags the test runs as such and that it is not possible to include them in the final tally. She also noted that before ballots are tallied, Election Officers ensure the count starts at zero and that the final tally of ballots is matched against the number of voters who checked in to make sure that no votes have been added or are missing in the final tally. She also emphasized that this was why she wanted to conduct a mock election to make sure problems like this would be identified using Arlington's equipment.

There being no additional business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 5:58 p.m.

  
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Matthew Weinstein, Chairman

  
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Kimberly Phillip, Vice Chairman

  
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W. Scott McGeary, Secretary