Arlington Electoral Board - Meeting Minutes

**December 16, 2020**

The Electoral Board of Arlington County met at 3:05 p.m. on December 16, 2020 virtually due to the ongoing pandemic. The meeting was called to order by Charlene Bickford, Chairman, and present were Matthew Weinstein, Vice Chairman, Scott McGeary, Secretary, Gretchen Reinemeyer, Director of Elections, and Eric Olsen, Deputy Director of Elections.

The minutes from several previous meetings were approved.

Gretchen Reinemeyer presented a draft rental policy for voting equipment. Matthew Weinstein requested that the language in the policy be changed to be technology neutral by not specifically mention the vendor of the equipment. Scott McGeary moved to accept the policy with the requested changes. Some public comments were made both in support and in opposition to renting out the voting equipment. The draft was unanimously approved by the Electoral Board.

Gretchen presented preliminary research on using ranked choice voting. In conversations with the vendor, the software can only support a maximum of 3 candidates which is problematic. A new version will be approved in 2021 by the Department of Elections. Gretchen recommended a forum on RCV in January 2021 with the necessary stakeholders as an appropriate next step.

Gretchen moved on to present a post-election report (attached) and discuss plans for early voting locations next year. The Board approved a reduction to early voting locations. Matthew Weinstein expressed his desire to have all location open the entire time of early voting.

Gretchen next discussed electronic meeting participation noting that attendance has increased since allowing a virtual attendance option as a result of the pandemic. There is interest to keep this as an option moving forward.

The last item discussed was the change in Electoral Board Appointment terms as a result of a law passed this year. Charlene Bickford’s term is set to expire on December 31, 2020.

The meeting was opened to public comment at this time.

Mike Cantwell expressed his disapproval of the Electoral Board allowing voting equipment to be involved in partisan activities.

Howard Solodky offered comments on the rental policy. He asked that the eligible groups be expanded and include the use of ballot drop boxes. The Electoral Board agreed to allow these changes.

Marsha Johnson asked for the Electoral Board to release numbers of early voters by precinct. Gretchen agreed to make the data available to Marsha.

Being no additional public comment or business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 4:17p.m.

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Charlene N. Bickford, Chairman

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Matthew Weinstein, Vice Chairman

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W. Scott McGeary, Secretary