Post-Election Report – November 3, 2020

### Voter Registration in 2020

In 2020, the Office processed 56,529 registration records. 1,331 of these were re-registrations where not data changed. 33,271 were new voters to Arlington. 21,927 were voters removed from the Arlington.

80% of voters choose to register either at the Department of Motor Vehicles or online using the Department of Elections Citizen Portal. DMVs were closed in March and remained so for most of the summer. To register online, voters need to provide a DMV ID number. Anecdotally, this presented a challenge for some voters. Some were not aware that they could register in person or access an application at local libraries.

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| **Transactions Processed** | |
| Re-registration | 1,331 |
| Voter Added | 33,271 |
| Voter Removed | 21,927 |
| Total | 56,529 |

### Voter Turnout & Method

79% of active voters participated in this Election. Most voters chose to vote before Election Day with 37% choosing to vote by mail and 46% in person during early voting.

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| **Total Turnout** | **131,079** |
| Election Day | 22,690 |
| Early Voting | 59,927 |
| Mail | 48,462 |

1. Residual Votes

### Vote-By-Mail

#### Summary

59,859 ballots were mailed to voters who requested one. This includes reissued ballots when voters reported their ballot lost or spoiled and ballots emailed to overseas and voters who requested accommodation. 48,462 ballots were counted. 10,994 ballots were exchanged so that the voter could vote in person. 132 ballots were rejected and, as of December 2, 2020, 130 ballots were received after the deadline. More than half of ballots received after the deadline are from voters who reside overseas.

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| Ballots Mailed | 59,859 |
| Counted | 48,462 |
| Mail Ballots exchanged for In Person Voting | 10,994 |
| Rejected | 132 |
| Received Late (as of Dec 2, 2020) | 130 |
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#### Return Method

Nine 24-hour drop boxes were available from October 9 to November 3, 2020. 12,216 ballots were returned using a drop box. This included 302 returned to polling places on Election Day.

Prior to October 9, voters could return their ballot in person at the 2200 Clarendon Blvd site or the Office of Voter Registration. 7,724 returned their ballots in person prior to the 24-hour drop boxes opening.

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| **Return Method** | **#** |
| By Mail | 28,522 |
| In Person/Drop Box | 19,940 |

Return Rate

It took an average of 22 days for ballots to be returned. This is measured from the date a ballot was placed in the mail to the day the ballot was checked in as returned.

Mail Ballots Exchanged for In Person Ballots

A total of 10,994 voters who requested a mail ballot chose to vote in person. Voters had several options to change from a mail ballot to an in person ballot. Voters could exchange their mail ballot for an in person ballot at an early voting or their assigned precinct on Election Day, sign a statement authorizing our office to reissue a ballot during Early voting, or cast a provisional ballot on Election Day.

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| **Method of Exchange** | **Number** |
| Exchanged at Early Voting | 7,151 |
| Exchanged on Election Day | 559 |
| Reissued during Early Voting | 2,860 |
| Provisional | 424 |
| Total | 10,994 |

Issues or Rejections

Mail ballots can be ‘rejected’ in two ways. Either they are missing something on their return materials such as the voter’s signature. This is called a Material Omission. Ballots can also be rejected by the scanner when being tallied.

Voters were permitted to correct any omissions on their mail ballots up until noon the Friday after the election. We do not know how many voters were contacted to correct their ballots as voters had several options to correct their ballot including voting in person. Data on omissions that were corrected via the mail are available.

Ballots that are rejected by the scanner are hand counted by a team of 2 election officers. If voter intent can be determined, these ballots are counted.

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| **Issue** | **Number** | **% of Mail Ballots** |
| Rejected by Scanner. Counted by Hand | 328 | 0.68% |
| Rejected for Omission | 132 | 0.27% |
| Omissions Corrected via Mail | 463 | 0.96% |
| Missed Deadline (as of Dec 2, 2020) | 130 | -- |

UOCAVA – UOCAVA is a special category of mail ballot voters. These are voters who are either in the military or reside overseas. These voters are eligible to receive their ballots by mail or email.

ADA – Virginia entered into an agreement to allow print disabled voters the ability to use the online tool for UOCAVA voters to mark their ballots from home in August 2020. 3 voters exercised this option in Arlington for the November election.

### Early Voting

#### Early Voting Site Turnout

5 Early Voting sites were open. The Main site at 2200 Clarendon Blvd was open Mon-Fri September 18 – October 16. Approximately 24,800 voters voted at the main site during this timeframe.

The remaining sites were open Mon-Sat October 17-October 31. Sites were open three Saturdays 9-5 and until 7pm the last 2 weeks. Approximately 32,000 voters voted early during this timeframe.

Voter Wait Times

Wait times exceeded 30 minutes a couple of times during Early Voting. There were no reports of lines exceeding 45 minutes at any time. Most waits were 10-15 minutes. The longest waits were on Friday afternoons at Courthouse Plaza or when the additional sites first opened Monday through Friday.

### Election Day

#### Election Officers

The Office received ~2,500 applications during the summer and fall from new workers. Unfortunately, we were not able to use all applicants. 782 Election Officers and 70 High school volunteers worked on Election Day. 471 were first time workers and the median age dropped from 57 in 2018 to 44 in 2020. 75% indicated they were very likely to return which is encouraging for future retention.

24 Election Officers dropped out between the Saturday before and Election Day due to health concerns or emergency conflicts. This rate is comparable with other elections.

All training was conducted online.

#### Election Officer Performance

**Opening:** 5 precincts did not have the ballot scanners ready for voting at 6am when polls open. All were up by 6:10am. This is likely the result of a training issue of workers not completing the opening process. There is no indication that the polling places did not open on time.

**Statement of Results & Paperwork:** There are several documents that needed to be completed by Election Officers on Election Day. Most of the Election Day paperwork was completed accurately. This indicates a high level of comprehension of election procedures at Polling Places on Election Day.

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| Form | Max Points | Average |
| Printed Return Sheet | 4 | 3.49 |
| Statement of Results – Contents | 12 | 11.54 |
| Statement of Results – Signatures | 3 | 2.8 |
| Statement of Results – Tapes | 14 | 13.85 |
| Statement of Results – Sections | 14 | 13.61 |
| Seal & Count Form | 12 | 11.15 |
| Ballot Record Report | 12 | 10.46 |

**Election Officer Feedback -** A post-election survey of election officers revealed some additional findings:

* Precinct leadership was well rated with 78% of Chiefs receiving an “Excellent” rating.
* Mask usage improved significantly in November with 84% reporting all election officers wearing it all day in the voting room, up from only 42% in July - a point of emphasis during training.
* 98% of election officers rated their training as “Excellent” or “Good,” though only 57% gave it top marks with many noting they preferred an in-person option.
* 63% of workers rated their polling room setup as “Excellent” but only 40% thought fellow workers were “Always” social distancing properly.
* Overall, 91% of workers reported feeling “as safe as could be expected” given the pandemic.

Additionally, post-election meetings with Chiefs (and Assistant Chiefs) provided some additional details to supplement the statistical data from the survey:

* Chiefs had high praise for the work of the staff and the communication from them in 2020.
* Chiefs reported that the new election workers and high school pages did an excellent job and want to work to keep these individuals engaged and on their teams in the future.
* Suggestions to improve training focused on the areas of ID laws, closing procedures, spoiled/void ballots, and dropping mail ballots at the polling place.
* The new Election Day Guide and Cheat Sheets were received well, and election officers made good use of the online tools like our equipment videos. Staff will continue to expand and improve these.
* Chiefs would like to see maps or something similar at the polling place to assist voters in getting to their correct polling place before they reach the check-in station.
* Chiefs would love to see options for polling place setup on Monday.
* Election officers like having the check in and ballot stations combined and want to continue that in the future.

Provisional Data

A provisional ballot is issued when a voter’s eligibility cannot be determined Election Day. Of the 434 counted provisional ballots, 424 were mail ballots that were not received. Ballots not counted reflect the number of voter’s whose registration could not be determined.

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| **Provisional Ballots** | **#** |
| Issued | 617 |
| Counted | 434 |
| Not Counted | 183 |

Provisional ballots were issued at higher rates in the following precincts.

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| **Precinct** | **# of Provisional Ballots** |
| 001 Arlington | 18 |
| 038 Arlington View | 18 |
| 008 Hume | 19 |
| 052 Gunston | 19 |
| 045 Buckingham | 21 |
| 013 Glen Carlyn | 23 |
| 028 Wakefield | 26 |
| 025 Arlington Forest | 27 |
| 043 Campbell | 44 |

Spoiled Ballots

A spoiled ballot is when a voter makes a mistake marking their ballot. The voter can exchange the ballot for a replacement ballot. 559 ballots were spoiled on Election Day.

Precincts below has spoiled ballots at higher rates than other precincts.

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| **Precinct** | **# of Spoiled Ballots** |
| 005 Barcroft | 15 |
| 030 Glebe | 15 |
| 045 Buckingham | 15 |
| 052 Gunston | 15 |
| 001 Arlington | 16 |
| 018 Park Lane | 17 |
| 031 Lexington | 19 |
| 026 Fillmore | 21 |
| 038 Arlington View | 21 |
| 013 Glen Carlyn | 22 |
| 025 Arlington Forest | 23 |
| 043 Campbell | 23 |
| 027 Jefferson | 24 |
| 028 Wakefield | 41 |

Voter Wait Times

No significant wait times were reported at any time Election Day. Waits that exceed 30 minutes are considered significant. The vast majority of voters on Election Day had no wait.

### Administration

#### Staffing

The Office has 7 permanent employees. Between August 2 and November 21, these employees worked a combined total of 790.5 hours of comp and overtime.

81 temporary employees were hired from September 8 – November 21. They worked in total 2,201.5 overtime hours during this time period or approximately 27 hours of overtime per person over two months.

70 volunteers and Election Officers were needed September 12 – September 17 to assemble mail ballots for the initial mail out of ~49,000 ballots.

111 Election Officers and 20 temporary employees noted above staffed and managed the early voting locations.

782 Election Officers and 70 high school volunteers worked Election Day.

#### Grants

The Office received 2 grants for this election to help differ costs associated with running an election during the pandemic.

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| **Source** | **Amount** |
| CARES Act | $123,556 |
| Center for Tech and Civic Life | $256,688 |