



FREDERICK COUNTY ELECTORAL BOARD

Marie Straub

Chairman

Craig Lambert

Vice-Chairman

Tom Reed

Secretary

107 N. Kent Street, Suite 102, Winchester, VA

22601-5039

Final Minutes Frederick County Electoral Board Tuesday, March 9, 2021

The Frederick County Electoral Board met on Tuesday, March 9, 2021. Those present were Chairman Marie Straub, Vice-Chairman Craig Lambert, Secretary Tom Reed, and Registrar Rich Venskoske. Also attending were our election equipment technician Jim Otto and guest Mary Strenko.

1. The meeting was called to order at 4:30 pm by Chairman Marie Straub.
2. On motion from Secretary Tom Reed and seconded by Vice-Chairman Craig Lambert, the agenda was approved as printed.
3. On motion from Secretary Tom Reed and seconded by Vice-Chairman Craig Lambert the minutes from the February 2, 2021 were approved as printed.
4. Business for consideration included:
 - (a) Updates on poll books were discussed for adding solid state drives and Windows 10 Professional to existing EPB laptops to accommodate pending DemTech software ePollTAB. The software functions were reviewed and discussed in detail and possible changes to be included and addressed.
 - (b) The recent Risk-Limited Audit was discussed as completed and with no issues.
 - (c) VRSS MSS has been completed, approved, and submitted by the Registrar, on behalf of the Electoral Board.
 - (d) Officers of Election for the June primary was discussed with a need for about 109 poll workers.
5. (a) A Democratic party Primary election is scheduled for June 8, 2021 for Governor, Lt. Governor, Attorney General, and House of Delegates.

Expected voter turn-out was reviewed (2013 6.3% and 2017 12.4%) and discussed, with an election mandate from the state regarding "Drop Box" requirements. Further action for compliance is pending with signs to clearly mark special curb side voting parking areas. A copy of recent laws and regulations that will affect us is made a part of these minutes.

(b) The full-time position of Assistant Registrar has been filled effective March 1, 2021.

6. The next meeting is scheduled for April 7, 2021 at 4:30 pm at Registrar's office.

7. On motion from Vice-Chairman Craig Lambert and seconded by Tom Reed the meeting adjourned at 5:35 pm.

Respectfully,



Tom Reed, Secretary

Marie F. Strahl Chairman

G. Z. H. Vice-Chairman

Tom Reed Secretary

HB 1810 Voter registration; failure of online voter registration system, deadline extension.

Voter registration; failure of online voter registration system; deadline extension. Provides that in the event that a failure of the Virginia online voter registration system occurs prior to the close of registration records, the Governor has the authority to order the online voter registration system to be available for registration activities after the date for closing the registration records for a period of time equal to the amount of time during which the online voter registration system was unavailable for registration activities, rounded up to the nearest whole day, plus an additional day to allow for voter education efforts. The extension of registration activities shall apply to in-person registration and mail voter registration applications.

HB 1888 Absentee voting; procedural and process reforms, availability and accessibility reforms, penalty.

Absentee voting; procedural and process reforms; availability and accessibility reforms; penalty. Makes various reforms to absentee voting processes and procedures, including those related to availability and accessibility. The bill requires certain actions to be taken to process absentee ballots returned before the day of an election, including verifying the correct completion of the voter affirmation statement, and provides for an opportunity for an absentee voter to make corrections to the statement in certain circumstances. The bill requires the establishment of drop-off locations for the return of voted absentee ballots. Additionally, a central absentee voter precinct is required to be established in each locality; currently, establishment is optional. **On the day of the election, officers of election are required to begin processing absentee ballots in the central absentee voter precincts prior to the close of polls, but no ballot vote counts are permitted to be transmitted outside of the central absentee voter precinct before the close of polls; a violation of such prohibition is a Class 1 misdemeanor.** When reporting election results to the Department of Elections, **the general registrars are required to report absentee ballots cast early in person separately from all other absentee ballots.** Additionally, **a voter who has applied for and received an absentee ballot may choose to instead vote at his polling place on election day, and such voter shall be entitled to cast a provisional ballot.** The bill requires a ballot marking tool with screen reader assistive technology to be made available for absentee voters with a print disability. Restrictions on the availability of absentee voting for first-time voters who registered by mail are repealed. The bill contains technical amendments for organizational and readability purposes.

HB 1921 Assistance for certain voters; curbside voting.

Assistance for certain voters; curbside voting. Clarifies that any voter with a permanent physical disability, temporary physical disability, or injury is entitled to vote outside of the polling place. The bill further provides that during a declared state of emergency related to a communicable disease of public health threat, any voter is entitled to vote outside of the polling place. **The bill requires that the area designated for voting outside of the polling place be clearly marked and instructions on how the voter is to notify an officer of election of his request to vote outside of the polling place be prominently displayed.** The bill makes technical amendments for clarity and organizational purposes.

HB 1968 Absentee voting; availability on Sundays in office of general registrar or voter satellite office.

Absentee voting; early in person; availability on Sundays. Permits the electoral board or general registrar of a county or city to provide absentee voting in person in the office of the general registrar or voter satellite office on Sundays.

HB 2020 Nomination of candidates for elected offices; restrictions on nomination method selected.

Nomination of candidates for elected offices; restrictions on nomination method selected by political party. Provides that a method of nomination for elected office may not be selected if such method will have the practical effect of excluding participation in the nominating process by qualified voters who are unable to attend meetings because they are (i) a member of a uniformed service on active duty, (ii) temporarily residing outside of the United States, (iii) a student attending a school or institution of higher education, (iv) a person with a disability, or (v) a person who has a communicable disease of public health threat or who may have come in contact with a person with such disease.. However, such restriction does not apply when selecting a candidate for a special election or nominating a candidate, or in the event that no candidate files the required paperwork by the prescribed deadline. The bill has a delayed effective date of January 1, 2024.

HB 2081 Polling places; prohibited activities, unlawful possession of a firearm, penalty.

Polling places; prohibited activities; unlawful possession of a firearm; penalty. Prohibits any person from knowingly possessing a firearm within 40 feet of any building, or part thereof, used as a polling place, including one hour before and one hour after its use as a polling place, except for (i) a qualified law-enforcement officer or retired law-enforcement officer, (ii) any person occupying his own private property that falls within 40 feet of the polling place, or (iii) a licensed armed security officer whose employment or performance of his duties occurs within 40 feet of the polling place. The bill further provides that no person shall knowingly possess a firearm within 40 feet of a meeting place for the local electoral board while the electoral board meets to ascertain the results of an election or any place used as the setting for a recount. A violation of the provisions of the bill is a Class 1 misdemeanor.

HB 2125 Voter registration; preregistration for persons 16 years of age or older, effective date.

Voter registration; preregistration for persons 16 years of age or older. Permits a person who is otherwise qualified to register to vote and is 16 years of age or older, but who will not be 18 years of age on or before the day of the next general election, to preregister to vote. The preregistration does not entitle such person to vote in any election except as already permitted by law. The bill requires the Department of Elections to maintain a record of all preregistered voters in the Virginia voter registration system, which shall automatically register a person who is preregistered upon that person reaching 18 years of age or becoming eligible for advance registration as already permitted by law, whichever comes first. The bill requires the Department to provide to the general registrars voter confirmation documents for such voters. The bill has a delayed effective date of October 1, 2022.

HB 2198 Local elections for governing bodies; elections for school boards, qualification of voters.

Local elections for governing bodies; elections for school boards; qualification of voters. Provides that in a locality that imposes district-based or ward-based residency requirements for members of the governing body or school board, the member elected from each district or ward is to be elected by the qualified voters of that district or ward and not by the locality at large. The bill has a delayed effective date of January 1, 2022.

HJ 526 Comprehensive campaign finance reform; joint subcommittee to study.

Study; joint subcommittee to study comprehensive campaign finance reform; report. Establishes a joint subcommittee to study comprehensive campaign finance reform in the Commonwealth. In conducting its study, the joint subcommittee is tasked with examining the costs of campaigning in the Commonwealth, the effectiveness of the Commonwealth's present disclosure laws and their enforcement, the constitutional options available to regulate campaign finances, and the desirability of specific revisions in the Commonwealth's laws, including the implementation of contribution limits, all with the aim of promoting the integrity of, and public confidence in, the Commonwealth's campaign finance system.

SB 1097 Absentee voting; witness signature not required.

Absentee voting; witness signature not required during declared state of emergency related to a communicable disease of public health threat. Provides that a voter's failure to have a witness sign the absentee ballot envelope for any election held during a declared state of emergency related to a communicable disease of public health threat shall not be considered a material omission and shall not render the ballot void. The bill directs the Department of Elections to convene a work group to consider and evaluate alternatives to the witness signature requirement for election officials to use to verify that an absentee ballot was cast by the voter identified as having requested and received such ballot.

SB 1111 Elections; preservation of order at the polls, powers of officers of election.

Elections; preservation of order at the polls; powers of officers of election. Removes the power of officers of election, in the event that no law-enforcement officer is in attendance, to appoint a person who is not a law-enforcement officer to have all the powers of a law-enforcement officer within the polling place and the prohibited area.

SB 1148 Elections; date of June primary election.

Elections; date of June primary election. Changes the date of the primary election held in June from the second Tuesday in **June to the third Tuesday in June. The bill also changes candidate filing deadlines to reflect the change of date.**

SB 1239 Absentee voting; third-party absentee ballot assembly and distribution.

Absentee voting; third-party absentee ballot assembly and distribution. Permits a general registrar to contract with a third party for the printing, assembly, and mailing of absentee ballots. The bill directs the State Board of Elections to adopt emergency regulations to implement the provisions of the bill and for those regulations to include processes to ensure secure and timely delivery of voter information to contractors and reports of mailed absentee ballots from contractors.

SB 1245 Absentee voting; establishment of drop-off locations preprocessing returned absentee ballots.

Absentee voting; establishment of drop-off locations; preprocessing of returned absentee ballots before election day; cure process; accessibility for voters with visual impairment or print disability. Requires certain actions to be taken to process absentee ballots returned before the day of an election, including verifying the correct completion of the voter affirmation statement, and provides for an opportunity for an absentee voter to make corrections to the statement in certain circumstances. The bill requires the establishment of drop-off locations. Additionally, a central absentee voter precinct is required to be established in each locality; currently, establishment is optional. On the day of the election, officers of election are required to begin processing absentee ballots in the central absentee voter precincts prior to the close of polls, but no ballot vote counts are permitted to be transmitted outside of the central absentee voter precinct prior to the close of polls; a violation of such prohibition is a Class 1 misdemeanor. The bill requires a ballot marking tool with screen reader assistive technology to be made available for absentee voters with a print disability. **The Department of Elections is directed to convene a work group to consider and evaluate methods for sorting absentee ballots by precinct and reporting absentee ballot totals by precincts.**

SB 1331 Absentee voting; accessibility for voters with a visual impairment or print disability.

Absentee voting; accessibility for voters with a visual impairment or print disability. Requires the Department of Elections to make available to all localities a tool to allow voters with a visual impairment or print disability to electronically and accessibly receive and mark his absentee ballot using screen reader assistive technology. On receipt of an application for an absentee ballot from an applicant who indicates that he will require assistance due to a visual impairment or print disability, the general registrar is required to offer to provide to the applicant the ballot marking tool with screen reader assistive technology.

SJ 272 Constitutional amendment; qualifications of voters and the right to vote (first reference).

Constitutional amendment (first reference); qualifications of voters and the right to vote; persons not entitled to vote. Establishes that a person who meets the constitutional qualifications for voters has the fundamental right to vote and that such right cannot be abridged by law, except in the case of persons convicted of a felony and persons adjudicated to lack the capacity to understand the act of voting. A person convicted of a felony shall not be entitled to vote during any period of imprisonment and a person adjudicated to lack the capacity to understand the act of voting shall not be entitled to vote until his capacity has been reestablished.