

City of Newport News Electoral Board

Virtual Meeting

Draft Minutes

April 6, 2021

9:00 a.m.

Attending:

Jonell McFadden, chair, Wendell Barbour, vice chair, Deloris Thomas, secretary, Vicki Lewis, director of elections, Lisa Dunn, deputy registrar.

Call to Order

I, Jonell McFadden, Chairman of the Newport News Electoral Board, hereby call to order the April 6, 2021 meeting of the Newport News Electoral Board. Due to Covid-19 Pandemic and the resulting State of Emergency declared by the Governor of Virginia, this Electoral Board meeting is being held electronically via Microsoft Teams. A quorum is present to conduct the business of the Electoral Board.

Agenda Approval

Mr. Barbour motioned and Ms. McFadden seconded the motion to approve the agenda. Motion carried. (Y-3)

Minutes

Mr. Barbour motioned and Ms. McFadden seconded the motion to approve the minutes for the March 2, 2021 meeting as distributed. Motion carried. (Y-3)

Election Official Assignments

Ms. Dunn updated the Board on changes for Briarfield, Newsome Park, Chestnut and Deer Park precincts.

New Business

Voting System Security Plan (Deadline for completion 5/3/21)

Ms. McFadden and other board members have additions to the plan to be reviewed at the May Meeting. Ms. McFadden will mail her revisions to fellow board members.

Registrar's Report

Renaming Schools: Ms. Lewis reported that School Board Chair, Douglas Brown, will receive a report on the new names and that report will be shared with the Registrar.

June 8, 2021 Primary

Ms. Lewis shared advisories from ELECT regarding the significant changes that will apply if the legislation is signed by the Governor to include -Waive requirements for absentee ballots, and requiring postage to be reimbursed to localities. The cure process and drop off locations will remain the same as were used for the November 2020 election.

Ms. Lewis has received approval to add a \$.01 strip to the 5300 envelopes that were returned to the office from the November election so they can be used for the upcoming June primary.

Mr. Barbour motioned that Lisa Dunn and Todd Rodgers be designated as equipment custodians for the purpose of testing AB equipment. Ms. Thomas seconded the motion. Motion carried (Y-3)

Drop Off Locations:

The possibility of using a drop off box to provide additional opportunities for voters to deposit ballots for the November 3rd election was discussed. Mr. Barbour moved and Ms. McFadden seconded the motion to ask Ms. Lewis to secure information from other localities regarding the use of 24/7 drop boxes. Discussion: Ms. Thomas reiterated that information gathered should reflect those locations that used the drop boxes successfully given that these boxes will have to be in place for 45 days prior to the election and will require representatives from both parties to collect ballots daily during the early voting period. Motion carried (Y-3).

Important Dates

Early Voting, April 23 - June 5, 2021
Last Day to Register - May 17, 2021
Testing AB Equipment - April 14, 2021
L & A Testing - May 13 & 14, 2021
Election Official Training - May 19, 21 & 22, 2021
Last Day to Early Vote - June 5, 2021
Supply Distribution - June 7, 2021
Election Day - June 8, 2021
Election Canvass - June 9, 2021
Provisionals - June 11, 2021

Early voting will be held at the Satellite Office in City Center and the City Hall Office. Sample ballots and deadlines will be posted to the Registrar's website.

Announcement:

The Board previously approved the move of the Wellesley Precinct to the new precinct at The Mariners' Museum located at 100 Museum Drive.

The next meeting will be held in person on May 4, 2021 at 9 a.m.

Ms. McFadden moved Mr. Barbour seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:45 a.m. Motion carried. (Y-3)

Submitted,

Deloris Jones Thomas, Secretary