

Mecklenburg County Electoral Board

June 2, 2020

Minutes

Present were Jeanne M. Capello Chair, Robert P. Chadeayne Secretary, Yvonne Alexander, and Jason Corwin Registrar

The meeting was called to order by Ms. Capello at 1:17 PM. Mr. Corwin led us in a brief prayer.

The proposed agenda was agreed to without modification.

The minutes of April 14, 2020 were approved as presented.

Certificates of election for the towns have been prepared and are ready for signing by the Secretary. Mr. Corwin will deliver them to the towns this week.

June primary election, Mr. Corwin reported that there have been 214 absentee ballots returned to date. He has also contacted poll workers and provided the board with precinct lists of workers. The only issue is precinct 602, Buckhorn Fire Department. Jameica Davis has agreed to be the temporary Chief to replace Mona Rainey who is unavailable for June 23rd. Mr. Corwin advised that after the primary we will need to begin a recruiting campaign for new poll workers as many have indicated they no longer wish to serve.

Mr. Corwin reported that we have a supply of personal protective equipment (PPE) on hand and he has ordered more in preparation for the November election.

Immediately following the primary Mr. Corwin will begin preparing for the November election. Ms. Terry will prepare the known absentee voter packages. The concern here is that we have no way of anticipating the volume of absentee voting to expect due to the uncertainty created by the corona virus. Election supplies will be ordered and contingency plans reviewed. A discussion was held regarding envelope sizes, especially the number 2 envelope, to see if a slightly larger envelope could be made available.

Mr. Corwin reported that he has been in contact with the County Administrator regarding the office relocation planned for September. As of now, we should be relocated prior to the November election. However, if not, we will continue to function out of our existing location through the election. In which case, the office area will be converted into the CAP for in-person voting to accommodate handicap access requirements for wheelchair bound voters. Voting law requires that any move of the CAP be done sixty days prior to the election. The board discussed the tight window of opportunity and potential for various workaround solutions. Mr. Corwin will bring our concerns and requirements to Mr. Carter to explore the possibility of expediting the relocation.

There was a general discussion regarding the way in which Chiefs organize their paperwork and setup their precinct including workload distribution. The discussion evolved into improvements to our training. The board explored the possibility of using some of our best performing chiefs and volunteers to participate in training presentations. The board agreed to canvass each precinct during the primary for consistency in administration and identify areas for improvements.

Mr. Corwin has explored the possibility of using online training platforms as an improvement to the in-person training sessions we have conducted. The idea is that we can evolve into smaller more personalized training experiences. By using the online process an individual can revisit any training module as often as they desire.

Mr. Corwin reviewed the new Virginia Vote by Mail Application form created by ELECT, SBE-701/703.1 Rev. 7/2020. It incorporates all of the previously individual form types into a single form. Mr. Corwin said that he has ordered a supply of the new form.

Mr. Chadeayne raised a question regarding the optional designation regarding birth year on the form. The context of the question was based upon reducing potential voter fraud opportunities. The form requires the last four digits of social security number but does not require the birth year. The question raised is why do we not require the birth year? If the birth year was required it would add a degree of complexity for someone attempting to fraudulently obtaining a ballot because it would be easy for the registrar to cross check the birth year to social security number, and potentially more difficult for a perpetrator to obtain both pieces of information. At present, the registrar does not have the capability or requirement to verify voter signatures on forms submitted thus creating a vulnerability. A general discussion of potential voter fraud, online vs mail in, and public awareness was held. In office procedures were also discussed. While the form itself is a state form and is the responsibility of the State Board of Elections we should not relax our vigilance to the subject of fraud.

Ms. Alexander also raised a question regarding college students who have requested absentee ballots who may or may not be in school for the November election due to the corona virus. Mr. Corwin indicated that this question is novel and will have to be researched.

As there is no further business to come before the board, the meeting was adjourned at 2:25 PM.

The next meeting will be on August 11, 2020 at 1:00 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Robert P. Chadeayne

Secretary