

MINUTES

City of Charlottesville Electoral Board Meeting of April 22-24, 2019

The meeting was called to order by the Chair at 12:12 pm on Monday, April 22, 2019 in the office of the Charlottesville General Registrar. Those present were Electoral Board members Anne Hemenway (Chair), Jon Bright (Vice Chair) and Jim Nix (Secretary), General Registrar Rosanna Bencoach, Election Manager Melissa Morton, Project Assistant Joyce McKenney, Acting Deputy Registrar Jamie Virostko and Voter Equipment Technicians Raenell Lockley and Bob Hodous.

There was no written agenda for this meeting, so the Vice Chair moved that the logic and accuracy testing for absentee voting and the preparation and sealing of voting machines for in-person absentee voting constitute the agenda for this meeting. The Chair seconded and the agenda was approved unanimously.

Public Comment

Ms. Ivora Hinton, Co-chair of the Charlottesville Democratic Committee, was present as an observer for this meeting on April 22 but did not make any comment.

Logic and Accuracy Testing (L&A)

Prior to the meeting the Voter Equipment Technicians had printed a supply of test ballots on the same paper that will be used to print the official ballots. These were marked by the Board members in accordance with a test matrix prepared by the Secretary. The Vice Chair marked one third of the ballots using the Touchwriter ballot marking device. The matrix was structured to provide a unique total for each candidate in order to verify that every ballot would be counted as marked and to confirm that the scanner would correctly report overvotes, undervotes and blank ballots. The ballots were then inserted into the scanner by the Board members and the test votes were tallied. The tally confirmed that all the votes were correctly counted, however, there was an error in the reporting of the number of undervotes, apparently because the scanner was not counting the undervotes represented by the blank ballot included in the test set. A second test was done by scanning just one blank ballot and resulted in a tally of zero undervotes, thereby confirming the suspected flaw in the logic for tallying the election. The number of undervotes has no impact on the outcome of the election but must be reported to the state. The Touchwriter has no role in tallying votes so it was prepared and sealed for absentee voting. The scanner, however, could not be prepared and sealed for absentee voting until there is a resolution of the undervote counting issue. The Election Manager will consult with Hart Intercivic to seek a solution.

Additional Business

The Registrar requested a decision from the Board as to the number of Absentee and Election Day ballots to be printed. To date only 500 Absentee ballots have been printed. The Board reached a consensus to print an additional 300 Absentee ballots and spool 500 more for printing later if there is a need. For Election Day ballots the decision was to print 5000 and spool an additional 5000 for later printing if required.

The meeting was suspended at 1:05 pm and will resume when the issue with the tally of undervotes has been resolved.

Completion of Logic and Accuracy Testing

The meeting was reconvened at 10:10 am on Wednesday, April 24 with the Vice Chair not present. The Registrar reported that the statement that undervotes must be reported to the state was incorrect and that no such reporting is required. She also advised the Board that, in a consultation with Hart, the Election Manager learned that the Verity 2.0 system does not count blank ballots as undervotes in an open primary. The test matrix was amended to account for this and a new set of test ballots was marked by the Board members present. These were scanned, the count was verified, and the scanner was prepared and sealed for absentee voting.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:40 am.

Respectfully submitted:

James Nix, Secretary

Anne Hemenway, Chair

Jon Bright, Vice Chair